

KERALA CALLING

₹ 12/-

2019 DECEMBER 01

- ADV. M. K. SAKEER
- T. P. SREENIVASAN I.F.S.
- DR. ANITHA DAMAYANTHY
- B. S. WARRIER
- HARIKISHORE S. I.A.S.



KAS

A BIG LEAP FOR KERALA



prd.kerala.gov.in

ANOTHER MILESTONE



Minister for Tourism & Cooperation Kadakampally Surendran inaugurates radioKerala, the internet radio, run by the Information & Public Relations Department. Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Mayor K. Sreekumar, I & PRD Director U.V. Jose, Councillor Palayam Rajan witness the historic moment

EDITORIAL

ANOTHER PROMISE FULFILLED

With the implementation of KAS, the Government has fulfilled another promise made in the election manifesto. The KAS will provide a platform for the development of intelligent, talented and committed officers in Government service as well as the young blood to prepare them for high-level administration and managerial positions in the public service. The Government envisages synergy of the administration and officials who are capable of implementing Government policies and programmes for the welfare of the state and its people.

The need for transformation of the bureaucracy was raised even before the formation of Kerala. Prior to the formation of Kerala, the bureaucracy of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar was not focused on serving the rulers. The service sector of Kerala had the bearing of colonial bureaucracy. It was an embodiment of a centralized bureaucratic system. Its main objective was the maintenance of law and collection of taxes. The KAS order issued by our government from 1 January 2018 is the culmination of a successful phase of 60 years of reform efforts. KAS will help in ensuring the presence of professionals who can serve as the second tier of the administrative sector. KAS can play a key role in empowering civil service by leveraging the advantages of modern IT technologies. The formation of KAS has become a powerful step towards much-needed structural change in bureaucracy.

The State has bagged the award for the empowerment of the differently-abled in the year 2019. The State has been awarded for its fruitful work for ensuring the rights of the disabled by commencing many projects to empower them. This social inclusion is a collective responsibility of our people along with the Government to ensure welfare of the society in a meaningful way.

India has the third largest HIV positive persons in the world. But the State is in the forefront of eliminating such kind of diseases by implementing National AIDS Control Programme through the Kerala State AIDS Control Society (KSACS). KSACS become able to bring a significant reduction in the number of new HIV Infections in the last 5 years.

December is the last month of the year but it brings joy to our hearts. Christmas is celebrated across the world and Kerala is not an exception. We celebrate every festival with equal importance and with much gaiety

We wish all readers a *merry Christmas*

U.V. Jose I.A.S.
Editor-in-Chief

- 07**
RADIO KERALA
- 08**
IITF 2019
Sini K Thomas
- 09**
KAS: REALISING ANOTHER DREAM
Pinarayi Vijayan
- 11**
KAS WILL ULTIMATELY DO A LOT OF GOOD TO THE STATE
Adv. M.K. Sakeer /
Parvathy Vijayan R.
- 13**
LET US FACE KAS EXAM WITH CONFIDENCE
B .S .Warrier
- 15**
KAS PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR TACKLING THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS
T.P. Sreenivasan
- 17**
JUST A STEPAWAY FROM YOUR DREAM JOB

- 20**
A POSITIVE APPROACH WILL DECIDE YOUR FUTURE
Harikishore S. IAS
- 22**
A KERALA-MODEL-BANK
Bijoy Pulipra
- 25**
TO DENY PEOPLE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS, IS TO CHALLENGE THEIR VERY HUMANITY
Justice Antony Dominic
- 28**
IN KERALA THEY ARE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING
K.K. Shailaja Teacher
- 30**
NIPMR OPENS A NEW HORIZON FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED
Keerthana T R
- 32**
RISE OF THE HOLYGRAIN
G.S.Unnikrishnan Nair
- 34**
THE REAL HEROES
Pradeep Mudavanmukal

- 37**
TOWARDS A PAPERLESS GOVERNANCE
Dr. Ashalekshmi B.S.

- 41**
AKKITHAM'S POETRY -NECTAR CHURNED FROM THE OCEAN OF TEARS
Deepa K. Gopal

- 44**
ENTE KAVITHA
Akkitham/ I.R. Prasad

- 46**
STOP SOIL EROSION AND SAVE OUR FUTURE
DR. S. Shanker

- 48**
LITHIUM BATTERY TECHNOLOGY TO KERALA
M. Muhammed Haris.



Editor-In-Chief: U V Jose IAS
Co Ordinating Editor: K. Santhosh Kumar
Deputy Editor In Chief: K P Saritha
Editor: C Rajesh
Assistant Information Officer: Anchitha A
Circulation: P K Velayudhan
Cover Design & Layout: Dipu Soman
Printing: Orange Printers Pvt Ltd.,
Thiruvananthapuram
Photo Credits: I&PRD Photography Division

VIEWS

Expressed in the articles published in Kerala Calling are not, necessarily, those of the government. Kerala Calling welcomes free expression of divergent views and exchange of ideas through its pages.

ENQUIRIES

Editorial : 0471 251 8648
Subscription : 0471 251 7036

TO SUBSCRIBE

Send Rs. 120 As Money Order To
The Director, Information & Public Relations Department,
FirstFloor, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001

Responses may be sent to mail:

keralacalling@gmail.com

[facebook.com/Kerala Calling](https://www.facebook.com/Kerala Calling)

EDITORIAL MATERIALS

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

The subscription amount will also be received at the State Information Centre, Press Club Building, Thiruvananthapuram. Phone: 0471 251 8471 and at all District Information Offices

Total number of pages: 48 + Cover

BUSAN PORT AUTHORITY TO TRAIN FISHERMEN

The Chief Minister of Kerala has requested the Busan Port Authority to train and give assistance to one lakh experienced fishermen and harbour officials, and also requested to offer a helping hand to upgrade Kerala harbours and ports to an international level. The BPA president has informed that they already had tie-up with many nations by sending other nations' officials to BPA for working and study purpose. So that they have decided to form an agreement with Kerala regarding this matter. The team under the leadership of Chief Minister has visited Busan Port which is the biggest port in Korea and fifth busiest port in the world.



KERALA: THE LEAST CORRUPT STATE

Kerala is the least corrupt state according to 'India Corruption survey 2019' conducted by Transparency International India and local circles. This is the effect of strict actions taken by the Kerala Government against the corruption. The reasons for the low levels of corruption in Kerala could be many, ranging from strict measures taken by the Government to high literacy rates because of which the citizens are more aware of their rights. Kerala bagged first position in the survey because the democratic setup of the state is strong and Government aims to wipe out corruption completely in the administrative sector in transparent and vigilant manner.



Feel the pulse of Kerala

Information & Public Relations Department has launched a novel beginning, **radioKerala**, for Malayalis across the world



radiokerala

www.radio.kerala.gov.in

INTERNET RADIO

The radio, though a humble invention, is part and parcel of India's burgeoning media industry. Originally brought to India by the colonialists, the radio has nevertheless acquired a distinct identity in India. The Educational Statistics Report released by the Ministry of Human Resources And Development puts forth a combined figure of 69.1% as the literacy rate of the country in 2014. It is no secret that a greater part of India's population struggles below the poverty line. For them, the radio has always been a cheap and accessible medium that provides them with news and entertainment in a variety of languages across cultural barriers.

As the media innovates itself through the years, we find that technology is approaching a point of convergence. Many disparate forms of communication are now being drawn into the form of a single touchstone - the internet. The internet dominates the world today and has reduced it to the status of a global village. Radio and broadcast technology has now been integrated into the internet although it still exists as its own medium. 'Internet radio', also known as 'webcasting' or 'e-radio' is a perfect example of this technological convergence. It is almost as old as the internet itself, dating back to the 1990's.

It was Carl Malmud who developed and launched the first internet radio station "Internet Talk Radio" in 1993, providing the then sparse internet community with access to interviews from prominent people in science and technology fields. The profusion of the internet and expansion of the World Wide Web led many other companies to follow suit.

In India, the prevalence of internet radios is mostly due to traditional radio companies moving their branches online. The International Telecommunications Union, a part of the UN specialized agency for information and communication technologies released data from the 2010-16 period that showed internet penetration in India jumping from 92 million in 2010 to 320 million in 2016. Cheaper mobile phones and internet plans from telecom giants like Jio have also allowed more and more people to get online. It follows that the new, younger generation of mobile users in the country with one of the greatest populations of youngsters would be a fertile market for internet radio stations to exploit. Internet radio giants like Pandora already have millions of listeners in the US and around the world.

In Kerala, where internet access was recently declared crucial to the right to

A NOVEL INITIATIVE

education, a highly literate populace and heavily urbanized environs contribute to more Keralites using the Internet to keep in touch with one another. The Malayali diasporas are scattered around the world. It is fitting therefore that the Kerala government, in conjunction with the Information and Public Relations Department, launch their first official internet radio station Radiokerala should launch this year, providing Malayalis in every nook and cranny of the globe a means to access news and entertainment from their homeland.

Like any group of people who are away from home too long, Malayalis have a strong sense of nostalgia and a longing to keep in touch with their heritage. Radiokerala is an initiative which aims to bring the culture and arts to anyone and everyone who is interested. Although internet radios in Kerala exist, this is the first initiative from the government of Kerala..



The Kerala Pavilion at IITF 2019 is getting inaugurated by Dr. A. Sampath, the special representative of Govt. of Kerala in New Delhi. I&PRD director U.V. Jose I.A.S., Addl. Director K. Santhosh Kumar are also present.

Welcoming the world and states of India to invest in the state Kerala became different in 39th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2019) in the way it presented the theme. Kerala Pavilion organised by Information Public Relations Department left no stones unturned to earmark a unique presence in the TradeFair while ensuring a leadership role in presentation of theme 'Ease of Doing Business' in practice. The 14-day event was remarkable with the presence of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan who inaugurated Kerala Day as part of Trade Fair and Minister Kadakampally Surendran who presided over the Kerala Day function. Finance Minister Dr. T.M. Thomas Issac, Members of Parliament A.M. Arif, T.N. Prathapan, Remya Haridas also visited the Kerala Pavilion.

The Kerala Day was celebrated with folk songs by Kadampnanad Jayachandran and team.

The Special Representative of Govt. of Kerala in Delhi Dr. A. Sampath inaugurated the Kerala Pavilion in the presence of I& PRD director U.V. Jose. The objective of the Kerala Pavilion in the IITF was to promote Kerala as an

investor friendly state both technologically and policy wise. Introducing flagship program of the State Kfone, K swift etc and showcasing how they are going to ease atmosphere in Kerala along with many other new policies, the pavilion attracted media and public attention. The project Kfone, a project of ensuring high speed internet access to all- which is free for offices and all poor households and cheap for all others - through launching optical fibre internet network has been discussed by many economic media..

TheKerala Pavilion was also different with its selfie point which is a centre of attraction for many people from different states. It gave them a direct welcome to the plans and policies of the State in 'ease of doing business'. The State had 12 stalls -two by Panchayat and each by KSIDC, START UP MISSION, KINFRA, Industries and Commerce, Coir Development, Animal Husbandry, Textiles and Handlooms, Kudumbasree, FIB and SAF.

I&PRD secretary P. Venugopal reviewed the Pavilion and activities conducted during trade fair days by the team. He distributed mementos and certificates to the team members

Flying to New Horizon of Investment

Sini K Thomas
Information Officer, New Delhi



PINARAYI VIJAYAN, Chief Minister

With the advent of Kerala Administrative Service(KAS) a sea change in administration is expected. A successful KAS will further bolster the government's effort to modernise the bureaucracy and deliver a people-centric governance.

KAS: REALISING ANOTHER DREAM

Our government's exemplary performance is the true testimony to the commitment we have towards the people of Kerala. We are set to fulfil all the promises we had made in our election manifesto by the fourth anniversary of the government's formation. The Government had to face many challenges while traversing the path to fulfil those promises. Implementation of Kerala Administrative Services (KAS) was such a challenge.

Soon after assuming office, the government set up a six-member secretary level committee chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Vigilance) to initiate the process. KAS became effective on January 1, 2018. It not only fulfilled the promise made to the people by the Left Democratic Front, but has also paved the way for the transformation of the Kerala government services. Now, the first ever KAS exam has been notified and candidates have applied for the screening exam.

The need for transformation of the bureaucracy was raised even before the formation of Kerala. Before the formation of Kerala, the bureaucracy of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar was not focused on serving the citizens. The service sector of Kerala had the bearing of that colonial bureaucracy. It was an embodiment of a centralised bureaucratic system. Its main objectives were the maintenance of law and order and the collection of tax.

The first Kerala government under EMS initiated efforts to reform the former civil service. EMS formed the first Administrative Reforms Commission and he became its Chairman. The EMS government created a bureaucracy which was focused on serving the people. Land reforms, banning eviction, education reform, setting up public health care and universal public distribution system, were all actions of the first government that helped to popularize the state's civil services. Incidentally, all these initiatives formed the basis for the development of the world renowned Kerala Model of Development.

In 1965, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, chaired by M K Vellodi proposed a state-level special civil service for the higher bureaucracy. In 1996-2001, under the chairmanship of the then Chief Minister E K Nayanar,

the Third Administrative Reforms Commission was formed. The three administrative reforms commissions pointed out that democratization of civil services helps to serve the people better. They underlined that the formation of the state.

Administrative service was essential for the modernization of the service sector. The LDF governments, which have been in power at various stages since the first EMS government in 1957, have taken steps to empower the civil service, in accordance to this goal.

Our government ensured that KAS was not implemented unilaterally. We have consulted with all stakeholders at all levels and allayed their apprehensions. The employees unions had submitted proposals - particularly on reservation principles and age limits - to the Government at various stages regarding the formation of KAS. The overall development of Kerala and the aim of creating a people-oriented civil services were kept in mind while considering their proposals. Our aim was to facilitate the positive growth and reorganisation of the civil service, so as to provide better services to the people. Ultimately it would also enable state government personnel to enter into the IAS.

Accordingly, KAS posts have been categorized into four categories: Junior Time Scale, Senior Time Scale, Selection Grade Scale and Super-Time Grade Scale. KAS aims to create a second line of administrative and managerial talent for effective implementation of government policies and programs. It will provide an opportunity for the growth of bright, talented and committed officers. It will prepare them for senior-level administrative and managerial positions. KAS officers should be able to utilise the skills and experience of the existing staff to strengthen the state's middle-level management systems. As mentioned above, the KAS order issued by our government was the culmination of a successful phase of 60 years of reform efforts. The formation of KAS has become a powerful step towards the much-needed structural change in our bureaucracy. KAS can play a key role in empowering the civil service by leveraging the advantages of modern science and information technologies, in governance and service delivery.

Around 5 lakh candidates are expected to appear for the first KAS exam in the

open category. This overwhelming response itself is a testimony to the wide acceptance of the government's decision to introduce KAS. A successful KAS will further bolster the government's efforts to modernise bureaucracy and deliver a people centered governance.



KAS was not implemented unilaterally. We have consulted with all stakeholders at all levels and allayed their apprehensions. The employees' unions had submitted proposals - including applying reservation principles and adequate age limits - to the Government at various stages regarding the formation of KAS.



The KAS order issued by our government from 1 January 2018 is the culmination of a successful phase of 60 years of reform efforts. The formation of KAS has become a powerful step towards the much-needed structural change in our bureaucracy. KAS can play a key role in empowering civil service by leveraging the advantages of modern science and information technologies.

KAS



KAS WILL ULTIMATELY DO A LOT OF GOOD TO THE STATE

ADV. M.K. SAKEER /
PARVATHY VIJAYAN R.



Adv. M.K. Sakeer, KPSC chairman

“The notification for KAS has induced fresh hopes among the youngsters of the State.

By overcoming many hurdles, the Government has been able to implement the decision which will promise a more efficient and prompt service to the general public.

In an interview, exclusively for Kerala Calling, KPSC chairman Adv. M. K. Sakeer says that with the advent of KAS more and more efficient people will be inducted into the executive cadre that will ultimately do a lot of good to the State

What is your general opinion about the KAS?

• The KAS will conduct examinations in three streams. The first is the general one. In the second, government employees other than gazetted officers, and in the third, First Gazetted officers of the state government can apply. All the three fall under the direct recruitment category, and the examination is common to all. So far, three lakh five thousand candidates have applied for the KAS. This examination is a miniature model of the Civil Services examination.

How will the KAS bring about a change in the state's administrative process?

• By selecting candidates through such a high level examination, we will be able to induct better and more efficient people into the executive cadre of our administration. This will do a lot of good to our state. The KAS will appoint serving officers into the Second Gazetted rank directly. This will be done strictly on the basis of merit. Here, the candidates will have to appear for two examinations and an interview. Besides, those who qualify will have to undergo a special training for 18 months.

What preparations and security arrangements has the PSC made and put in place for the KAS examination?

• The PSC has made all arrangements with a lot of care, considering the importance of the examination. We have taken great precautions at every level, from preparing the syllabus to setting question papers to publishing the final list. Besides, we have decided to use the system of On-Screen Marking Technique developed by the PSC itself for evaluating the performance of candidates at the examination. All the technological preparations required for this process have been completed. The list of those qualified to take the Mains will be published only after candidates who have passed the Preliminary examination produce their eligibility certificates. Such an arrangement will help bring more thoroughness to the examination system. Besides, special instructions have been given to invigilators and the Chief Superintendent.

What is the kind of better opportunity that this system offers the young generation?

• The KAS opens the doors to a huge avenue to youngsters of Kerala who are talented and educated. Those who are preparing themselves for examinations like those of the Civil Services will get opportunities to reach high posts in the administrative set-up very quickly. So the KAS is an inspiration to members of the younger generation who are prepared to work really hard. It is no small matter that they will be able to start their career as Under Secretary.

When the KAS comes into

being, will it affect the promotion chances of other government officials?

• Not at all. The KAS is a special cadre. Their promotion is not in anyway linked to that of government officials. Ten percent of every post will be set apart for the KAS cadre, and the appointment as well as promotion of KAS candidates will take place only within this structure.

To which departments and for what projects will the KAS appointments take place?

• The appointments will be to 29 departments. Besides, there may be appointments to the general sections. The first direct recruitment will be to the Second Gazetted rank, that is, to the post of the Under Secretary and upwards.

How many vacancies will be filled immediately?

• The number of existing vacancies has not been ascertained yet. When the examination list is publicized, appointments will be done according to the number of posts sanctioned by the government.

What should the candidates keep in mind?

• First of all, the candidates should take a very serious approach to the KAS, and prepare themselves for the examinations with a corresponding degree of seriousness. Only then will the exams progress smoothly. Secondly, after they qualify the preliminary examinations, they should take care to upload their eligibility certificates properly. If any mistake occurs in the process, their names will be dropped from the Main examination list. Therefore, each stage should be completed with meticulous care. They should read the KAS-related notices with attention, link their Aadhar card, and remember to send a confirmation regarding the examination.

Will the examination be affected when fresh candidates and officials in government service take the test to the same post?

• No, such a problem will never arise because appointments will be done in the ratio of 1: 1: 1. Candidates appearing for all the three streams will enjoy equal opportunities.

KAS

“

Whether you think you can, or you think you can't—you're right. ”
-Henry Ford

Henry Ford, the genius who is the father of the automobile industry, advises that you are right if you think you can. When we launch our preparation for the Kerala Administrative Service Examination, the words 'I can win' should ring in our mind.

POSSIBLE

LET US
FACE KAS
EXAM WITH
CONFIDENCE



B.S. Warriar, Career Expert

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

There are three stages - the Preliminary, the Main, and the Interview. The Preliminary has objective multiple-choice questions. The Main follows the descriptive pattern. The Interview is a personality test.

STAGE	MARKS	MODE	MEDIUM	PAPERS	DURATION
PRELIMINARY	100	Multiple Choice	English	I - General Studies	90 minutes
	50	Multiple Choice	English	II Part I - 1. General Studies	90 minutes
	30	Multiple Choice	Mal / Tamil / Kannada / Tamil / Kannada	Part II -1. Language Proficiency Malayalam /	
MAIN	20	-	English	2. Language Proficiency English	2 hours
	100	Descriptive	English / Malayalam	Paper I	
	100	Descriptive	English / Malayalam	Paper II	
INTERVIEW	100	Descriptive	English / Malayalam	Paper III	2 hours
	50	-	-	-	-

The Preliminary examination in 2020 February is only a screening test. The marks scored will not count for ranking. However, only those who perform well in the Preliminary will be selected for the Main. The final selection is based on the total marks scored in the Main and the Interview, subject to the principles of reservation. Let us now focus on the Preliminary. We should keep in mind that we aim at positions to shoulder the responsibility of effective implementation of Government policies and programs. We will be officers with commitment and dedication. We will have opportunities to migrate to the IAS.

BASIC INFORMATION

Gather basic information with regard to the scheme of examination and syllabus of the test, both of which are in the Extraordinary Gazette dated 01.11.2019. This is available in the related PSC Notification

A quick look at the contents of the syllabus highlights the following:

- HISTORY: Kerala & India - Ancient, Medieval & Modern periods; World - from mid 18th century
- Cultural Heritage of Kerala
- Indian Constitution, Public Administration, Political System, Governance, Social Justice and International Relations
- Reasoning, Mental Ability & Simple Arithmetic
- Geography : Solar system, Atmosphere, Climate, Earthquake, Sunami, Economic geography - World, India & Kerala
- Economy and Planning : Agriculture, Industry, Infrastructure, Population, Public finance, Foreign trade, Economy of Kerala, Kerala model development
- Science and Technology : Information and communications technology (ICT) in governance, Cyber security, Technology in Space and Defence, Energy needs, Environment
- Current Events
- Language Proficiency - English & Malayam / Kannada / Tamil

STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

An important step is analysing the quantum of the syllabus in full, the available time at our disposal, and framing a workable timetable. The allocation of time may be made, taking into account the individual's proficiency and prior knowledge in each part of the syllabus. Once a timetable is prepared, we should strictly follow it. We may have to revise the timetable after a few weeks. Then, the revised table has to be faithfully followed.

This examination may be described as one for selection or one for elimination. Hence, take the prescribed syllabus only as a source for indication. The syllabus being vague offers too much space for the question-setters. We may have to answer questions that cross the boundaries of the syllabus as well. An error committed by many ambitious candidates is acquiring all kinds of textbooks and journals, without considering the time constraint. Concentrate on one or two standard books for each area. For basic facts, NCERT textbooks of Standards VII to XII are useful.

In General Studies, you have to focus on development, social

welfare schemes, important articles of our Constitution, and climate change. If you are not good in Mathematics, do revise the school arithmetic. For facing questions on Reasoning & Mental Ability, a good book of Bank Officer Test guidance or related web sites can be used.

Previous question papers help in guessing the type and standard of questions. But this being the first examination for KAS, we have to get guidance from elsewhere. The questions of the Kerala PSC Deputy Collector Preliminary Examination, and those of the Civil Services Preliminary UPSC Examination may be seen for an overall idea, though the actual KAS questions may be another kettle of fish. Previous questions with or without solutions are available in plenty in internet sites. Bazaar guides may help us in finding out the types and standard of possible questions. A word of caution : do not fully trust the accuracy of the answers therein.

Simply reading question papers is not sufficient. We should know the basic strategies for facing objective questions. Since it would be a time-test as well, do not stop at any hard question for long. If you do not know the answer, skip the question and go to the next ones, some of which would be easy. If you get free time in the end, come back to the beginning of the question paper and start a second round. In objective papers with negative marks for wrong answers, it is prudent not to gamble with questions. If you do not know the right answer, leave the question. A couple of time-bound test rehearsals with previous papers will boost your confidence.

SUGGESTED REFERENCES

- Regular reading of a quality newspaper for updating ' Current Affairs' (Keep a diary of events - Agriculture, Industry, Economy, Governance, Education, ICT, Climate, Foreign affairs, Terrorism, Sports)
- A good monthly career magazine in English
- A good book of general knowledge
- A good Year Book (each in English & Malayalam)
- The English Errors of Indian Students by TLH Smith-Pearse (Oxford)
- Longman Dictionary of Common Errors - ND Turton, JB Heaton (Pearson)
- A Survey of Kerala History by A. Sreedhara Menon
- A History of India by Romila Thapar
- World History by Ravi Shankar
- Indian and World Geography by Majid Husain
- Physical Geography by Savindra Singh
- Science & Technology for Civil Services Examinations from by A K Singh
- Biodiversity, Environment and Disaster Management : UPSC Civil Services Main Examination by Shamna Hussain
- Security Management : UPSC Civil Services Main Examination by Shamna Hussain
- Previous question Papers - Kerala PSC : www.keralapsc.gov.in/previous-question-papers; UPSC : www.upsc.gov.in/examinations/question-papers.

CONFIDENCE

We have mentioned the nuts and bolts of the preliminary examination. But the most important winning strategy is our confidence and will to win.

KAS



“KAS PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR TACKLING THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS”.

T.P. Sreenivasan
Former Ambassador of India and
Governor for India of the IAEA

- by
Deepthi Renjith,
Information Assistant &
Sreelekshmi RS,
Content Editor
(I&PRD, Thiruvananthapuram)

“ On the 64th birthday of Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced his government's decision to introduce the much-awaited, prestigious KAS. He said that it would attract vibrant, socially committed young candidates who are capable of implementing government policies and programmes effectively for the welfare of the state and its people. The KAS will provide a gateway for the induction of intelligent, talented and committed officers into Government Service and prepare them for high level administration and managerial positions in public service.

For most of Kerala's talented youth, the KAS is a dream comes true. It will create an exceptional cadre for direct recruitment in several prominent Gazette II departments, including those in the Secretariat. The KAS will also create jobs for dynamic youngsters who can make changes in driving the current administration in top gear. If one looks at Kerala's success rate in the IAS, it has to be admitted that hardly 10 to 15 IAS aspirants of the state have been qualifying the All India Civil Services examination every year. In this scenario, the KAS can bring more aspirants to the administrative services, and offer them the dream job they cherish.

When it comes to the point of cracking the KAS exam, the first name that comes to our mind is T. P. Sreenivasan. He spurs others by setting a good example. T. P. Sreenivasan (IFS batch, 1967) has served in the Foreign Service for 37 years. After retirement, he has been engaged in training aspirants for the Civil Services. Let's hear from the stalwart himself.

The aspirants of the KAS are in the right spirit for cracking the first edition of the KAS. What is your opinion about the KAS and how do you define it?

State Level Administrative exams are new to Kerala, but not to other states. This is an opportunity for the people of the state to reach high positions. The KAS is also a golden opportunity for those who couldn't take the Civil Service Examination. Kerala also used to have occasional exams for the selection of the Deputy Collectors. Those who joined service as Deputy Collectors have ended up in the IAS in Kerala cadre itself. They have been able to perform very well as they knew Kerala very well. There are still some uncertainties regarding the number of posts available. But still this is a very good opportunity for bright youngsters to reach high levels in the Government. Those who join the KAS are likely to be conferred the IAS rank within eight years. I had expected that KAS examination would be in the same format as the UPSC Civil Service Examination. That would have ensured that the UPSC would not question the competence of those selected for the KAS to move to the IAS. In fact, the syllabus for the Preliminary examination for KAS is even more elaborate than that of the syllabus of the KAS. One important point is that this year there is very little time for the preparations. Therefore, the KAS aspirants will have

to put in extra efforts in a way similar to that of preparing for the main examination of the of civil services.

As the Kerala Administrative Service exam is in its first edition, the aspirants are in a state of dilemma. They are not clearly aware about the question patterns and preparation methods. What do you think about the proper ways of exam preparation?

I have prepared a list of the "First Steps" for KAS aspirants. The first step is to improve English language skills, both written and spoken. Though Malayalam is the official language, English is important to communicate with other states and countries. Reading an English newspaper thoroughly every day and taking down notes on International issues, National issues, State issues and Sports are very important. Reading links us to the past, prepares us for the present and makes us visualize the future. 'The Hindu' is recommended for its opinion articles and editorials. Prepare summaries based on them. You must read a news magazine regularly, especially 'The Week'. Read general books, novels, biographies and autobiographies. Books will live forever, whether in print, with their intoxicating aroma, or as images on Kindle and other electronic devices, and reading will continue to make the world worth living. The word preceded humanity and it will outlast it.

Along with that, read NCERT Books of Standard 6 to 12. Watch international, national and regional channels at least for an hour. CNN/BBC should also be watched. Cultivate interest in all subjects such as politics, economy, science, environment, development and sports for greater success in cracking the exam. All these competitive examinations demand self-preparation. Coaching and study materials alone cannot help a person to succeed. You need to attend mock tests to understand where you stand on the ladder of preparation. You can also create a gmail group and exchange study materials with other aspirants. Newspaper reading is an art and you need to train yourself to read the newspapers. And make sure that you don't miss anything. The middle pages are the most important. For the KAS, matters related to the state should be given emphasis, along with National and International affairs. Try to refer to the previous question papers of Civil Services. Last but not least listen to TED TALKS as much as possible at least once a week.

As KAS opens the window of opportunities to the youth and officials to a vibrant administrative system, what according to you are the most valuable traits of a good officer?

First and foremost, I would say is that they should be incorruptible. Corruption is the biggest virus which infects the bureaucracy.. Good officers will not abuse their power for personal gain. They will abide by the code of ethics. This will help in cultivating ethical behaviour and ethical decision making.

Secondly, I think that the officers should be familiar with the state. They should know about the day-to-day affairs of the state. Knowing the pulse of the people and working for them in your own home state is obviously considered to be great. The gap between the Government and the general public will be reduced if officers can communicate more precisely to the public. Hence, they will be able to assist IAS officers who come from outside the state. So, I think, the KAS should turn into a core group. I welcome the decision of the State Government about conducting this examination. This is a great opportunity for young people to make a career in Kerala. Retention of good people and good brains in the state will be the main advantage of KAS.

Books

1. MODIPLOMACY THROUGH A SHAKESPEAREAN PRISM (Konark)
2. EDUCATION OF AN AMBASSADOR-Reflections on Higher Education Reform in Kerala (Konark)
3. VENKAT FOREVER- A Tribute to Ambassador Venkateswaran (Konark)
4. APPLIED DIPLOMACY THROUGH THE PRISM OF MYTHOLOGY (Wisdom Tree)
5. MATTERING TO INDIA (Pearson)
6. ENCOUNTERS (Rhythm House, Malaysia)
7. WORDS, WORDS, WORDS- ADVENTURES IN DIPLOMACY (Pearson)



Without a doubt, joining a coaching institute for the preparation of KAS examination helps a lot. In the institutes, you get to know about the correct strategy to plan your studies to qualify one of the toughest examinations. It is difficult to compete with a large number of aspirants who appear for the exam. Therefore, it becomes important to join a coaching institute which can streamline your studies. When it comes to joining an academy in the state, the renowned name is Kerala State Civil Service Academy (KSCSA)

Kerala State Civil Service Academy was established by the Government of Kerala in February 2005 under the aegis of Centre for Continuing Education Kerala (CCEK) with the specific objective of giving intensive coaching to the young men and women who aspire for top posts in the country's Civil Services. Academy's administrative centre is at Charachira, Kowdiar, Thiruvananthapuram. The main academic wing serves at Ambedkar Bhavan, Government Press Compound, Mannanthal. The comfortable classrooms, the well-equipped library with thousands of books and journals

and high-speed Wi-Fi accessibility provides the aspirants the conducive ambience and vibe required for their preparation to qualify the UPSC Civil Services Examination. KSCSA has a total of 10 Sub Centres at Kollam, Konni, Chengannur, Moovattupuzha, Aloor, Palakkad, Ponnani, Kozhikode, Kalliassery and Kanhangad. Let's hear from Director of KSCSA Dr P. Anitha Dhamayanthi, about the KAS and the strategy to adopt to get it through

How do you view KAS and also regarding KSCSA?

Kerala had a significant presence in the civil services until the 1990s, but then it began to show a gradual decline. This upsetting crisis was triggered by various factors. Perhaps the most critical of these was the lack of proper orientation to the civil services examination and insufficient mentorship. Once we took note of the coaching facilities available in our state, there was a wide gap between what was expected and what was delivered. To fill this void, the Kerala State Civil Service Academy (KSCSA) was established. The objective of the academy is to enable our aspirants to realize their cherished goals through comprehensive, integrated and interactive modes of instruction.

And obviously the government's decision to implement KAS is really a wonderful opportunity for youngsters

JUST A STEP AWAY FROM YOUR DREAM JOB

because within 8 years they will be able to get IAS. So that is the biggest attraction and it is kind of middle-level entry and definitely as far as Civil Service is concerned the vacancy position is also reduced and you have an opportunity to work in Kerala itself, were they could get into group one service.

Regarding KAS exam and syllabus it is a little bit tough; because you have a

variety of subjects. It is almost in par with the civil service preparations. Main difference lies in the fact that it gives much importance to Kerala history and Kerala model etc. The notification came on November 1st and immediately we started inviting applications for KAS coaching and we have 3 batches as of now; morning, afternoon and evening batches. Even before the notification announced, we started a course for KAS programme. Then we waited for the official announcement because it wasn't given at that time. Later on, we decided that it is better to start it after the official announcement of the exam. So we have few students who joined that time and they are continuing. There's more rush in evening batch compared to other batches and we have fresh entrants in this course along with that people who are working in various sectors of the government offices have also joined.

The academy has an impressive array of excellent faculty who have several years of expertise in handling civil service coaching classes. Most of the faculty members are serving as well as retired professors, eminent scholars and other experts who excel in their respective fields.

Would you share your perspectives on preparing for the exam?

See the problem here is we have limited time, the notification came in November and the exam is scheduled to be conducted in February. So we have hardly two months now and the syllabus is vast. So, we have given more emphasis on economics, history, polity and of course English, Malayalam, Current affairs etc. We are also planning to conduct test papers at the end of the course. Students need to be introduced to the syllabus thoroughly and prepare them for the examination. We have classes from Monday to Saturday and we have insisted more prominence to Kerala history compared to civil service. We have appointed eminent faculties for Kerala history alone. Economics is also very important in KAS and civil service. It is a core subject and any kind of development without economics, nothing will work. So definitely economics is important and I think we have very good faculty for economics.

In addition to economics, Kerala model, role and the function of the Planning Board, disaster management is also

given. This is not there concerning civil service. Kerala history is given so the evolution of Malayalam language is also included in the syllabus. So there are also changes in the syllabus from civil service. There will be 3 papers for the exam in the mains exam. It has been announced that the entire exam will resemble the standard of the UPSC.

Students feel Economics is a bit tough because they're in the prelims exam for civil service, economics is not given this much importance. Science and Technology, Environmental science, Ecology, Zoology and details of Human Physiology are included in the syllabus. In Science & Technology, so many topics of contemporary importance like artificial intelligence, ICT etc is given importance. The core subjects need to be emphasized - Indian History, Politics, Economics, Geography plus Science & Technology, Current Affairs. These are the core subjects that have to be identified but in the case of KAS, for all these core subjects we usually allot 90/100 hours for each subject but here same subjects have to be taught within a short period. Our prelims/mains course is an 8 months course to emphasize mains and then the prelims.

It is a good opportunity for youngsters and it is easier to get into KAS than into civil service because the competition is less here. But in the Civil service examination, you are competing aspirants across the nation. So I am sure that it will be a great opportunity and probably next year onwards students will also be more prepared for this exam

What about the examination questions?

First and foremost we are not sure about the question paper. We don't have models to be followed as of now but based on my experience for the two-year civil service, I think the emphasis will be for the core subjects mainly history especially Kerala and Current affairs.

Students should concentrate to read the newspaper regularly and try to update themselves. Latest development in all areas whether it is economics, environment, science or disaster management. All these areas should be given much importance. 10 years back we were not giving importance to disaster management, but now students should be aware of all those things and of course general history because ultimately what is today's news is tomorrow's history. History is a very

important subject unless you know your history you will not be able to do justice to your country. Time management is also very important. We don't have any previous question papers to rely on. Probably, the faculty themselves have to provide anticipated questions. They can refer only the Civil Service exam question paper. If I'm not wrong, 2 to 3 years back there was an exam for Deputy Collector so probably that can be taken as a precedent to KAS exam partially. The primary intention of KAS is to bring in young and energetic minds to governing positions. This will be their stepping stone to IAS. The Government needs an appreciation for bringing in KAS after getting over many hurdles. We are extremely glad that this will bring radical change in the current administrative scenario.

KAS: An Overview

Special Rules / Notifications/ Modifications

The much-awaited Kerala Administrative Service (KAS) officially came into existence vide Go (P) No 12/2017/ P & ARD dated 29.12.2017 and subsequently the modifications also came into effect vide GO (P) No 4/ 20019 dated 11 July 2019. The modalities of the KAS examination have been notified by the Kerala Public Service Commission on 1st November 2019. The KAS examination, as per the notification, shall be on 'the pattern rigour and standards' adopted by the Union Public Service Commission in the recruitment to the Civil Services in the year previous to the conduct of KAS examination. The KAS examination 2020 will hence be after the UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2019. The KAS Examination will consist of three stages: Preliminary, Main and Interview. The details of the Preliminary examination have been notified. The recent notification, 'Additional Examination Programme for February 2010' released by the KPSC on 5/12/2019 gives the date of Preliminary examination as 22/02/2020. The schedule of the examination which is yet to come will undoubtedly be there on the Admission Ticket that can be downloaded from 7 February 2020 from the One Time Registration Profile on the official website of the KPSC, www.keralapsc.gov.in. The candidates are directed to submit their confirmation through this Profile page from 6/12/2019 to 25/12/2019, failing

which the candidature will be rejected. KAS stands apart in importance to the other exams published by KPSC in the exam calendar of February, in that the date of KAS is published separately.

Preliminary Examination

The purpose of the Preliminary exam will be that of a screening test and to select the candidates for the Main exam. There will be two papers for Preliminary Examination, General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper-II and Language Proficiency. Each paper will be of one and a half hours' duration and will comprise objective type (multiple choices) questions for 100 marks. The candidates will have to choose the correct answer from among the four distractors given in each question. There will be negative marking, the stipulation which demands the candidate to choose the answer carefully. The mode of examination as given by the KPSC is OMR/Online and hence the possibility of the online mode cannot be ruled out. The medium of the questions will be English.

Syllabus (The details of the Syllabus/Main Topic are available on the official website)

History, Indian Polity, Mental Ability and Geography are broadly the subjects demarcated for General Studies Paper I. Paper II will cover subjects like Economy and Planning, Science and Technology, Environmental Science and Current Events. There will be questions in Paper II for 30 marks to test the language proficiency in Malayalam/Tamil/Kannada and 20 marks for English.

The Kerala Touch in the Syllabus

A remarkable feature of the Syllabus is that due space has been given to Kerala State, socio-political and economic facts relating to it and its official language, Malayalam. Kerala History (from 18th century) and the Cultural Heritage of Kerala are included in the Paper I of the Preliminary examination. History and evolution (must not be revolution) of Malayalam language and literature is also included under the topic, Cultural Heritage of Kerala. Different facets of the Economy of Kerala, such as Kerala model development, decentralised planning etc. find place in the Paper-II

of Preliminary examination. Language Proficiency in Malayalam/Tamil/Kannada and English is evaluated in terms of the grammar questions.

The questions to be asked

As per the recent notification(5/12/2019), the scope of the questions to be asked in the KAS examination is further extended to 'other topics related to the educational qualifications prescribed for the post.' It is also stated that all the topics covered under the subhead 'Main Topics' may not be covered in the question paper. Hence, there is no guarantee that there will be a question from every topic mentioned in the syllabus. Instead, the questions can be expected from any area.

Main Examination

Main examination is written/descriptive by nature. There will be three papers of 2 hours' duration and 100 marks each. Though the questions are asked in English (as of information available now) answers can be written in Malayalam, our official language. Further details of the main exam are yet to be released by the KPSC. Going by the standards of the UPSC, the objective of the main examination of the KAS will be to make an assessment of the writing skill of the candidate: how he/she comprehends and organises ideas and how convincingly those ideas are communicated. Originality matters here; matter of fact presentation counts much here as the answers are to be put in a nutshell (short essays in 150 or 250 words). The answer must be to the question. The time factor is also very important in the examination.

Interview

The interview, as in the UPSC Civil Services Examination, is an opportunity to make a direct assessment of the personality of the candidate. Marks awarded will be out of fifty. The soft skills of the candidate such as honesty, integrity, leadership quality and above all the communication skill are assessed in the interview. It is to be remembered in this connection that the entire examination, the Preliminary, the main and the interview is an evaluation of the personality of the candidate. The public of Kerala is looking forward to the fulfilment of the objectives of this new ven

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT KAS...



Aparna S Mohan, Aspirant

First of all, we are all happy that we got such a wonderful opportunity because KAS is Civil Service of Kerala. It is the first time we are facing an exam of such quality in Kerala. We are really lucky that we got into the right place. The course I have joined in this academy is shaping me for my future endeavours. Regarding the syllabus, it is a little bit vast which we might not be able to complete within this short period. And I must say compared to many other institutes available in the city, KSCSA is mentoring us in the right way to appear for the exams.



Balajith, Aspirant

I'm a former student here preparing for the UPSC. I think this KAS will be a soothing stand to improve my UPSC level as well. All of these can improve my knowledge. The academy's faculty is helping us a lot to achieve our dreams by encouraging us in all ways. They are giving us proper guidance on every required topic for cracking the exam.



KAS is a big opportunity for those who aspire to excel. A big window of opportunity and challenge is awaited for those who clear this first edition of administrative service of Kerala. Thousands of candidates are aspiring for class and has started for the exam. There may be pieces of advice from different coaching centres, experts and fellow aspirants on the methodology for preparation. A couple of tips for those who prepare for this exam are the highlight of this article.

Approach

I request everyone to consider Kerala Administrative Service as a competitive exam. Those who desire to clear this exam should have a positive approach. When I wrote my civil service in 2007, the approach I followed was very simple. I believe that there are only two gurus for every exam. One is syllabus and second is previous years question papers. Those who are aspiring for class may

also follow a similar approach. Priority should be given to the syllabus and candidate should try to read the syllabus multiple times and understand the perspectives and requirements of this exam. Further, it is essential to analyse the previous year's question paper to know the priorities and methodologies of questions as well as the depth and variety also. Unfortunately, this is the first edition of Kerala Administrative Service and there is no previous years question paper. There are comparisons to the Civil Service examinations and expert's opinion is that questions will be similar to that union UPSC civil service examinations. So the aspirants may approach the exam by focusing on the syllabus and by browsing through a couple of UPSC question papers. So that corresponding to each word or phrase in the syllabus the various perspective of question can be asked could be identified. So this approach of planning to write the examination with syllabus and question papers may be followed by the aspirants may ensure a smart work during preparation.

A POSITIVE APPROACH WILL DECIDE YOUR FUTURE

HARIKISHORE S. IAS
Executive Director, Kudumbashree

Learning method

Most of the job profile after getting Kerala Administrative Service requires a lot of analytical and comprehension abilities and the ability to grasp new subjects at the earliest. In this regard, the selection processes will also test

“ Perseverance, focus, commitment, and determination are the essential qualities which helped me secure a top rank in the Civil Services Examination 2008.

these parameters. Hence candidates should not expect direct questions or questions based on facts. The questions may be testing a candidate's opinion or testing the analytical ability of the aspirants or may be set to analyse the different perspective of a problem. The aspirants must focus on specific views. Clarity of thought and clarity of concept is very essential for Kerala Administrative examination. Hence in this regard whenever the aspirant is preparing for the exam they should try to assimilate the core concept of each matter of each subject and should form his or her own opinion about it. Also, various angles perspectives and approaches of the subject concerned should be known to the candidate. Hence I suggest learning methodology focusing on the clarity of concept and the aspirant's analysis of the same. Mere knowledge of facts figures dates and other basic details may not be sufficient for clearing this exam. The Government is looking for candidates who are willing to take challenges who can see multiple perspectives and who can analyse the given problem and should be able to solve it. In this regard, the same approach may be reflected in the question paper also. So the learning methodology which every candidate should imbibe should focus on understanding the core concept, understanding various perspectives and forming candidates own opinion on the matter.

Covering the syllabus

Kerala Administrative Service has a well defined and clear syllabus. It is expected that all the aspirants acquire knowledge regarding every subject or point mentioned in the syllabus. So it is essential that everyone should cover the syllabus to best of his or her capacity. Covering the syllabus means studying the topics mentioned in the syllabus in required depth and width. Due to time constrains all the aspirants may not in the positions to study all the topics in the required depth. I suggest that there is no need to worry if you are not able to cover all the topics intensively. This is a time management issue and all the aspirants preparing for the KAS are at the same level. They might start preparation very late and they might be in a newer position concerning the knowledge. So what difference between the winner and mediocre performance is the priority that the winner gives to certain topics. In this regard, I wish to suggest that the aspirants should go through the syllabus thoroughly and should have his or her judgement regarding the priority of topics. Those topics which should be studied with priority and high intensity. This crucial decision is going to decide whether you are going to clear the exam or not. So every aspirant should know where one should devote time. They should identify the topics which are relevant and they should be able to focus more on this topic. We should need a strategy to cover the topic with smart work. Those topics which aspirants feel are of high priority should be studied intensively and to the required depth. There will be some topics which the aspirants not able to devote much time. These topics should be prepared at least superficially. They should be able to answer basic questions about the topic and should know 'what' and 'where' and 'how' about the topic. So it is suggested to follow two strategies. For this, the first activity to do is to decide regarding the priorities of the topic. Once the priority is decided, the second action to be done to study intensively. At the same time study the topics which you think as low priority. Since there are no previous question papers and guidelines regarding the priority, I leave it to the judgement of aspirants. Decisions should be own and taken by the aspirants rather than getting information from different corners. This judgement will decide whether you will be able to complete the entire syllabus within time. From the next year onwards

we will have question papers of 2020 KAS and it will help the candidates to decide over the priority.

Be confident

All the aspirants should understand that KAS is just another exam. And for any competitive exam, our preparation will never be perfect. There will be many topics which we have not prepared for the required intensity. However, we should understand that since the completion is relative and everyone is at the same level we should avoid comparison with others. We should feel confident about our preparation. Our preparation may not be sufficient but at the same time, all other people are also on the same level. They also might not get enough time to cover the topics intensively. So in this regard confidence is the key matter of concern. With your available time and background knowledge, you have prepared well for KAS in the last 1 or 2 months. Even if you have not covered the full syllabus at the decided level, there is no reason to be not confident. All the aspirants entering examination should feel confident and courageous about the preparation. This is very important because, in every competitive exam, your presentation, state of mind and performance during the exam is important. Even in the civil service exam, in my opinion, even the candidate who had covered all the topic in high level might able to get only 60 per cent question only known to him. Even if we have prepared by covering entire syllabus, 40 per cent will be those which you have never anticipated. In these circumstances, the presence of mind, the ability to give best and ability not to get tensed, ability to write in precise and concise are logical manner during the exam is what matters. In the next month, the preparation may be perfect however every candidate should be confident, courageous and deliver his or her best during the time of examination. This key aspect of 'performance during the exam' is what makes the difference. So be confident about your abilities and don't compare your level of knowledge and preparation with others which might take you to lower off your confidence. Think that is a golden opportunity for me to be in a position where I can make an impact on society. This driving force should be in the mind during the exam hall. If we write the exam in this mindset I am sure that all your dream of KAS will come true in future. Best wishes to the aspirants.



A KERALA- MODEL- BANK

BIJOY PULIPRA, FCS, IP, RV
Insolvency Professional
and Company Secretary

banking system. Though such PACS are easily approachable for common man and act as solace for their regular financial needs the same is classified as a risky due to geographic and portfolio concentration of risk. The peculiarity of the cooperative system of banking when comparing to the modern day banking is its inability to deal with non-members. But said restriction is the very essence of the term “cooperative” as the activities of the co-operatives are being carried out with its member's economic participation and hence gives its own identity. Though the PACS are accepting deposits and lending money to its members, it cannot offer interface based services to their members; service like remittance facilities, insurance and

The High Court of Kerala had cleared the air and given green signal to the much awaited Kerala Bank by rejecting 21 petitions filed before it. The judgement of the High Court is historical as the said pronouncement will place the cornerstone in the financial road map of India which can eventually create a “Kerala Model Banking System” for the rest of India. The Government of Kerala had made an unconventional but unflinching stride by integrating the banking system in Kerala with the proposal for the merger of the District Cooperative Banks with State Cooperative Bank and branding it as Kerala bank. The in-principle approval of Reserve Bank of India for the proposed Kerala Bank is giving wings to the long cherished dream, “Own Bank”, of the State. The Bank is expected to make available the funds for infrastructure development of the State, which is gathered through deposits and investments from Keralites across the globe. The new bank, being termed as the Kerala Bank will be a full-service bank – serving four distinct segments of the customers. The PACS and its members shall continue to the prime focus of the Kerala Bank as it is

visualised that the KCB shall provide financial, technical and support services to the PACS and its members in a manner that the members of PACS need not look elsewhere for any financial product and/or service.

Cooperative Banking System in Kerala

The present co-operative banking system of Kerala has a very strong structure at the primary level and have 30% market share in the deposits and loans. It follows a three tier system with Kerala State Cooperative Bank (KSCB) on apex, District Cooperative Banks (DCB) on middle and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) on ground level. Though the PACS is having different terminologies such as Farmers' Service Co-operative Societies; Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies; primary co-operative rural banks; multipurpose co-operative societies etc, all those are functioning as financial intermediaries by collecting deposit from members and extending the credit facility for agricultural activities. The PACS cater smaller customers from a specific locality and hence less formal than mainstream

pension products; credit card facilities, Automated Teller Machine facilities etc. Bringing PACS to a more structured institutional system, while maintaining the cooperative frame work will enable it's members to enjoy all the benefits of modern day banking, is the major thought for mooted the idea of Kerala Bank.

DCBs are intermediate-tier institutions and act as a balancing method which absorbs surplus funds from PACS and offer loan to the primaries who are in need of funds. The DCBs are capable to source deposit from other sources and deploy it to primaries in the form of credit. As the DCBs are capable to do independent business it often ends up in competition with PACS in same area of operation. DCBs are connected more to local resources and hence were able to raise more deposits than its higher tier, ie KSCB. The function of the KSCB, therefore is similar to that of the DCBs, except that the KSCB is expected to do this function at the state level looking at the imbalances between the districts. The DCBs are lacking the competitive edge due to its smaller size and the activities of the same is parallel to KSCB. As per expert committee report on the Formation of Kerala Co-operative Bank, the State Co-operative Bank was in losses and its loss for the year 2015-16 was higher than the profits of all the DCBs together. The operation of multiple cooperatives is resulting in significantly higher operational cost with no benefit to the end customer. The cooperative banking systems lacks proper governance and transparency which is much needed in banking sector. Lack of systems and transparency may eventually lead to lack of confidence among its end customer and stakeholders. Therefore, from a banking perspective the functionality of the DCB and the KSCB is the same. All these factors had rightfully compelled the government to think about reducing the three-tier system into a two-tier system by weeding out the DCBs from the cooperative system through merger with KSCB. Through the merger, all the DCBs will get amalgamated with KSCB and all the members including the PACS and the nominated members of respective DCBs shall become the members of KSCB. KSCB with the pooled resources of the merged DCBs shall have a very strong balance sheet which can compete with any modern day banking institutions.

Envisioned to excel

Only through the introduction of

technologically advanced information systems into operation the cooperatives can gain the confidence of the common man and grow to the next level by surpassing the stiff competition. The Kerala bank is being created with a vision of Safe and Reliable Banking for Everybody. It envisages a most modern, accessible, friendly and safe banking services for the common citizen of Kerala. The Bank is proposed as a full service universal bank, which is technology driven, serving distinct segment of customers under the direct supervision of Reserve Bank of India. While being a modern day bank with all advanced features and characteristics, the Kerala Bank will continue to service the PACS and its members. PACS, while maintaining its independence and member profile, shall continue to collectively hold the control over the new bank thorough majority shareholdings and board representations. Kerala Bank will provide financial, technical and support services to the PACS and its members in a manner that the members of PACS need not look elsewhere for any financial product and/or service. In addition to serving the PACS, the bank will be the bank of first preference for all the banking needs of the cooperative sector including milk, rubber, coir, consumer, labour and a range of other cooperatives existing in the state of Kerala. It will be open to all individuals who are not members of PACS or cannot use the service of PACS and also offer its banking service to institutions and body corporates as part of its main

stream banking activity. So the Kerala Bank will function in the interest of cooperative sector and simultaneously cater the larger section of society, individuals and corporates.

The bank is proposed to be designed with a gracious customer interface mechanism and most modern facilities. The Bank has to constantly improve the internal competence and reduce operational costs so that the customers are not imposed any fees for use of the services – like ATM withdrawal charges, cheque book charges, cash transaction charges etc. As an own bank of Kerala it shall have to strive to serve all the customers by pricing the products and not pricing the services. With contemporary systems of Information Technology and audit; governance with significant professional inputs will not only help the cooperative structure garner market shares in areas where it is not present, but also help in gaining significant amount of credibility.

Kerala Bank, which is primarily created for empowering the short term credit structure of primaries, can eventually become the catalyst of growth of the State through high volume deposits from Non-resident Keralites and thereby enable seamless funding for infrastructure of the State for the indigenous projects in rural and urban areas.

Author is an and can be reached at bijoy@artismc.com





TO DENY PEOPLE THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS, IS TO CHALLENGE THEIR VERY HUMANITY...

Justice Antony Dominic
Chairman, State Human Rights Commission

It was on 10th December 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out certain rights, that are the basic and minimum set of human rights for all citizens. Setting aside a day to commemorate, educate and reflect on the principles that are incorporated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights means celebrating the rights we exercise every day as human beings and acknowledging that enjoying these rights carries with it the responsibility to promote these rights for all people.

There can be no peace without development, no development without

peace and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law said Jan Eliasson. The true meaning of these words will become evident if we trace history and examine the background of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in fact, is the outcome of the Second World War. Before the start of the war, several countries were under dictatorships. Those governments were expansionists and were ruthless in their treatment of those who disagreed with them. Germany's expansionist policies led to the war in 1939 and Japan became involved in 1941. Millions of

soldiers and civilians were killed or maimed. Germany created concentration and extermination camps, where millions were killed. People were used as slave labour under shocking conditions.

Millions more died from starvation, disease or other brutalities. The war ended in 1945 only after the destruction of millions of homes and lives by fighting and bombing, including the use of atomic weapons. Countries were left devastated and millions were rendered homeless refugees. There was civil war in many countries.

This chaos created on account of the war and the dream of securing peace

and justice in the world by international cooperation, led to the creation of United Nations. The charter of the UN called for establishment of a set of universally accepted and observed basic human rights, so that people would never again have to go through the abuses that they had just suffered. It was this resolve of the member nations that culminated in the adoption of a document on 10th' December 1948, that would set out for the first time a set of fundamental human rights for everybody. It is this document that is known as Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In this Act the expression "human rights" has been given a very wide meaning as

the right relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed under the constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India. If we look at this provision of the Act, it becomes obvious that the concept of human right as envisaged in the Act, is a reflection of the fundamental rights recognised in the constitution and more particularly, Article 21. The scope of the rights guaranteed under Article 21 are not static but are expanding with the passage of time. These therefore are the inalienable rights of every human being born in this country and he acquires these rights on his birth and he cannot be deprived of these rights.

At the national and state level, Human Rights Commissions have been established, with the responsibility to discharge the functions that are enumerated in section 12 of the Act. Nelson Mandela has said that,"to deny people their human rights, is to challenge their very humanity." We are living at a time when social, cultural and religious conflicts are the order of the day. Recently we have seen an instance where a journalist who walked into the Consulate of a country was murdered inside and even his dead body has not been traced out so far. Instances of similar brutality are being reported from various parts of the world.

Kerala @ IITF 2019 Delhi

Photo: Prasanth R. & Dalu Parameswaran



Governor Arif Mohammed Khan inaugurates Kerala Day Celebrations



Finance Minister Dr. T.m. Thomas Isaac visits the Kerala Pavilion



Special Representative of the Kerala Government in Delhi Dr. A. Sampath & I& PRD Director U. V. Jose release the brochure



Dr. A. Sampath visits the stalls



I&PRD Secretary P. Venugopal is at the Pavilion



Photos: Prasanth R.



DIFFERENTLY-ABLED



“ Kerala has been bestowed with another envious award nationally. The State has bagged the award for the empowerment of the differently-abled in the year 2019. The State has been awarded for its modular work for protecting the rights and empowerment of the disabled, and guiding them towards the mainstream.

IN KERALA THEY ARE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING

K.K. SHAILAJA TEACHER
Minister for health

screening and early identification of disabilities, early intervention to reduce the adverse impacts due to disabilities, modern disability management services, special projects for disabilities like Autism, hearing disability, disabilities due to blood-related disorders and disabilities caused due to chronic neurological disorders etc. These activities are done in convergence between major departments primarily Social Justice, Health and Education departments. Social Justice Department is the nodal department dealing with Persons with Disabilities. Kerala Social Security Mission and Kerala State Handicapped Persons Welfare Corporation are Government Organizations under the Department initiating and implementing programmes for PwDs.

An inclusive society ensures indispensable social inclusion of its entire population irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, income, or other status. This social inclusion is inevitable for empowering and promoting the social, economic, and political participation of all sections of the society in a meaningful way. It is the collective responsibility of a welfare state to evolve and implement strategies and systems to bring the marginalized groups to the mainstream.

Marginalization or Social exclusion is largely associated with relative poverty, unemployment, alienation, illiteracy, disability, transgender identity etc. This exclusion often forces the marginalized to confine in their shells. Bringing forth these vulnerable sections of society by breaking the shells demands deliberate efforts, actions and innovative strategies etc. The policy of the Government is to promote inclusive development and as such programmes are designed and implemented.

Persons with Disabilities were one of the systematically marginalized groups due to various reasons. This social group suffer from a high degree of exclusion, and socio-economic deprivation. Though the earlier efforts and policies have brought some positive changes, the process of transformation has been extremely slow and inadequate to minimize the gaps between them and the rest of the community. Across the world, people with disabilities have

poorer health outcomes, lower education achievements, less economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disabilities. This is partly because people with disabilities experience barriers in accessing services that others have long taken for granted, including health, education, employment, and transport as well as information. This situation demands an innovative strategy for bringing them to the mainstream.

Realizing the fact that the economic and social costs of disability are significant which cannot be quantified, the present Government has made deliberate efforts to extend a range of services – from relatively minor and inexpensive interventions to complex and costly ones in the disability sector. It is in this context the State Government, apart from the existing programmers ventured to initiate a new umbrella programme named as Anuyatra through Social Justice Department. The advent of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 paved a framework to take effective steps in designing the activities in Anuyatra.

Anuyatra adopts a right based comprehensive life course approach in Disability Management, right from primordial prevention to sustainable rehabilitation of PwDs and in line with the latest developments in disability prevention and management across the globe and harmony with Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016. This umbrella project has 22 components including disability prevention, neonatal

Early screening, identification and early intervention form a major focus for prevention and effective management of disabilities. Setting up a well-organized network for early identification and management of specific disabilities forms the main component of this project. Facility for newborn screening of Visible Birth Defects is established with the support Health Department for early screening of disabilities. With the objective of early screening, detection and intervention of developmental delay and disabilities District Early Intervention Centers are functioning at present under the Health Department. Under Anuyatra these District Early Intervention Centers (DEIC) will be transformed to state of art disability management hubs with all modern facilities. Regional Early Intervention Centers functioning at Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Thrissur and Kozhikkode Medical Colleges provide Service of Pediatrician/ Medical Officer, Physiotherapist, Audiologist & Speech Therapist, Clinical Psychologist, Optometrist, Early Educationalist cum Special Educator, Staff Nurse for intervention, treatment and remedial therapies to children with disabilities.

Twenty-five Mobile Intervention Units (MIU) is deployed in the rural areas of the state to provide therapy and other disability-related services. Each unit gives service to six-block panchayats. Each unit consists of one Development Therapist, one Physiotherapist, one Special Educator, one Clinical Psychologist and one Speech Therapist cum Audiologist. NHM is implementing this project for Social Justice Department.

For addressing hearing disability a comprehensive project namely Kathoram is implemented as a subproject of Anuyatra. Kathoram adopts a 1, 3, 6, 18, 42 months' timeline interventional approach. In this project the hearing screenings of all neonates are done within one month of birth, confirmation of disability if any, within three months, hearing aids, along with audio verbal therapy from 6-18 months and in indicated cases cochlear implant before 18 months supported with auditory verbal habilitation therapy is done through this project. Oto Acoustic Emission Screeners along with service of an exclusive JPHN for conducting hearing screening, monitoring and for follow up in 60 Government Maternity Hospitals, Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry (BERA) facility in all districts, for confirmatory test of Hearing Disability is established. In needy cases, cochlear implant surgery will be done through empanelled

hospitals under Shruthithararam project of KSSM. Facilities for post habilitation therapy are also established. This shall be followed by post-implantation habilitation till 42 months. Thus, a baby borne with hearing impairment, by the time she/he reaches 3.5 years, goes to Anganwadi with almost perfect hearing and speech. What can be more rewarding for us than that? Similarly, there are unique longitudinal programs for many such specific disabilities under Anuyatra. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is one of the major neurodevelopment disorder and its prevalence is increasing enormously globally. The situation of our state is also of no difference. Realizing the serious concern behind this situation a comprehensive project named as SPECTRUM is implemented. Early identification and early intervention through appropriate therapies, parental awareness, and training programmes and by preparing a professional team to cater to the diversified needs of people with ASD is ensured through this project. Autism Centers are established in Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Thrissur, Kozhikkode and Manjeri Government Medical Colleges and at Institute of Mental Health And Neuro Sciences (IMHANS) Kozhikkode. Establishing of Additional Centers in other Medical Colleges and other major health/disability institutions are under consideration. A Regional Autism Rehabilitation Centers, with world-class facilities is established at NIPMR. Parental awareness programme and skill development programmes for children with ASD together with their parents has also been undertaken. A Centralized Help Desk is functioning under Anuyatra for providing information and support services to Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through a toll-free number- 1800-120-1001.

As a new initiative, a Horticulture Therapy is implemented through the College of Agriculture, Vellayani Thiruvananthapuram. It is a therapy using plants and horticultural activities to improve the social, educational, psychological and physical adjustments of persons to improve their body, mind and spirit.

To promote talented Youth with Disabilities, Talent Search of Youth with Disabilities has been undertaken jointly by KSSM of Social Justice Department and Kerala Strategic Innovation Council (KDISC).

An M Power Incubator and Different Art Centre is functioning at Magic Planet for Providing training and for performance of Dance, Drawing,

Painting, Music, Cinema, Acting, Instrumental Music, jointly initiated by KSSM and K DISC and Magic Academy. 23 intellectually disabled children trained in magic under the guidance of Sri. Gopinath Muthukad, the famous magician in Magic Academy are the Ambassadors of Anuyatra.

The differently-abled are to be supported by welfare programmes as well. The Government is particular in implementing such activities. Pariraksha project for supporting PwDs in emergency situations and causalities like accidents, natural Calamities, Swashraya Project for self-employment of mothers of children with profound physical and mental disabilities, Mathrujyothi: Project for financial support to mothers who are blind, for caretaking of children and for medical treatment, Parinayam for marriage assistance, Vidayjothi and Vidyakiranam for education assistance and educational scholarships, Readers allowance for advocates who are blind, Programme for providing support devices, Barrier-free Kerala project accessibility, Punarjani for rehabilitation of mentally ill in Attappady Tribal Block, Psycho-Social Rehabilitation programmes, Care Homes for Different categories of PwDs, Assistance to Non-Governmental Organizations for providing various services to Persons with Disabilities are some of them.

Moreover, Kazhcha for blind persons, Shubhayatra for providing mobility support for locomotor disabilities including sidewheel attached tri-scooters and electronic wheelchairs, Hasthadaanam a fixed deposit programme for children below 12 years, vehicle loans, Loans for self-employment, revolving Fund for SHGs of PwDs etc are also given through Kerala State Handicapped Persons Welfare Corporation. KSHPPWC was awarded the best channelizing agency for NHFDC Under this government, National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Thrissur under Govt of Kerala is getting upgraded as pioneering institute in disability management and empowering persons with disabilities. While the National Institute of Speech and Hearing is in the process of getting transformed as the first university in the disability sector in the nation. Setting a model for others to follow.

Unsaid is far more than said. But we humbly realize than much need to be done as we believe that primary indicator of states progress and development is how it cares for its most vulnerable population. Long way to go... so let's walk together



“ Arjun Krishna, student, NIPMR
Sujith Kumar, father.

I have an autistic son. I brought him to NIPMR one-and-a-half years ago for treatment. I had taken him to several private hospitals which did not yield results. My son showed good signs of improvement after we came to NIPMR. Here we get the best treatment facilities. NIPMR offers therapy facilities of international standards, besides giving best education facilities for children. Classes by special education teachers are helpful for every student.

“ Fathima Abdul Nasser, student, NIPMR

After coming to NIPMR I can now read and write Malayalam, use iPad and computer. Now I have started studying subtraction in Mathematics. I have lots of friends here: Avani and Sajeev are my best friends. My sir has helped to construct a beautiful house for me. Once the pending works of the house are finished, we all would move there.

The institute that functions under the Social Justice Department has emerged as the centre for excellence in the field of treatment of the differently-abled.

NIPMR as a support system for the differently-abled

-Services offered

NIPMR has been a succor to those who have lost hope in the journey of life. It functions under the Social Justice

NIPMR opens a new horizon for the differently-abled

Keerthana T R,
Information Assistant,
District Information Office,
Thrissur

Department with the aim of rehabilitation of children with special abilities. The centre which is located at Kallettunkara at Irinjalakkuda offers a support system to those who are unable to go ahead with the treatment owing to financial constraints.

Equipped with a pool of expert doctors and state-of-the-art facilities, the NIPMR has risen to be the best institution in the state in identifying special children and imparting them required training. It mainly focuses on various therapies, and offers specialized treatment for those born with physical disabilities and those afflicted by injuries caused by accidents affecting physical movements. The physiotherapy wing of the institute provides special treatment for children and adults. NIPMR, through occupational therapy, also extends help to the ailing and the differently-abled to lead a normal life. It offers health services for autistic kids under the government's special programme called RARRC. Behavioural therapy and speech therapy are being imparted as a part of RARRC project, besides offering services for the hearing-impaired patients through 'Sruthi Tharangam' project. Problems related to speech are treated through speech therapy. Special transition school functions at the rehabilitation centre to develop the creativity of the special children. Various services, apart from providing health care, are rendered at the NIPMR for the benefit of the mentally-distressed patients. It makes available the service of a dietician to guide on food intake, and conducts job training programmes. The institute has taken effective steps to deal with socio-economic problems of the patients and their families through social work, and handle growth-related issues of children through child guidance programmes. Mechanisms such as virtual reality are being used for yielding better results in treatment.

World Class Sensory Garden

Kerala's first EPDM sensory park has been set up in an area of 4880 sqft to attract children with special abilities. It has been designed to stimulate and nurture the senses of touch, smell, sight, hearing etc. The park which was part of the second phase of sensory garden has made use of the EPDM floor mechanism. Thrissur-based CostFord, while designing the park, has stipulated on the use of the EPDM synthetic rubber flooring to curb chances of injuries so that children do not hurt themselves when they fall. The kids can

play here without the fear of getting injured. The unique feature of the park is that each child can overcome his or her sensory disabilities through games. The sensory park has been constructed adhering to the minimum fire safety standards and the rides are arranged in such a way that the seven sensory abilities of the child are aroused through games. Activity rides such as rocking boat, rhine wheel sea saw, A to B climber and playground climber in the park are suited for each therapy and can be enjoyed even by wheelchair-borne children. Further, steps will be taken to make the activities helpful for studies by including letters, numbers, science experiments etc in the next phase. The fund of Rs 56 lakh to construct the park was sanctioned by the Social Justice Department.

Rehab on Wheels

Mobile therapy unit has started functioning since 2016 under Rehab on Wheels project to attend BUDS school children and those who are unable to reach the institute for treatment. It offers services pertaining to physiotherapy and hearing-related examination and modified ambulance with modern facilities.

Setting an example in outstanding service

In 2012 the government, under the initiative of Social Justice Department, took over the institute led by N K George which was functioning under the N K Mathew Charitable Trust for treating children with cerebral palsy. Since then NIPMR has emerged as a temple of mercy and role model in giving all possible help to persons with special abilities to ensure their better future. Going further in the rehabilitation of the differently-abled, DEd courses will be started in the areas of occupational therapy, autism and cerebral palsy. NIPMR will also start the state's first hydrotherapy centre based on the water treatment called speeder recovery technique that aids in the stress free movements of children. A horticulture training unit and cloth printing unit will be launched and changes will be brought in the vocational training unit to create employment opportunities for the differently-abled persons.



“ Azim Ali Anwar, student, NIPMR
Jasmine Anwar, mother

It has been 11 years since we came to NIPMR, when Haseena was 2 years. When we came for speech therapy we came to know of the physiotherapy facility here. After we started the therapy, we put him in special school. He started showing signs of improvement. Now he can convey messages using communication board. He makes use of software called Awaz that produces sound of the letters typed. He goes to the normal school BVMHS at Kallettunkara twice a week in addition to the special school. He has shown good signs of improvement in the academic front. Earlier he was not able to even hold a pencil. But today he uses motorized wheel chair, as per the recommendation of psychiatrist Dr Sindhu. He has started picking small things using his hand. He has started uttering small words after the speech therapy.



Return of the Super food

In the era of global warming and climate change, millets are gaining importance. One rice plant requires nearly 2.5 times the amount of water required by a single millet plant of most varieties, according to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid, ICRISAT. Crops like rice and wheat cannot tolerate temperatures more than 38 degrees Centigrade, while millets can tolerate temperatures of more than 46 degrees C. Requirement of inputs like fertilizers and pesticides are also much less compared cereals like rice and wheat. They can also grow in saline soil. Millets could therefore be an important solution for farmers struggling with climate change - sea level rise, which can cause soil salinity, heat waves, droughts and floods. These nutrient-rich grains are making a quick comeback in the Indian agrarian landscape after decades of neglect.

Valley of the wind

Attapadi is one of the largest tribal settlements in Kerala. The three tribes in Attappady are Irula, Muduga and

Kurumba. Apart from collection of forest produce, farming of traditional crops like millets as well as cattle and goat rearing have been their main livelihood options. Millets occupied a prime space in their diet.

Millet Village

By 2009, due to Government intervention cultivation of BT cotton was reduced. But cotton still remained to dominate the fields. In 2016, a new project "Millet Village" was launched by the Department of Agricultural Development and Farmer's welfare in association with Department of tribal welfare at Attapadi. This innovative project was conceived by the visionary leader and Minister for Agriculture V. S. Sunilkumar. During 2009 he happened to visit Attapadi as part of "Niyamasabha Samithi" in connection with higher incidence of infant deaths. One of the demands put forward by tribal families was to revive their traditional food habit.

While launching the project, initially the tribal farmers were reluctant to replace cotton with millets. The field staff of the concerned Departments arranged

RISE OF THE HOLY GRAIN

G.S.Unnikrishnan Nair

awareness programs in all hamlets and succeeded in convincing the tribal communities that returning to traditional cultivation and traditional crops will help them to overcome the health hazards.

Seeds of millets and other crops were distributed free of cost. Goat and cattle rearing being common, organic manure is available here in abundance. During 2016 itself Millet farming resumed in the valley.

Back to Tradition

Customs associated with millet farming was also revived. Mixing of various millets, pulses and other seeds and sowing them after ritualistic worship of earth known as "Kambala" is the traditional practice in Attapadi. Farming in the hamlets is lead by Chieftain Known as "Oorumooan" and head of farming, "Mannookaran". Traditional song and dance accompany the sowing. 515 hectare was planted with millets and other food crops during the first year which gradually increased to 650 hectare by 2019.1480 farm families are involved in the scheme now. Per season production is about 800 tons.

Traditional grain and seed storage practices followed by tribes were also rejuvenated under the program. The produce left after consumption by tribal families is procured by the Department of Agriculture. These are processed and made into value added products by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, coimbatore.

Tribal women are employed to do this work. Products are sold with Organic label by Department of Agriculture. Attapadi is home to many traditional varieties of millets, oil seeds and pulses. Under the project, efforts are being taken to conserve and cultivate them in the fields. Studies have begun at the "Intellectual Property Rights Cell" at the Kerala Agriculture University to present the case of Attukombu Amara, a variety

of Lablab Bean and Attappadi Thuvara, variety of red gram for the Geographical Indication tag.

Celebrating the holy grains

The traditional millet dishes also made a comeback in the hamlets. Millet dosa, puttu, porridge and roti are some of those tasty dishes. Consumption of millets has resulted in substantial improvement of the health condition of tribal people. According to the study done by tribal health nodal officer during 2018, rate of infant deaths in Attapadi reduced to 13 from 31 in 2013 while abortions were reduced to 31 from 77 in 2013. This is a good indication that revival of millets is having good impact on the community. Tribal farmers are eager to continue the farming of millets. The Department of Agricultural Development and Farmer's welfare, Kerala will extend the project for further 3 years under 'Rebuild Kerala Initiative'. Millets procured from the Attapadi hamlets will be made into value added products and marketed as 'Organic Attapadi Millets'. Organic certification process for Attapadi millets will be completed by next year.

Attapadi valley is celebrating the return of these holy grains. As the saying goes "Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed, and nothing ever changes without a dream".

“ Millets could therefore be an important solution for farmers struggling with climate change - sea level rise, which can cause soil salinity, heat waves, droughts and floods. These nutrient-rich grains are making a quick comeback in the Indian agrarian landscape after decades of neglect.

“ Millets procured from the Attapadi hamlets will be made into value added products and marketed as 'Organic Attapadi Millets'.



THE REAL HEROES

Heroes could be musicians, Olympians, movie stars, religious leaders etc.

But, here are some extra-ordinary people, not well known to the world, who showed how to succeed in life with grit and determination. They real heroes who refused to quit.

THE REAL HEROES

Pradeep Mudavanmukal,
PRO, KSLM



paappa, the eldest learner, inaugurates the literacy examinations at Attapadi

PAPPA@ 88 STAR AMONG THE STUDENTS

Paappa, a student of the literacy programme of Kerala State Literacy mission authority at Attapadi tribal settlements in Palakkad, had a tough childhood, teenage and adulthood. A native of Nakkupathi tribal village, Attapadi, Paappa got married and gave birth to her children at a very young age. She collected honey, medicinal herbs and twigs from the forest, and sold them in the market downhill to earn a living. But the inability to read and understand market standards always troubled her as she got tricked. Now, at 88, paappa cleared the literacy examination conducted by KSLMA with good marks.



FAHAD REALISES HIS LLB DREAM ON TRACK

Fahad, 32, always wanted to be an educated person. Determination hepled him get admission to MCT Law college. Fahad, running a beauty parlour in Arimbra started dreaming of education when he failed in SSLC exam. He was forced to go abroad for a job due to financial problems. After 7 years abroad, he returned to his native place, started the beauty parlour and worked as a beautician and hair stylist. He joined KSLMA's class 10 equivalency programme and successfully completed SSLC and Plus Two fulfilling his dream. Today, he is a BBA-LLB student. Wife Nadeera and two sons Fadhweel and Fahmeen is his family.

FAHAD in his barber shop

@ 52, RESSY FIGHTS AGAINST ODDS, ENROLLS IN COLLEGE

52-year old Rissy Mathew returned to Alphonso college campus in Pala, after three decades. She who discontinued her studies in 1985 due to financial difficulties, is back in the campus as an undergraduate student. Nothing changed but her urge for learning has increased. After discontinuing her studies, soon she started working as a daily-wage farmland labourer. She travelled alone to Mumbai when she was 20. Thereafter, she built a secure house for her parents, married away her sisters, tied knot with he factory co-worker and gave birth to two children- all with in the age of 26. When her husband left her at 30, Resi returned to Kerala with her children and started living on her own, working as a domestic helper, starting 3:30 AM everyday to support her children's studies. At present, she cleared KSLMA's higher secondary equivalency examination, and enrolled for her bachelors in History at Alphonso college, also eying to acquire an LLB to raise voice for struggling single women.

RESSY MATHEW



DISABILITY FAILS BUT ANIL WINS

If life appears to be very hard and miserable, meet K.S. Anil kumar, 39, from Punalur, Eastern Kollam. With 70 percent disability inflicted by polio at the age of 3, he has fought all odds A determined mind, Anil, a first batch student of the KSLMA higher secondary equivalency course, llearned to write using the toe of his left leg. Studied until class X, joined for pre-degree course at SN College, Punalur, Anil could not continue his studies. Abandoning his dream to learn, He started repairing electronic goods at home and sold lotteries to make a living. He attended weekend classes at Punalur GHSS. His elder brother Suresh Kumar took him to school. KSLMA started the equivalency course for higher secondary in 2015, first time in the country. This june, the state government had issued an order approving the higher secondary equivalency course to be equivalent to Plus Two courses in the state.

K.S.Anil kumar making paper pens and writing using his leg

KANAKA, THE LOTTERY SELLER, EYES A NEW DAWN

Kanaka, a 56-year old, lottery seller from Maneedu leaves nothing to chance but put in the hard yards. That determination has seen the quinquagenarian spending four hours every evening to fulfil her dream of learning, which she was denied during her childhood. Kanaka is a literacy class participant under Navachethana, at Rajeev Gandhi Colony, Maneedu, a KSLMA literacy project for Scheduled Caste colonies. "It often filled me with sadness all these years thinking how I was speaking words without ever knowing the letters and singing songs the lines of which I may never read. That is why this class gives me so much happiness. At least now I can do away with the humiliation of having to ink my thumb and can put a signature with dignity," a beaming Kanaka says. A hunt for a suitable lodging brought her to Maneedu in Muvattupuzha where she had to start life afresh.

Kanaka goes around selling lottery tickets in Maneedu, Muvattupuzha



KARTHYAYANI AMMA: THE NAME OF FAME

Commonwealth team honoured her Karthyayani Amma, the 'Aksharalaksham' literacy exam topper is one of the rare celebrities whose fame seems to transcend the country's limit, inexplicably grows with age. The internet is abuzz with the praise of this granny who reside in Alappuzha at Chaepad panchayat. Karthyayani Amma bagged first rank in Aksharalaksham exam of literacy mission scoring 98 marks out of 100 among 40,000 candidates becoming the senior most to do so. Commonwealth Learning vice president Dr Balasubramanyam led the team of Commonwealth delegates to Kerala and honoured her with a memento. Karthyayani Amma never studied in school. She appeared in the exam to attend 4th standard. And now, she hopes to get a job after passing 7th and 10th standard equivalency exams. While attending the felicitation ceremony of Aksharalaksham exam, she expressed her wish to study computer. Education minister C Raveendranath gifted a laptop to her in order to fulfil her dream. At present, this grandmother who turned a star with an exam, is studying computer along with learning and writing.

Commonwealth Learning vice president Dr. Balasubramanyam honouring Karthyayani Amma

@ 80, AUSSIE GRANNY IN A HURRY TO LEARN MALAYALAM

Not very often you get to see an 80 year old foreigner studiously reading a Malayalam textbook, but Kathleen Marie Huolohan, an Australian, is one determined 'Ammamma', the first foreign student in the continuing education programme launched by Kerala State Literacy Mission, studying at the Education Centre in Pallipuram Panchayat in Ernakulam. "I am keeping my fingers crossed," said Kathleen, when asked if she will be able to complete the four-month course in a short span of three months, as she is on a tourist visa. Kathleen's came to the state along with a Buddhist group three years ago. The magnetic pull of Kerala ensured that Kathleen came back three more times after she visited the first time and met K. B Rajeev, her coach, a Prerak at KSLMA on one such visit. Rajeev is impressed with the speed with which Kathleen has picked up the alphabets. Kathleen said, "Once Rajeev asked me to go to the nearby tea stall and order one for myself. I was to speak in Malayalam. So I went, and said, 'Oru chaya, madhuram venda'. Phew, it was tough but exhilarating." "But she did good, so I think she will be ready to write a test in three months time, which is the extent of her permitted stay," said Rajeev. Rajeev is planning to seek special permission to allow her to write the test earlier than prescribed to get her a course completion certificate.

Kathleen being helped by K.B.Rajeev with Malayalam lessons



E-GOVERNANCE



Good governance would require that the government machinery works with full transparency of operations and is fully accountable. In order to have people's faith in governance, the four pillars of citizen's charter, namely information, transparency, accountability and redressal of public grievances should be strengthened. Good governance is not a one-time process, rather it needs gradual and consistent efforts. With the advanced state of Technology, particularly Information Technology, growing global interaction, enormous powers enjoyed by government agencies, and equally great expectations of people, the most challenging task is how to minimize the mischief by those involved in the governing process and how to make them do maximum good ie, make them provide good governance.

Rapid development in the field of Information and Communication

Technologies (ICTs) in the past two decades has brought changes in the ways governments function world over. This information age paradigm shift has redefined the fundamentals and changed the institutions and mechanisms of delivery forever. Knowledge based society enables in sharing vast amount of information on a global scale almost instantaneously, which consequently helps in selecting, absorbing and adapting relevant technology and services. E-governance has the potential to revolutionize the governance across the world. E-governance, through a technological innovation has changed it all basic character of governance, operational methodology, functional style and ideological orientation. It straight away offers a package of efficiency, time-boundedness and cost effectivity. By making use of ICTs, government makes the best possible use of technology to communicate and provide information through national and state websites. These websites provide information

TOWARDS A PAPERLESS GOVERNANCE

Dr. Ashalekshmi B.S.
Assistant Professor,
Dept. of Public Administration
and Policy Studies,
Central University of Kerala.

Efficient public service delivery is one of the most major responsibilities of the civil service. It plays significant role in ensuring good governance.

Good governance would require that the government machinery works with full transparency of operations and is fully accountable. In order to have people's faith in governance, the four pillars of citizen's charter, namely information, transparency, accountability and redressal of public grievances should be strengthened. Good governance is not a one-time process, rather it needs gradual and consistent efforts. With the advanced state of Technology, particularly Information Technology, growing global interaction, enormous powers enjoyed by government agencies, and equally great expectations of people, the most challenging task is how to minimize the mischief by those involved in the governing process and how to make them do maximum good ie, make them provide good governance.

Rapid development in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the past two decades has brought changes in the ways governments function world over. This information age paradigm shift has redefined the fundamentals and changed the institutions and mechanisms of delivery forever. Knowledge based society enables in sharing vast amount of information on a global scale almost instantaneously, which consequently helps in selecting, absorbing and adapting relevant technology and services. E-governance has the potential to revolutionize the governance across the world. E-governance, through a technological innovation has changed it all basic character of governance, operational methodology, functional style and ideological orientation. It straight away offers a package of efficiency, time-boundedness and cost effectivity. By making use of ICTs, government makes the best possible use of technology to communicate and provide information through national and state websites. These websites provide information about the department, its aims, citizen charters, organizational details and online grievance facilities available. These interactions can enhance speed of public services, reduce duplication and increase citizen participation in the government. The effectiveness of the implementation of e-governance is determined by the degree of success in the following interactions in e-governance. Government to Citizen (G2C) represents the relationship between government and citizens. E-governance

allows government agencies to talk, listen, relate and continuously communicate with its citizens, supporting, in this way, accountability, democracy and improvements to public services.

Government to Government (G2G) refers to the relationship between governmental organisations, as for example, national, regional and local governmental organizations, or with other foreign government organizations. Governments depend on other levels of Government within the state to effectively deliver services and allocate responsibilities. In order to realize a single access point, collaboration and cooperation among different governmental departments and agencies is compulsory. Online communication and cooperation allow government

business e-commerce in order to lower their costs and improve inventory control. The opportunity to conduct online transactions with government reduces red tape and simplifies regulatory processes, therefore helping businesses to become more competitive. The delivery of integrated, single-source public services creates opportunities for businesses and government to partner together for establishing a web presence faster and cheaper.

The conversion of physical files into digital files is a significant outcome of Information technology. The key benefits of digital office include easy access to files, efficient file management, long life to files from being tampered and reduction in time and cost due to easy transfer of files. Paperless governance is a big task before e-



agencies and departments to share databases, resources, pool skills and capabilities, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of processes. Government to Business (G2B) consists of the electronic interactions between government agencies and private business. It allows e-transaction initiatives such as e-procurement and the development of an electronic market place for government. Companies everywhere are conducting business to

governance in India due to insufficient infrastructure, cyber security, poverty, multilingual states, lack of awareness, less literacy rate and other technology related issues (Singh and Karaulia, 2011).

Stages of e-governance is to be analysed in order to understand the degree of paperless administration.

Stage I Web presence :- The first phase is marked by web presence of public

institutions and dissemination of information. This information is also being integrated for citizen access through the National and State Portals which provide basic information on Government programmes and services. Web presence can range from basic and static information to access to databases, documents, policies etc with the aid of features and site map.

Stage II Interactive presence: - The next stage is marked by an interactive interface with stakeholders with proactive solutions and electronic requests for services and financial transactions. The service starts on the internet but does not always end there. Efforts to widen the reach of these basic services to ordinary citizens through community access in several ways - through Online Sections at government offices, integrated service delivery through one-

between the platform and citizen and the transaction is completed online. Stage IV -Transformation and e-participation: - The fourth stage is marked by a Government to Citizen (G2C) framework based on an integrated network of public agencies, process certification and participation in basic process design and political processes. Web comment forms, upcoming events, on line polling mechanism, discussion forums and online consultation facilities are part of this stage. Integrated Portals are central to this integration. Web based political participation and institutionalization of stakeholder participation with tools like citizen polling mark important benchmarks in this stage. Complete transformation of the organisation in a digital manner occurs and there will be paperless governance in all forms.

Paperless Administration

According to the State of the Global Paper Industry Report, 2018 by Environmental Paper Network (EPN), paper use increases year on year and has quadrupled over the past 50 years. In 2014, global paper production hit 400 million tonnes per year for the first time (ironically the same year that atmospheric CO2 levels exceeded 400 parts per million). More than half of this paper is consumed in China (106 million tonnes), the USA (71 million tonnes), and Japan (27 million tonnes), with a further quarter in Europe (92 million tonnes). The entire continent of Africa accounts for just 2% of global paper use, consuming a mere 8 million tonnes per year. Oceania and Latin America between them account for around 8%. In some countries, per capita paper use is so meagre that it registers in the statistics as effectively zero; all of these countries except Afghanistan are in Africa, namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea,

Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Somalia. Asia has the fastest growth rates in consumption. In markets such as India, the country's per capita consumption level is just 9kg. Were it to increase to the global average, its high population numbers would cause a 15% spike in global consumption, requiring an additional 60 million tonnes of paper per year. As long ago as the late 20th century, people began talking about the possibility of a "paperless office." The

first prediction of the paperless office was actually introduced in an article in Business Week in 1975 on "The Office of the Future." It became a buzzword in the 1980s. It coincided with the advent of the personal computer, and the hope was that all documents could be processed electronically and that paper would become irrelevant. Since then, a number of technologies have made it seem within our grasp chief among them desktop publishing, the web, e-mail, XML, content management systems, e-books, and more. Today, digital information flies around the world and into, through and out of our organizations, is managed and secured in digital repositories and drives business at lightning-fast speeds. But has paper disappeared? Actually, paper consumption is still increasing, soaring to extremely high levels. Paper continues to predominate in activities that involve knowledge work, reading and collaboration. Paper is becoming a more temporary medium as people print, use and discards documents rather than keeping everything they print. Paper has become a display medium for human collaboration. The impact of ICT is increasingly evident in the workplace, public or private setting, as they have automated most of their processes, achieving the improvement of procedures and products and services for customers, without significantly diminishing paper consumption. The causes are many and varied such as lack of new technologies, inappropriate use, the initial rejection of change, custom printing and the belief that a printed document is more valuable than a digital one, etc. (Ujjal Sandhu and Rohit Seth, 2014)

According to George Dimopoulos "the advantages of going paperless are countless and obvious, both for individuals and organizations. The main reason why most people still use paper is because of a life-long conditioning; paper has become an intimate part of how we generate, access and store information. By recognizing the paperless advantages it will be easier to implement it."

The benefits of paperless office include

More Efficiency : File transfers can be done in a speedy manner. Redtapism can be reduced to a greater extent in this way. In addition, converting to an electronic system provides the opportunity of analyzing and identifying flaws in manual processes in order to implement improved service delivery. Electronic service delivery furthermore eliminate repetitive administrative tasks, improving productivity by allowing the

Good governance would require that the government machinery works with full transparency of operations and is fully accountable. In order to have people's faith in governance, the four pillars of citizen's charter, namely information, transparency, accountability and redressal of public grievances should be strengthened. Good governance is not a one-time process, rather it needs gradual and consistent efforts. With the advanced state of Technology, particularly Information Technology, growing global interaction, enormous powers enjoyed by government agencies, and equally great expectations of people, the most challenging task is how to minimize the mischief by those involved in the governing process and how to make them do maximum good ie, make them provide good governance.

Rapid development in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the past two decades has brought changes in the ways governments function world over. This information age paradigm shift has redefined the fundamentals and changed the institutions and mechanisms of delivery forever. Knowledge based society enables in sharing vast amount of information on a global scale almost instantaneously, which consequently helps in selecting, absorbing and adapting relevant technology and services. E-governance has the potential to revolutionize the governance across the world. E-governance, through a technological innovation has changed it all basic character of governance, operational methodology, functional style and ideological orientation. It straight away offers a package of efficiency, time-boundedness and cost effectivity. By making use of ICTs, government makes the best possible use of technology to communicate and provide information through national and state websites. These websites provide information about the department, its aims, citizen charters, organizational details and online grievance facilities available. These interactions can enhance speed of public services, reduce duplication and increase citizen participation in the government. The effectiveness of the implementation of e-governance is determined by the degree of success in the following interactions in e-governance. Government to Citizen (G2C) represents the relationship between government and citizens. E-governance

allows government agencies to talk, listen, relate and continuously communicate with its citizens, supporting, in this way, accountability, democracy and improvements to public services.

Government to Government (G2G) refers to the relationship between governmental organisations, as for example, national, regional and local governmental organizations, or with other foreign government organizations. Governments depend on other levels of Government within the state to effectively deliver services and allocate responsibilities. In order to realize a single access point, collaboration and cooperation among different governmental departments and agencies is compulsory. Online communication and cooperation allow government agencies and departments to share databases, resources, pool skills and capabilities, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of processes. Government to Business(G2B) consists of the electronic interactions between government agencies and private business. It allows e-transaction initiatives such as e-procurement and the development of an electronic market place for government. Companies everywhere are conducting business to business e-commerce in order to lower their costs and improve inventory control. The opportunity to conduct online transactions with government reduces red tape and simplifies regulatory processes, therefore helping businesses to become more competitive. The delivery of integrated, single-source public services creates opportunities for businesses and government to partner together for establishing a web presence faster and cheaper.

The conversion of physical files into digital files is a significant outcome of Information technology. The key benefits of digital office include easy access to files, efficient file management, long life to files from being tampered and reduction in time and cost due to easy transfer of files. Paperless governance is a big task before e-governance in India due to insufficient infrastructure, cyber security, poverty, multilingual states, lack of awareness, less literacy rate and other technology related issues (Singh and Karaulia,2011). Stages of e-governance is to be analysed in order to understand the degree of paperless administration. Stage I Web presence :- The first phase is marked by web presence of public institutions and dissemination of

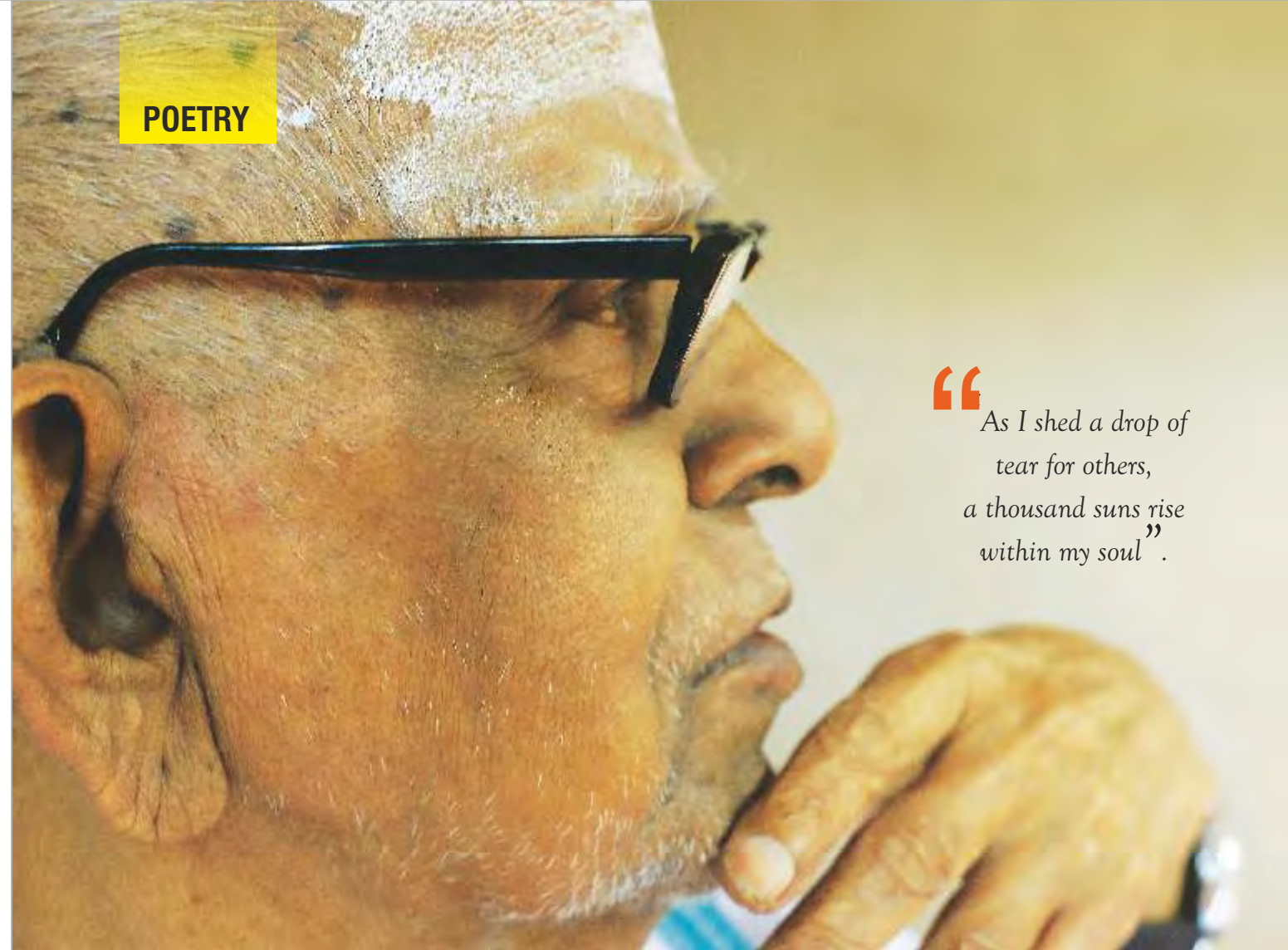
information. This information is also being integrated for citizen access through the National and State Portals which provide basic information on..... Government programmes and services. Web presence can range from basic and static information to access to databases, documents, policies etc with the aid of features and site map. Stage II Interactive presence: - The next stage is marked by an interactive interface with stakeholders with pro-active solutions and electronic requests for services and financial transactions. The service starts on the internet but does not always end there. Efforts to widen the reach of these basic services to ordinary citizens through community access in several ways - through Online Sections at government offices, integrated service delivery through one-stop service centres - e kiosks, e-seva kendras etc, Stage III -Transactional Presence :- Various transactions on the internet are there in this stage. These interactions in turn results in vertical and horizontal integration which changes the way a service is delivered, the effort being for completion of the transaction for the service through the internet with putting in place of back-end integration. There is electronic communication between the platform and citizen and the transaction is completed online.

Stage IV -Transformation and e-participation: ~ The fourth stage is marked by a Government to Citizen (G2C) framework based on an integrated network of public agencies, process certification and participation in basic process design and political processes. Web comment forms, upcoming events, on line polling mechanism, discussion forums and online consultation facilities are part of this stage. Integrated Portals are central to this integration. Web based political participation and institutionalization of stakeholder participation with tools like citizen polling mark important benchmarks in this stage. Complete transformation of the organisation in a digital manner occurs and there will be paperless governance in all forms.

Paperless Administration

According to the State of the Global Paper Industry Report,2018 by Environmental Paper Network (EPN), paper use increases year on year and has quadrupled over the past 50 years1. In 2014, global paper production hit 400 million tonnes per year for the first time2 (ironically the same year that atmospheric CO2 levels exceeded 400 parts per million). More than half of this paper is consumed in China (106 million

POETRY



“As I shed a drop of tear for others, a thousand suns rise within my soul”.

The Njanpith Award winner Akkitham is not a mere poet to the Malayalis but a symbol of noble poetic culture which propounds the principle of love, love that can transform darkness, paradoxically born out of the light of sensory knowledge, into a salve, and lead to the greater light of spiritual awakening.

An amalgam of heart-rending tears and friendship-sprouting smiles within a unique structure of palpable emotions and linguistic designs. A holy fire that bursts out of consecrated tinder, and spreads light all around. These epitomize Akkitham the poet and his poems. His world view is soaked in humanism.

Unconditional love will surge in time - this is the ultimate truth and this, our duty to follow.

Even while shedding a drop of tear for others, it is this response of unconditional love that the poet sees in the thousand suns that arise within his soul. There is only one antidote for sorrow, and that is love. It is this belief that has made Akkitham's life and his poems as pure and intense as sacrificial fire. As a dreamer of a new world of unfettered freedom, the poet abhors all forms of material and emotional exploitation. The horizon appears beautiful but the thought that it is far away burns the poet's mind.

AKKITHAM'S POETRY - NECTAR CHURNED FROM THE OCEAN OF TEARS

DEEPA K. GOPAL,
ASST.PROFESSOR OF
MALAYALAM, M.S.M. COLLEGE,
KAYAMKULAM

compose "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Ithihaasam" [Legend of the 20th Century], a poem that critics hail as "a pearl picked from the bottom of the ocean of tears". And this was what he wrote about its creation: "What I jotted down in that book were words that boiled out of my unconscious, and questioned the impulses of my intellectual plane. This does not mean that it is either good or bad". But the poet was pilloried following its publication. However, as far as Akkitham is concerned, it is the Gita of sincere love towards the human race, and a scream against violence. As I shed a drop of tear for others, a thousand suns rise within my soul.

To most - who have had the experience of seeing blatant wrongs committed all around, and wishing to erase them, sought out many like-minded people, and gone to the camps of social, political and cultural organizations that are anxious to reach their goals, only to realize that they are hotbeds of contradictions, and finally ended up thinking independently about the times - "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Ithihaasam" might seem like their own personal confession. In it, Akkitham creates the picture of a soul that journeys over the ocean of emotional experiences.

Vayalar's proclamation in the lines: Never will I love any philosophy That loves not a grieving soul

came immediately after Akkitham's declaration:

Unconditional love will surge in time - in "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Ithihaasam".

Weeping, I said that day to a future citizen thus: "Light is sorrow, child, Darkness, so comforting!"

These words of sorrow come from the dark depths that offer no footing. They form the most powerful and eternal lines in Malayalam poetry. This strong spiritual streak is the bedrock of later poetic works like "Manushya Sannidhi" [In the Presence of Humans], "Balidarshanam" [The Vision of Bali] and the social standpoints he had great faith in. "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Ithihaasam" is the distillation of the angst suffered by the post-Independence generation of India. It also reveals how the soul of Kerala survived, and all that it craved for during the last two decades.

With its employment of listless metre, dry syntax, searing philosophies and verbal pictures painted in loud colours, the poem points to the mysterious spirit of the times that inspired its birth, and simultaneously serves as a conscience of that period.

If one wishes to see how language reflects a culture, a lifestyle and a material world all at the same time, one should read "Vaadaatha Thaamarayum Kedaatha Sooryanum" [Unfading Lotus and Unsetting Sun]. While describing the evolution of the human race, the poet writes:

In the earth they clawed to make pots with
they saw iron, gold and copper.



The vines of art on those vessels bloomed. One saw Nature anxious, alarmed. Like earthenware, Sorrowful and short-lived, This human body too. The poem thus gives accurate pictures of art and philosophy. The poem titled "Kuthirna Mannu" [Sodden Earth], published in the Mathrubhumi weekly (6 April 1952) a couple of months

before the composition of "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Ithihaasam," tells the story of farmers' struggle. It shows how wrong critics were in labelling the creator of "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Ithihaasam" a Communist-hater. Even while wearing the poonool, the symbol of orthodoxy, Akkitham ploughed his own furrow in order to mock at as well as re-define legacy, social mores and traditions. The traditional Brahminical elements of his poetry locked horns with new ideas, ideologies, harsh realities as well as old and new styles, and transformed themselves into a new brand of Brahminism that could arrive at truths.

The concepts of simplicity,

righteousness, truthfulness, the philosophy of non-violence and the wisdom of love that Akkitham internalized came from being influenced by Gandhiji. They became the foundation of his personality. His poem "Dharmasooryan" [The Sun of Righteousness] is an example of his deep-rooted devotion to Gandhiji. Most of Akkitham's poems reveal his partiality to the Gandhian vision.

The sorrows of lost childhood became the theme of many of his poems. "Idinju Polinja Lokam" [The Dilapidated World] presents the piteous condition of children. With a tender mind that will not permit even the nipping of a flower, the poet sits in the dilapidated world, and asks: No children - the inheritors of flowers - in this world even today?

In the poem "Balidarshanam" the poet describes the sweetness of childhood as "the consecrated waters of Kashi in the heart".

Akkitham's poems are a powerful response to the crises of contemporary

life. It is peopled with those who exploit the hard work of the labouring classes and enjoy themselves in palatial houses, as well as those who forget the legacies of culture and chase luxuries. If "Poonoolkaarude Charitram" [The History of the Brahmins] sings the victory song of the labour class, "Kanyakumariyile Kakkakal" [The Sea Shells of Kanyakumari] shows solidarity with the poverty-stricken vendors of sea shell necklaces and chains. If

"Kuthirna Mannu" [Sodden Earth] tells the tale of agricultural labourers' resurrection, "Balidarshanam" [Bali's Vision] not only dismisses workers' struggles as nonsensical but also proposes a return to tradition. "Pandathe Melshanti" [The High Priest of the Past] tells the sad tale of Thuppan Namboodiri's poverty. He is forced to seek the charity of the temple trustees so that he can feed himself, his parents and

his sisters, but they will not be placated. Finally he is forced to become a labourer in a factory. During the temple festival the local children are astonished to see the High Priest of the past seated on the elephant, and seek permission to mount the animal. His response is: Not mine, not mine these tuskers, Not mine, this great temple, children. Though sad to see your sorrow, I blame not my destiny. In the sanctum is the protector of devotees, who's mine own, my very own.

This poem, which laments over the social conditions that wrench a priest out of his temple, should be read alongside "Oru Poonoolkkaarante Manoraajyam" [A Brahmin's Dream]. Poems like "Deshasevika" [Server of the Land] and "Vennakkallinte Katha" [The Story of Marble] show how, compared to the value of love, values of patriotism and freedom fall way behind along with wealth, fame, status and so on. They eulogize the indomitable greatness of the philosophy of love and the blessedness of selfless affection. The latter work particularly shows how an artist who has transcended all relationships cannot be reined in either by the lure of material pleasures or by the threat of restrictions. Poems like "Maranamillaatha Manushyan" [The Immortal Human] and "Oru Red Indian Swapnam" [A Red Indian Dream] glorify humanism. There is perhaps no poet in Malayalam (except Vailopilli) who has described gender-equality and love within a marital union so beautifully and with so much intensity as Akkitham. The concept of love in his poems is developed in such a manner as to place stress on the spiritual aspect of man-woman relationship too, without ever running down its sexual dimension. "Aparaadhi" [The Wrongdoer] projects the love of a man who feels helpless and sorrowful on seeing the pitiful condition of his heavily-pregnant wife, and guilty over his inability to share her distress. Akkitham does not feel shy, like many other poets, about making the pregnant woman ask her husband, "Will you caress my stomach a little?" In this episode, the man loses courage when he thinks about the pains his poor wife suffers. But the poem titled "Streeyum Purushanum" [Woman and Man] records a protest against and contempt towards the patriarchal streak that lies at the heart of a man's love for his wife. The poem "Karathalamalakam" [The Obvious Truth] underscores the existence of layers of pure love that a woman has for her husband.

The complexities, conflicts and sanctity of family relationships also find expression in Akkitham's poems. Besides humans, birds and animals too feature in them. Akkitham was born into a higher caste but his poem "Parangodan" reveals that superiority of caste and community is a tragedy that does not permit the streams of the natural love to flow smoothly, and eventually dries them up. The poet feels that being born into a higher caste or community is accidental. It is not a condition that is consciously chosen by anyone. Therefore there is no meaning in putting anyone in the docks and subjecting them to a trial. Poets indulge themselves in their creative pursuits. Their poetic output may be accepted, rejected or interpreted. Or even be converted to lessons for people. These attempts may sometimes go beyond what the poet intended or what the lines warrant. Vallathol's famous line "Bondage inside a gold cage is bondage nonetheless on earth" and Kumaran Asan's equally famous line "Love is the greatest essence on earth" are instances of such a phenomenon. Similarly, Akkitham's "Light is sorrow, child, / Darkness, so comforting!" broke through all levels of meaning and became known all over the world. They have the power to lead one from darkness to light, from death to immortality, and from untruth to the truth. Thus Akkitham is not a mere poet to the Malayalis but a symbol of noble poetic culture which propounds the principle of love, love that can transform darkness, paradoxically born out of the light of sensory knowledge, into a salve, and lead to the greater light of spiritual awakening.

¹ Vayalar Ramavarma (1928 - 1975) is perhaps the most popular among Malayalam poets and lyricists. His poems include "Sargasangeetham," "Mulankaadu," "Padamudrakal," "Aayisha" and "Oru Judas janikkunnu" and for around 1300 songs he composed for 256 Malayalam films.

² The sacred thread worn by the brahmins
³ Vallathol Narayana Menon (1878 - 1958) is one of the famous poetic triumvirate of Malayalam poetry, along with Kumaran Asan and Ullloor S. Parameswara Iyer. He won accolades for "Magdalana Mariam" which paved the way for a new tradition of Christian symbolism in Malayalam. The short poems of Vallathol include "Sishyanum Makanum," "Virasinkala," "Achanum Makalum," "Divaswapnam," "Ente Gurukulam" and others.

⁴ Bandhanam kanchana kootilaanenkilum bandhanam bandhanam thanne paaril

⁵ One of the famous poetic triumvirate of Malayalam poetry, along with Vallathol and Ullloor S. Parameswara Iyer, Asan (1873-1924) is famous for works like "Chintavishayaya Sita," "Veena Poovu," "Chandalabhikshuki," "Duravastha," "Karuna" and so on.

⁶ Snehamaanakhilasaaramozhiyil

⁷ Velicham dukhamaanunni, thamassallo sukhapradam



Akkitham with interviewer I.R.Prasad

Three days have gone by since the news broke about Akkitham winning the Jnanpith Award. But the stream of visitors to his Kumaranalloor house shows no sign of abatement. His son Akkitham Narayanan and grandson Shivanarayanan suggest that I make an early morning visit if I wish to have a long conversation. Accordingly, I throw niceties to the winds, and appear at the doorstep at 9 in the morning. The poet, fresh after his bath and wearing white clothes, steps into the living room with the help of his walker. Troubled by a weak memory, he seems to have difficulty answering the questions. But he picks up words, and strings them together slowly to keep up the conversation. The readers' tolerance is solicited if the exchanges appear jerky.

In an article titled "Ente Kavitha" [My Poetry], appended to a comprehensive anthology of his works, Akkitham writes thus: "All litterateurs usually imagine that they don't get the recognition they

deserve. I too have had such thoughts now and then. Actually speaking, no one is totally denied the fame he or she deserves. It is only a matter of time. That is my belief. In my case, I did not wake up one day and find myself famous. But I am not ashamed to admit that I wished such a thing would happen in my life. Nonetheless, let me confess, I have always received enough artistic inspiration that permitted my sense of discretion to tell me what I have the right to expect. Yet when recognition comes my way, it comes at the least expected moment".

• Do you think the nation's most prestigious award for literature came to you at the least expected moment? What are your thoughts on that?

Akkitham: I feel happy. I can't say anything special beyond that. Every morning after breakfast, I lie in my bed

“ENTE KAVITHA”

[MY POETRY]

Akkitham/ I.R. Prasad

because I feel very weak. Most of the time, I rest till noon. That afternoon, at 12.30, my son got a telephone call. He put me on the line. It was Pratibha Rai. She told me that I had won the Jnanpith Award. "Alright. Delighted," I replied.

• Do you feel it has come rather late?

Akkitham: There were several who deserved it. I got it because of my longevity. That is all. Many had told me earlier that I would get it. But it did not happen then. Most things in my life have happened late. At one stage, Sreedevi [Akkitham's wife] expected it. But today she's not with us.

• Two Jnanpith Awardees – yourself and M. T. Vasudevan Nair – are alumni of the same school. Any memories about your Kumaranalloor High School?

Akkitham: Until then, I used to chant the Vedas. And I learnt some Sanskrit too. In those days, if one studied Siddharoopam and Amarakosham, one was considered literate in Sanskrit. Later I had a wish to learn English. But it was difficult to get permission for that. And I got beaten too. It was Unnikrishna Menon who taught me English. And that must have made me what I have become. When I was in the Third Form [eighth standard], MT was in the First [fifth standard]. MT's siblings also studied there. Later MT joined Victoria College. I went to Guruvayoorappan College. I could not complete my studies. MT sincerely wanted me to win the Jnanpith Award.

• V. T. Bhattathirippad, EMS – do you remember the politics of those days?

Akkitham: VT meant the world to me. I learnt everything from him. From among the Namboodiri community, that was steeped in darkness in those days, only VT was capable of that [initiating reform]. Whenever EMS came to Kumaranalloor, he sent someone to fetch me. He would invariably be in hiding, and I went to where he was. Thereafter we shared the same room, sitting and lying on two cots side by side, and talking about many subjects. We were together at Thrissur too. In the Yoga Kshema Sabha. There were no cots. We had to unfurl a mat on the floor and lie on it. Later I became his Secretary. I copied parts of his autobiography for him. I always had a very close bond with him. K. Damodaran has also stayed here in the barn house. We used to talk for long hours about politics, literature and many other things . . .

• How did poetry come about?

Akkitham: I used to dabble in poetry during my childhood. For instance, in protest against certain children vandalizing the temple wall, I wrote four lines of verse on it with a piece of charcoal.

*If, like this, temples
you fill with scribbles,
the Almighty will appear,
and destroy all, far and near.*

This was the kind of poetry I composed then, that had metres like Sragdara and Shardoolavikreeditha. I don't know if it had anything more. No one at my illam [Namboodiri home] inspired me to be a poet. What the elders desired was that I should be a good Othikkan [scholar of the Vedas].

• You are convinced that each one cries within his private world. This is a philosophy that teaches you to love everyone. And your poetry is virtually drenched in tears . . .

Akkitham: There were tears in my life. During my childhood, I saw a lot of it in my Moothaphan [father's elder brother] too. He used to weep for me. Edasseri too advised that poets should see tears.

• What do you desire now?

Akkitham: (smiles in detachment, thinks) Now what . . . ? (smiles again, looks at the photograph of his late wife)

*Not mine, not mine, these tuskiers,
Not mine, these great temples, children . . .*

In that look of dispassion, all questions become irrelevant.





World Soil Day 2019 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign "Stop soil erosion, Save our future" is envisaged to raise awareness on the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the increasing challenges in soil management and, raise the profile of healthy soil by encouraging governments, organizations, communities and individuals around the world to engage in proactively improving soil health.

Soil, the key source of life on this planet is a very dynamic and heterogeneous natural resource. It originates from parent rock and its horizon development and properties vary from place to place. The formation of soil results from the co-action of various factors such as climate, plants and other living things towards the parent material of a soil in a specific area through an interval of time. The most important factors influencing the

soil formation consist of five factors including climate, parent material, topography, organism and the time that controls the process of addition, change, movement and loss of matters and energy that occur in the soil. The formation of all soils is controlled by these five factors all the time and the influence of all five factors in each time interval may be different.

STOP SOIL EROSION AND SAVE OUR FUTURE

DR. S. SHANKER
Scientist(Rtd), KFRI, Peechi, Thrissur

Mitigation of climate change

Soil makes up the greatest pool of terrestrial organic carbon, more than double the amount stored in vegetation. Soil, the key source of life on this planet is a very dynamic and heterogeneous natural resource. It originates from parent rock and its horizon development and properties vary from place to place. The formation of soil results from the co-action of various factors such as climate, plants and other living things towards the parent material of a soil in a specific area through an interval of time. The most important factors influencing the soil formation consist of five factors including climate, parent material, topography, organism and the time that controls the process of addition, change, movement and loss of matters and energy that occur in the soil. The formation of all soils is controlled by these five factors all the time and the influence of all five factors in each time interval may be different.

Mitigation of climate change

Soil makes up the greatest pool of terrestrial organic carbon, more than double the amount stored in vegetation. Soil mitigates climate change through carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Soil is also important for storage of organic carbon on land, counteracting in this way the impacts of climate change. Plants absorb CO₂, an important greenhouse gas from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. As plants die and plant litter falls to the ground it is physically broken down by earthworms and other biota into particulate organic matter.

Management of soil for sustainable future

Our soils are at danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations. Therefore the promotion of sustainable soil and land management is central to ensuring a productive food system, improved rural livelihoods and healthy environment. As long as soils are at risk, sustainable agriculture, food security and the provision of ecosystem services are compromised. Managing soil sustainably is cheaper than

rehabilitating or restoring soil functions. Across the globe, human pressure on soils is reaching critical limits leading to global warming and consequent climate change impacts. such as floods and droughts threatening the very existence of life.

Impact of flood on soil characteristics

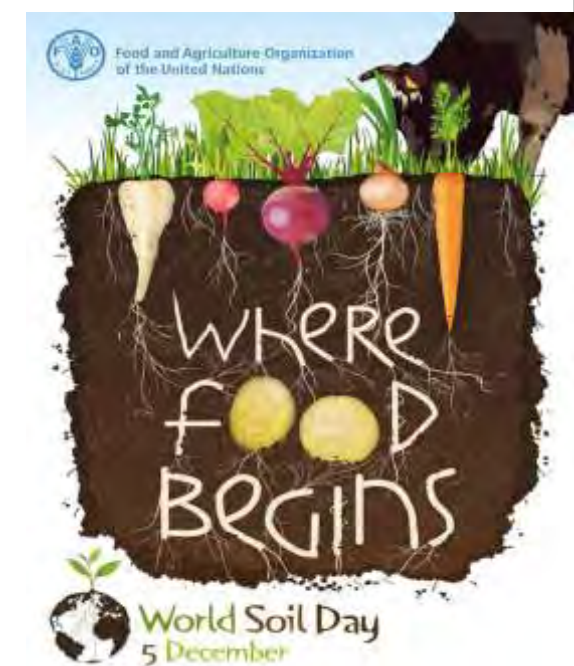
The flood that caused widespread loss to lives and property across Kerala has triggered alarming changes in soil quality. The results from the detailed survey of soil and sediment samples collected from the flood-hit areas reported fundamental changes in soil chemistry and structure and the microbial ecosystem. The soil samples collected from flood-affected areas in Thrissur district portrayed huge deposits of fine particles of clay on soil surface impeding aeration, water penetration, and loss of microbial life in the soil.

A study conducted at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) from the soil samples collected across the state revealed wide variations in the soil pH in flood-hit areas. Soil pH of below 3.5, indicating abnormally high acidity, was reported from a sandy deposit in Vijayapuram grama panchayat in Kottayam district. The organic carbon content of the samples studied ranged from 0.06 to 4.55% and a very high value of 4.55% was recorded in a sample collected from Kasaragod district. Analysis of major, secondary and micronutrients also indicated changes in soil chemistry. In one of the samples collected from Neyyattinkara municipality, the available phosphorus content was to the tune of 755.87 kg a hectare, which is extremely toxic for crop cultivation. High levels of potassium, calcium and magnesium were detected in samples collected.

The study also found major changes in microbial population and structure with some areas registering abnormally high bacterial and fungal population. The results of the study stressed the need for site-specific crop management to address the changes at the micro-level. So, considering the current global issues threatening the very existence of life on the earth, it is to be prioritised that soil must be the part of any agenda to address climate change, as well as food and water security. Now, there is an increasing general awareness of soil carbon, an awareness that soil is n't just a medium for plant growth. As per the principles outlined in the World Soil Charter and supported by FAO, good

soil governance requires actions at all levels, from governments to individuals in promoting sustainable soil management.

“An ideal good textured soil with optimum content of essential nutrients, diverse microbial population, absence of toxic materials and plenty of humic substances can produce healthy food”.





Giving a Strong momentum and breakthrough to Electric Vehicles, Kerala Government and Japan's Toshiba have signed a memorandum of understanding on transferring technology of Lithium Titanate Battery for the state public sector enterprises in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister. Pinarayi Vijayan, Industries Minister.E.P.Jayarajan and Transport Minister A.K Saseendran and Chief Secretary Tom Jose in their visit to Tokyo in the last week of November 2019.

Kerala which has a large scale deposit of Illuminite, Rutile, ore of titanium. Even though India does not find to have Lithium deposits but the abundance of titanium Di-oxide one of the component of Lithium Titanate battery for the use of Electric Vehicles will help boost large scale production of Lithium titanate battery. It is estimated that 30 per cent price of Electric Vehicles (EVs) is the cost of batteries.

Tomohiko Okada, the Managing Director of Toshiba India has given and signed a memorandum of understanding and handed over it to the State Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan about the modalities of transferring technology of Lithium Titanium Oxide Battery to the public sector undertakings of Kerala. The State is planning to encourage the use of Electric Vehicles in a big way. The Technology transfer would help the

Lithium Battery Technology to Kerala

M. Muhammed Haris.
Finance Manager, ANERT

State Public Sector Enterprise to manufacture Lithium Titanium Oxide Batteries on large scale for the use of Electric Vehicles. No companies in India manufactures of such batteries so far. If it is materialised this will boost the industrial production of Electric Vehicles Sector. The State-owned Kerala

Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) Chavara manufacture titanium dioxide, one of the components of Lithium Titanate Battery. This is one of the added advantages of Kerala. Battery is the major development in the field of chemistry took place in the 21st century for which the Nobel Prize of chemistry 2019 is given. Manufacturing of battery cells for electric vehicles (EVs) is yet to take off in India in the absence of strong local market despite a steep fall in the price of battery cells and the recent trust by the Government and some public and private players to promote it. The Chinese - owned car brand Morris Garages (MG) unveiled the sale of ZS model second all-electric SUV after Korean auto major Hyundai's Kona in the Indian Market. It may be noted that our neighbouring country Afghanistan is the Lithium capital of the world. The primary ingredient of lithium-ion cells is still the majority imported from China and South Asian countries. One of the raw materials used for Lithium Batteries is graphite abundantly available in our neighbouring country Sri Lanka. The Lithium Titanate Battery is very safe compared to Lithium Cobalt Oxide Batteries used in mobiles phones. Moreover, large sizes of automobile battery, safety is more concerned. So Lithium cobalt batteries are not preferred for large cells due to its explosive tendencies. It may be noted that Lithium Titanate batteries are having high energy density and high cyclic life, therefore less weight. This type of battery has cyclic life above 10000 were as lead-acid batteries have cyclic life around 1000. The EVs manufactured with Lithium Titanate

batteries having a life around 15 years when compared to 2 years life of lead-acid batteries used in automobiles.

The price of battery cells has come down to \$200 per kilowatt-hour (KWH) as against \$1200 per KWH three years ago. Before the invention of lithium-based batteries lead acid batteries reigns for 200 years, ever since the discovery of phenomena of electricity. The Kerala owned KSRTC has introduced 10 Low Floor AC buses in its fleet on wet lease, operate using electric power. Now, the transport Corporation issued a tender for 1500 electric buses for 10 years. Kerala Neem G, the three-seater environment-friendly autorickshaw manufactured by Kerala Automobiles Ltd, is the first electric-auto produced by a public sector undertaking got approval in India. The development of lithium-based batteries enhanced the scope of electric vehicles and Kerala Government in tune with development needs give trust to electric vehicles.

The lead-acid batteries are being manufactured in India by many firms, for which the components for its manufacture are abundant in India. The invention of Lithium-ion batteries opened the gateway of EVs. Even though Electric Vehicle battery prices fell sharply but local manufacturing is yet to take off. The main reason is India does not have any reserve for lithium, the chief component of lithium batteries which is the most popular type of batteries currently in use. There is not even a single lithium cell supplier in India. Now the Electric Vehicles manufacturing companies are buying

the cells from Chinese companies and assembling them overseas and getting the part module here. India as envisaged converting most of the vehicles on road to electric in six years. The Govt of India is pushing for full transition of 3 wheels by 2023 and two-wheelers by 2025. So indigenous production of batteries cells forms a crucial part towards achieving this goal and the Central Govt. have taken certain steps in this direction. The Govt. has slapped 5 per cent customs duty on import of lithium cells to support local manufacturing. It is also noted that the GST rate of batteries has been reduced to 18 per cent from 28 per cent. The Govt. of India is planning to set up 50 Giga watt-hour (Gwh) of lithium-based battery manufacturing in India, under big private players.

The transfer of Lithium Batteries technology Kerala will certainly open innovation in the field of electronics and EVs. It will be a breakthrough in controlling air pollution and eco-friendly technology with integrated and comprehensive development of the state.

“The transfer of Lithium Batteries technology Kerala will certainly open innovation in the field of electronics and EVs. It will be a breakthrough in controlling air pollution and eco-friendly technology with integrated and comprehensive development of the state.





Scenes from Sabarimala

Photos: Prasanth R.



Coir Kerala 2019 has come to the fore with the reshaping of the coir industry in Kerala. The fair, which normally trades around Rs 20 crore, received an order worth Rs 399 crore this year. This will benefit everyone from the ordinary coir worker to each and everyone in the industry. According to the Government, the employment and wages of the coir workers are important.

Participation and organizing made the fair a unique experience. Coir Kerala has become a cultural gathering of Alappuzha. It was a thrilling sight as children and families gathered to watch the arts and cultural programs. The expansion of venues with such secular gathering is essential.



Kerala Calling RNI 35991/1980

Postal Registraton: KL/TV(N)/104/2018-20
WPP No. : KL/TV(N)/WPP/148/2018-20
Date of Publication : 01. 12. 2019 Price: ₹ 12



radiokerala

Feel the pulse of Kerala

INTERNET 
RADIO

Log on to
www.radio.kerala.gov.in



Information & Public Relations Department
Government of Kerala

