

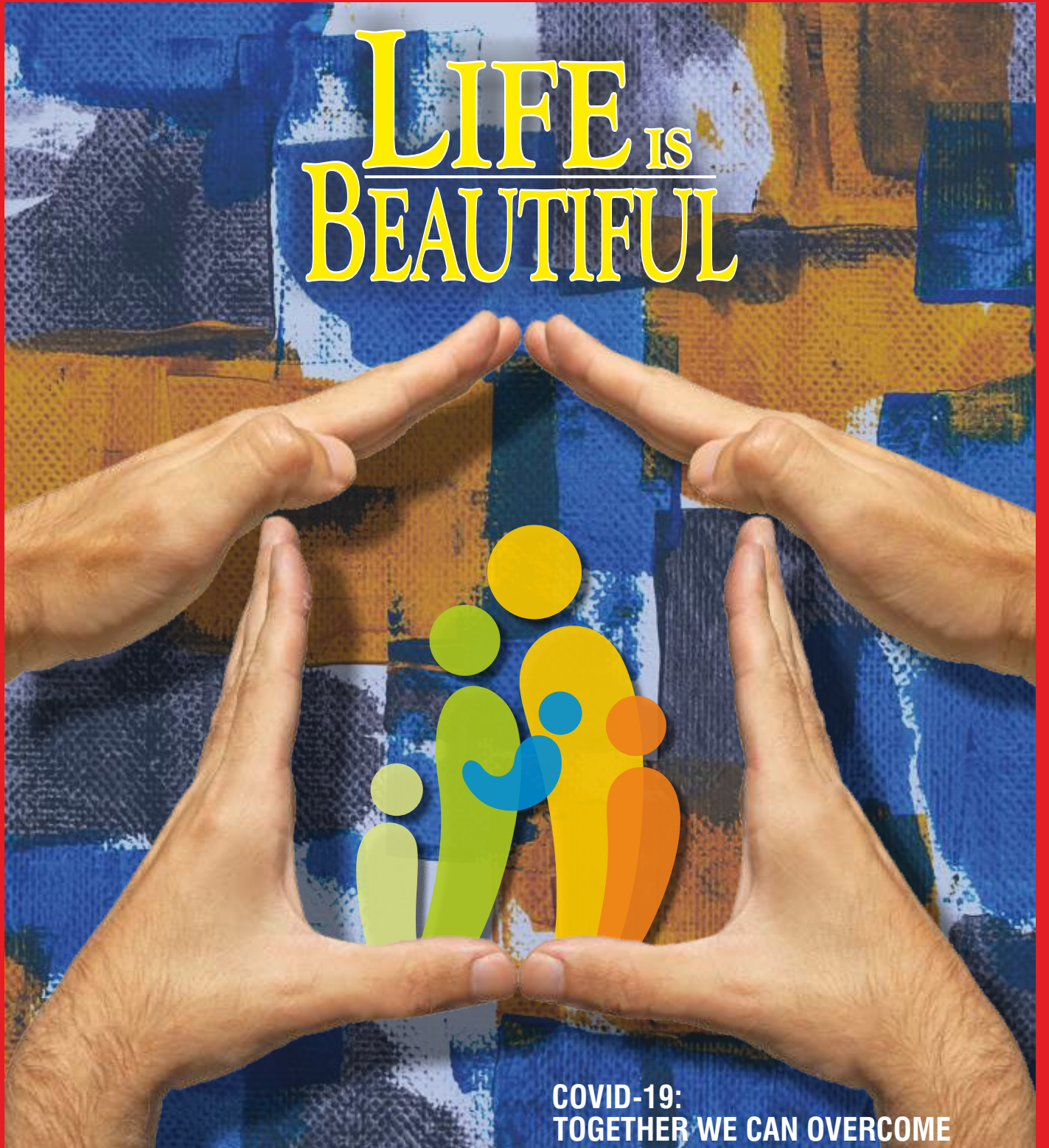
BUDGET ANALYSIS • KERALA: A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE • FOCUS ON SOCIAL INNOVATION

# KERALA CALLING

₹ 12/-

2020 FEBRUARY 01

LIFE IS  
BEAUTIFUL



COVID-19:  
TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME



# SOON KERALA WILL CHANGE THE WAY IT TRAVELS

*K-rail - the joint initiative between Government of Kerala and Ministry of Railways, Government of India.*

K-rail's Silver Line : the semi-High Speed rail Rail Project will change the phase of Kerala, which connects the South and North regions, trains travelling at a speed of 200km/hr., that helps reduce travel time at least 4 hours, got approved by Union Government recently.

Thiruvananthapuram - Kasargod semi High-speed Rail (SHSR) Project has been approved by the State Cabinet too.

Aerial survey to identify alignment commenced on December, 2019 itself. The survey is being carried out by Hyderabad based Geokno India, Private Ltd. LiDAR survey is done by the reflection of laser rays.

Paris based engineering and Consultant firm Systra is entrusted with the responsibility of General Consultant. They are in the process of preparing Detailed Project Report, which may be completed by March 2020.

Center for Environment and Development will assess the environmental impact.

K-Rail has conducted a detailed study and suggested a common gateway across the Western Ghats in the forest areas of Kerala and Karnataka.

## *The pride of having one's own home*

**A**nother important milestone in the history of Kerala is about to be reached. The coveted tag of being the 'state with zero homeless' is soon to be sported by Kerala through its aspiring project LIFE. The Mission LIFE is a comprehensive housing programme to quash the problem of not having a house of one's own and the Government started it with much resoluteness. On 29 February, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will officially declare the completion of two lakh houses under the Livelihood, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) mission.

LIFE mission is not only to do away with the state of not having an address of one's own but much more that as well. Quality of life one leads deserves more importance. Life in the last years of life needs to be attended with great care. So geriatric and palliative care are included in the broad spectrum of the Mission. Anganwadis also get benefitted.

Completion of two lakh houses is a great achievement. Meetings between beneficiary families who have already occupied their houses and officials have been taking place at the block and district levels.

The Budget of 2020-21 is really a touchstone that reveals the commitment of the Government in the welfare of its people and to the economic growth in the State. This budget, the fifth budget of this Government, was presented in the backdrop of several challenges in terms of growth and availability of financial resources. In this issue, we have given a detailed analysis of the State budget 2020-21.

Of late, we have encountered another menace from the pandemic Novel Corona Virus (nCoV). But with timely intervention and clinical precision in identifying cases, we have been able to contain the virus threat. The first nCoV in the country spotted in Kerala owing to the highly-sophisticated early detection system and a well-maintained healthcare system that has no parallel in the country.

Those who confirmed with the viral infection has been cured, which stands as ample proof of our fool-proof Medical system.

The Government is going to complete its fourth year in governance. So far, many welfare and developmental measures have been implemented at various levels. Decision has been taken to start the first Digital University in Kerala so that our youngsters can keep pace with the fast-changing trends.

Highly - informative as well as interesting articles and interviews are included in the February issue. We are sure that this issue will truly reflect the essence of LIFE mission and budget in detail.

**U.V. JOSE I.A.S.**

Editor-in-Chief

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### 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

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The government has taken initiatives to revamp the academic syllabus to ensure better job opportunities and to commence start-up missions. Fab lab and Kochin Super fab lab has been started in govt polytechnic college palakkad. It is first time in Kerala that a start-up mission has started in the polytechnic academic field.

Around 20 mini fablabs were constructed in various engineering colleges in the state to tap the potential of educated and talented youths in the State, with vibrant business ideas. The start-up missions are created with this motive.

The fab labs have started with a focus on the pivotal role of start-up missions. These centres aim to protect the ideas, experience, skills and abilities of the expatriates also. The government will ensure better teaching methods and international academic standards and will make the government polytechnic colleges as centres of excellence.



The government has taken initiatives to spread *solar projects with a vision to increase electricity production in the state*. One more solar project has completed under the leadership of KSEB and has started electricity production from the solar plant on experimental basis.

2400 unit electricity is distributed to 11 kv grid now. The solar power plant is constructed at Kottiyam 110 KV substation premise. The plant constructed in 2 acres of land has the capacity to produce 0.612 megawatt electricity. 1800 panels with 340 watt capacity are there in the plant. The government aims to increase solar electricity production to 1000 megawatts.



Every tourist is provided with the opportunity to enjoy and explore the traditions, art forms and at the same time can have a good look and taste of the culinary abundance of Malabar. To achieve this end Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Ltd (BRDC) under the Department of Tourism has come forward with 'Uru' (Dhow-type wooden ships) tourism project which helps the tourists explore the culture of Malabar. The Department of Tourism has conceived BRDC in such a way that the travellers can delve deep into the beauty of 16 rivers and can enjoy the art forms of the northern Malabar in its true spirits.

Northern traditional art forms such as Yakshaganam, Pavakali, Kolkali, Alamikali, Daf Muttu, Oppana and tribal art forms like Mangalam kali are performed for the tourists through Uru tourism project without losing its traditional values. Cruises to Kannur and Kasaragod, the tourists can explore the history and biodiversity of sacred grooves, forts, temples, churches, and mosques.

The Uru tourism project has attractive packages to enjoy Ayurvedic treatment packages, traditional medicines and rural markets in various villages. The Tourism Department is constructing Uru which can accommodate 50 people.

Since Malabar's history of Uru construction has the glory of more than a thousand years, those tourists who engage themselves in Uru, will be catered with a description of the Uru construction in story-picture format.



Under the initiative of *Pravasi Legal Aid Cell (PLAC)* which offers free service of advocates to handle the legal issues of Keralites, expatriates are a relieved lot, One among the expatriate

community was helped and released from Jail recently.

Biju who hails from Thiruvananthapuram was released in Oman with the help of PLAC, an intervention of NORKA and reached his native place safely.

He worked in Oman but was detained by police. Labour cases were charged against him and with the proper intervention of NORKA and its legal consultancy; the cases charged against Biju were withdrawn. Along with that, labour fines and other criminal charges were waived.





## GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY EXCERPTS

**H**onorable Speaker, Chief Minister, Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Members... It is my honor and privilege to address this august body of representatives of the people of Kerala, marking the beginning of the 18th session of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly.

My Government has completed 1344 days in office. This has been a period during which we have redeemed the pledge made before the people of Kerala, namely the commitment to material growth and care for the deserving sections of the society. My Government decided to make a quantum leap in the field of infrastructural development, attracting investment to the State while implementing environmental and labor laws and ensuring social security to the vulnerable sections of the society.

In our ambitious and determined approach to change the face of the State, unprecedented natural calamities were giant throwbacks, by causing substantial loss to the economy and claiming precious lives. Here too, my Government and the civil society in unison, outlived this challenge by swift and prompt response which has been acclaimed at the international level.

This challenge is being met squarely by my Government through the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) which has set for itself the task of "Build back better". We are now in the process of making it a people's initiative through the campaign "Nammal Namukkai" by involving the Local Self-Governments in the State.

My Government sought the opinion of internationally acclaimed experts to rebuild the State. Dutch experts are helping us in water management through the Room for River Project.

My Government inherited a huge legacy of pending commitments from its predecessor. The state's own revenue generation had also hit a new low since 2013-14. My Government took bold and steady steps to set apart a portion of the revenues to infrastructure building, social as well as physical, apart from tapping national and international financial markets through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board (KIIFB). KIIFB has sanctioned roads, electric lines, water supply projects, school and college buildings, hospitals, equipments etc worth Rs 50,000 crores.

NITI Aayog in its ranking of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 has

*In detail the address is all about the all encompassing care delivered and executed in perfection by the State Government. Excerpts...*

accorded the first position to Kerala consecutively for the second year, which is a matter of pride for the people of Kerala. The problem of homelessness has been taken up on top priority and the Livelihood Inclusion Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Mission is well on track to hand over houses to the two lakh beneficiaries. Now we are poised to start the next phase of providing flats/houses for the landless.

**“ My Government sought the opinion of internationally acclaimed experts to rebuild the State. ”**

The Pothuvidyabhasa Samrakshana Yajnam and Aardram Mission have already had visible impact on public education and public health systems in Kerala. Special attention is being given by Haritha Keralam Mission on rejuvenation of rivers, greening our environment, promotion of sanitation programmes and integrated vegetable cultivation.



A Community Volunteer Corps, consisting of one volunteer for every 100 people will be ready by the end of May 2020. This will lead to the State getting the service of 3, 40,000 community volunteers who will give real time response in times of any emergency and during natural calamities.

My Government has taken steps to make the State a safe place for travel for women by providing good night shelters of assured quality and public toilets on the wayside in the ratio of one pair of toilets for every 3000 people, besides making toilets in petrol pumps ready for use by all and street lighting using LED lights in every local body.

My Government has initiated a scheme 'Chief Minister's Local Road Rebuild Project' for rebuilding rural roads utilising Rs. 961 crore from Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund.

My Government has enacted major policy reforms to facilitate government clearances and to cut the Gordian knot of procedures to attract investments. My Government does not intend to stop with passage of legislations, which of course, are important milestones in our stride towards making Kerala an investment destination. E-Governance and its spread is the technology based tool to achieve this.

Our national economy is facing an unprecedented slowdown and as per the latest estimates released by the Central Statistical Office the growth rate of our Gross Value Added (GVA) has hit a new low of 4.9 per cent for 2018-19 Advance Estimates. This will adversely affect our revenue buoyancy as well as central transfers. Besides affecting revenue, employment opportunities are also drying up and unofficial reports have put unemployment figures at a forty five year high.

Though we enthusiastically call our polity as Cooperative Federalism, in reality, it is one in which the revenue prowess of the states is shrinking while their expenditure obligations have been rising. My

Government has taken a leading role in pointing this out before constitutional bodies like the Union Finance Commission.

**NITI Aayog in its ranking of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 has accorded the first position to Kerala consecutively for the second year**

Due to the recessionary conditions in the national economy and tax concessions, there has been a sharp decline of central financial devolution. To add to the woes, State public borrowing has also been reduced. The budget expectation was that Kerala would have access to public borrowing of around Rs.10000 crores during the last quarter. However permission granted is only for Rs.1900 crores.

In the arena of polity, we are facing testing times and my Government declares its steadfast commitment to the values intrinsic to our Constitution and which have been shaped by our nationalist movement. We have built our national unity by adhering to secular and democratic values. Our society stands united amidst diversity through these strong cords. The diversities of language and religion add richness to our unity and any attempt to divide and discriminate on these grounds need to be resisted, Our constitutional values have to be protected in their form and content. The former devoid of the latter will make our democracy an empty shell, which I hope will not be allowed by the people of India who have given unto themselves this great Constitution.

Our citizenship can never be on the basis of religion as this goes against the grain of secularism, which is part of the basic structure of our Constitution. This august body unanimously passed a resolution

requesting the Central Government to abrogate the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, which my Government believes goes against the cardinal principles underlying our Constitution. Pursuant to this, my Government has filed an Original Suit before the Hon'ble Supreme Court invoking provisions of Article 131 of the Constitution.

Strong States and strong Centre are pillars of our federalism. The voices of genuine apprehension of the states need to be considered by the Central Government in the right spirit, keeping broad national interest in mind, particularly when constitutional values are involved and there are widespread anxieties and apprehensions among a large number of our citizenry. Let me state that my Government has set new standards of accountability to the people by bringing out progress reports regarding the implementation of the promises made in the Election Manifesto every year. This is indeed a path breaking practice in the history of our democracy...

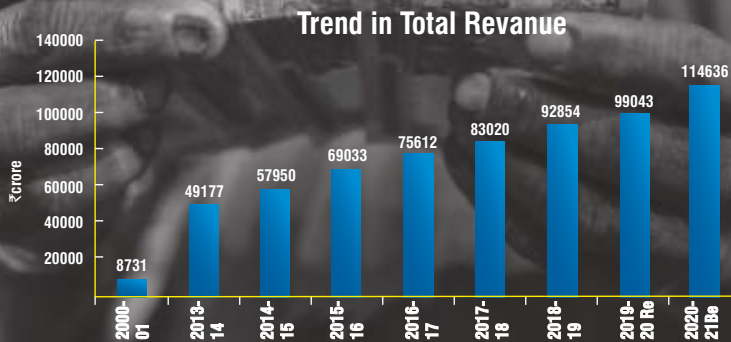
This year is going to witness the completion of a large number of projects announced through the Budget and conceived and operational through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board. I am certain that this is going to have a big positive impact on the economy and the lives of the people. Yet our task is far from over. My Government shall continue to stand firm by the side of the people, facing the challenges ahead with our heads held high and hands held together, Together we shall fulfill our dreams for a strong, secular and prosperous Kerala.

**A Community Volunteer Corps, consisting of one volunteer for every 100 people will be ready by the end of May 2020.**

# A BUDGET FOR THE WELFARE & DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE



**V K Ramachandran**  
Vice Chairman, Kerala State Planning Board



**T**he Budget of 2020-21 once again affirms the commitment of the Government of Kerala in the welfare of its people and to the economic growth in the State. This budget, which was the fifth budget by this Government, was presented in the backdrop of several challenges in terms of growth and availability of financial resources.

## Challenges to Budget 2020-21

Low levels of growth at global and national level. Recessionary tendencies persist in global and national economy. Global growth is projected at 3.9 per cent, the lowest level since 2008-09. State in Financial Crisis. There is a severe resource crunch in the State because of adverse Central Government policies. The Central Government's decisions have had serious repercussions on the finances of the State.

These include the following; (I) The Central Government has reduced the amount of funds that can be borrowed by the State in the last quarter of 2019-2020. The State

Government is allowed to borrow up to 3 per cent of GSDP. Based on this criterion, Rs. 24, 915 crore was permitted as borrowings in 2019-20. But the Central Government reduced the amount by Rs 5,325 crore.

(ii) The GST compensation has been delayed. The arrears will cross Rs 3,000 crore by February 2020.

(iii) The share of tax revenue in last quarter of 2019-20 would come down to Rs 4,525 crore as compared to Rs 6,866 crore in the last quarter of 2018-19.

(iv) Kerala did not receive flood compensation given to seven other states despite facing floods in August 2019.

(v) The Union Budget for 2020-21 has completely ignored the requests of the State.

(vi) Even the tax share recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission for 2020-21 has not been allocated in the Union Budget. Rs 16, 616 crore is recommended as tax devolution by the Commission. Only Rs 15, 236 crore has been allocated in the Budget.

## Macroeconomic performance

Even though global and national growth rates are low, Kerala's growth has been impressive. The growth rate has exceeded the national level. Budget 2020-21

The Budget and Annual Plan for 2020-21 will protect and extend social services and social infrastructure, promote production, and strengthen regional development. In particular, the Budget will enhance the commitment of Government towards higher education, industrial promotion and agricultural production and create livelihoods.

## Strengthening and extending social services and social security measures

“The recent national estimates of growth also indicate an economic slowdown. National growth has recorded one of its lowest levels.”

“ There is a severe resource crunch in the State because of adverse Central Government policies. ”

## Health

The Aardram Mission has upgraded the primary health centres to family health centres and helped in creation of new medical infrastructure in Government hospitals at different levels. Steps are being taken to establish Cardiology Department in all District Hospitals and Trauma Care & Dialysis Units in all Taluk Hospitals.

## School education

The total outlay for General Education sector is Rs 19129.55 crore. The Government will continue schemes meant for improving academic excellence and building high quality infrastructure in schools.

## Gender Budget

Gender Budgeting is the hallmark of this Government. The allocation for women in 2020-21 Budget is 18.4 per cent. In 2020-21, an International Trade Centre will be opened in Gender Park for marketing the commodities produced by women.

## Senior Citizens

Care for elderly is a priority area in the Budget. The programmes for geriatric care is spread across departments, the Budget proposes to prepare Elder Budget, similar to Gender Budget.

## Persons with Disabilities

In 2019, Kerala received the award for the Best State in Promoting Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. This year Rs. 50 crore is earmarked for schemes like 'Anuyatra', 'Sruthi Tharangam' and 'Arogya Kiranam'.

## Transgender

The Budget continues to provide care and support to Transgender. Rs. 5 crore has been allocated for the 'Mazhavillu' programme, a comprehensive scheme for transgenders.

## Pension

The welfare pensions have been enhanced to Rs 1,300 from Rs 1,200.

## New initiatives in agriculture and irrigation

A special feature of this year's Plan and Budget is the support to commodity specific packages to enhance production and farm-based incomes. To encourage backyard farming, a scheme called 'Jeevani' has been introduced.

## Irrigation

The Budget will enhance crop productivity through comprehensive programmes for drip irrigation. Muvattapuzha Valley Irrigation Project will be commissioned this year, after 46 years of commencement of project.

## Industrial promotion and innovation

The industrial sector has seen a turnaround in the recent past due to the multi-pronged efforts of the Government in creating an industrial friendly climate. Financial assistance will be provided to enterprises that create new employment opportunities in the State. Revival of PSUs is at the core of industrial promotion strategy.

## Higher Education

The Budget 2020-21 will revive the higher education in the State by providing assistance for infrastructure development and support for students in international collaborative degree programmes. New generation inter-disciplinary courses will be started.

## Regional Development Packages

### Coastal Area Package

Coastal Area Package with an outlay of Rs 1,000 crore includes comprehensive development of coastal regions including construction of sea wall, harbor, fish market, roads, and houses.

(I) A second Kuttanad package of Rs 2400 crore involves measures for flood control, waste removal, and provision of drinking water.

(ii) Malabar Coffee and carbon neutral Wayanad are the key components of the Wayanad Package. Rs. 500 crore is the allocation.

(iii) Rs 1,000 crore is allocated for Idukki in 2020-21 for agriculture promotion including spices, tourism, roads, spices and agro park, and watershed based land use planning.

(iv) Rs 90 crore is earmarked for Kasargod package in 2020-21.

## 6. Livelihood Development.

Livelihood Development is embedded in the Plan and the Budget. Rs 200 crore is allocated under Rebuild Kerala Initiative for livelihoods.

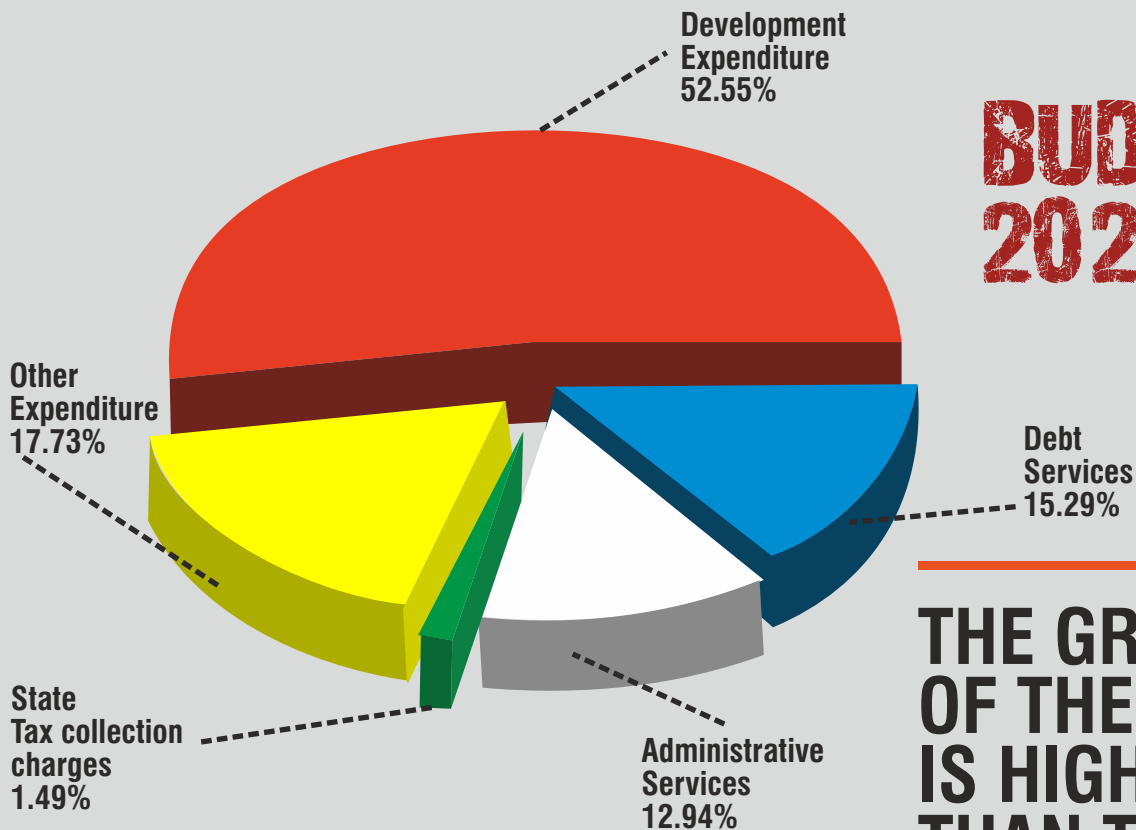
## 7. Infrastructure Developments through KIIFB

Infrastructure Development in the State will be undertaken through investments from KIIFB. Rs 20,000 crore will be spent for major infrastructure projects.

“ Even though global and national growth rates are low, Kerala's growth has been impressive. The growth rate has exceeded the national level. ”

## BUDGET

# BUDGET 2020-21



## THE GROWTH OF THE STATE IS HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE NATIONAL ONE.

Proper emphasis has been given to every sector in this Budget. Despite the financial crunch of the government, the right kind of fiscal stimulus has been envisaged through the needy sections in the Kerala Government Budget 2020-21.

One of the prominent steps taken is that by encouraging private investment, the Government is trying to boost up the productive sector. Giving proper emphasis to every sector is one of the major highlights of this budget.

Various schemes have been structured to generate job opportunities. Because of the low revenue from the GST and due to the shortage of central transfers to the State, the Government is facing a severe crisis in money management.

Finance Minister Dr T. M. Thomas Issac has tried to maintain fiscal discipline even during the money management crisis. By making financial discipline, he is aiming to make long-term financial management. The KIIFB is the engine to make a long-term financial management and will act as a source of basic development expenses for the government. It is expected that an amount of Rs. 20,000 crore will be earmarked for infrastructure development, employment generation etc for the coming year.

After this Government assumed power, prime importance has been given to the welfare of women by implementing various schemes. Women friendly infrastructure developments and female-centric schemes have been highlighted and implemented. The allocation for



**Dr. C. S. Shaijumon**  
Associate Professor, IIIST  
Thiruvananthapuram

women in 2020-21 budget is 18.4 % of the total budget expenditure.

The growth indicators show that the State has witnessed massive growth from 7.3% to 7.5% which is a good indicator of development. This improvement in growth in Kerala occurred during a period of a general slowdown in the economic growth at the national as well as global level. About 17% of the Kerala population are in primary

and agriculture sector and contributes 10% in the State's GSDP. The secondary industrial and manufacturing sector has a share of 31% of the population and contributes 28% of the State's economic growth. The prime mover of the economy is the service sector in which the share of the population is 52% and the income share is 62%, which contributes to the State's GSDP.

This shows that the growth of the State is higher than that of the national growth and the State has achieved the position of economic-sustainability and stability. The contribution from different sectors to the growth of the Kerala economy and the share of the population depends on each sector are better balanced when compared to the national economy as a whole. Inequality is very high in the national economy which reflects that 60% of the total population is dependent on the agriculture sector and only 13% of national income generated from that sector. But the income generated there is only about 13%. But for the case of Kerala, it is very much different as inequality and instability are less when we compare to the national economy. As GSDP growth has increased, the State government would be able to borrow more, even though the overall borrowing limits fixed by the Central Government is 3% of the GSDP. This will enable to mobilise extra resources worth Rs 14 000 Cr as proposed in the budget.

**Various schemes have been structured to generate job opportunities.**

As expected the Government is trying to generate more employment opportunities and newly skilled labourers through promoting more private and foreign investments in this budget. The focus of the Government is to reorient the structure of the economy in favour of creating more productive activities.

Apart from focusing on the social sectors such as education, health etc, the Kerala budget 2020-21 given more emphasis to innovative and futuristic sectors by grabbing the opportunities of new generation technologies like artificial intelligence, 5 G technology, Robotics, Space Technology etc. The Government is trying to rebuild the Kerala economy through the technological up-gradation productivity improvement, value addition etc which will enable the economy to grow along with the new waves of the fourth industrial revolution. The Government is also aiming to distribute major share of farm income from agriculture. The innovative way in the sense that

**The allocation for women in 2020-21 Budget is 18.4 per cent.**

technology up-gradation, productivity improvement, value addition. What happens with this value addition is that the major share of income-generating out of agriculture will go to the farmers.

In the silver jubilee year of 'people's plan campaign of the Kerala State Government, the budget allocated an amount of 7158 cr for Local Self Governments. This will help to boost rural demand and will help to attract more investments, generate more employment opportunities.

### Remodelling the Kerala economy

With this budget, the Government has given a new model to the State by remodelling the Kerala economy by giving more emphasis to the manufacturing and industrial sectors. Right now the government is trying to create more employment space in higher levels which is catered to the educated people in the state. This will help the Kerala economy to absorb more human

resources which we produce through major government expenditure.

**Giving proper emphasis to every sector is one of the major highlights of this budget.**

### Expenditure Rationalizing

For rationalising the government expenditure, the budget proposes the redeployment of government employees according to the requirement of different departments. This will enable not only to reduce the expenditure of the Government but also will create more employment opportunities for the youth.

### Revenue collection

The Finance minister announced a 12 point programme for plugging the loopholes for augmenting GST collection. Taxes have been increased in different sectors such as motor vehicles, properties etc where the value addition is very high. Motor vehicle taxes have been increased only for high-valued cars and motor vehicles, which will not affect the common man. It will not affect the common man. The property taxes have been restructured and rationalised. The Kerala State is collecting low taxes in the above-mentioned areas when compared to the other.

**This shows that the growth of the state is higher than that of the national economy and the State has achieved the position of sustainability and stability.**



**S**helter is one of the most basic needs of human beings along with food and clothing. In the run up to the Kerala State Assembly elections in 2016, the LDF had announced that we will undertake a comprehensive housing programme to do away with homelessness in the State. Now, we can proudly say that Kerala is inching towards becoming the first State in India with zero homeless, through its Livelihood, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Mission.

The LIFE Mission is a time bound flagship housing programme with a multi-pronged approach aimed at improving the quality of life in the State as well. Apart from providing houses, it ensures facilities like anganwadis, palliative care, geriatric care etc. and also imparts skill development and job oriented training which enables beneficiaries to secure better employment opportunities. So far, the State Government has spent Rs. 6,550.93 Cr under the LIFE Mission.

## THE HOMELESS SHELTERED UNDER 'LIFE' ROOF

Pinarayi Vijayan  
Chief Minister

The activities of the LIFE Mission are structured in three phases. In the first phase, we have addressed the issue of incomplete houses. Their construction was started under a range of housing schemes since 2000, but could not be completed due to various reasons. Initially 54,850 houses were identified as incomplete. On the basis of field inspection the number was ascertained to be 54,173. Out of them, as on 10 February 2020, the construction of 52,009 houses - 96.01% - has been completed successfully at a cost of Rs. 669.88 Cr.

In the second phase, financial assistance is provided to those who have their own land, for constructing houses. Around 2.36 lakh homeless were identified to have land of their own. After the verification of documents, 2,36,892 beneficiaries were found to be eligible. Out of them 1,86,597 beneficiaries signed an agreement with the local governments and they are being provided with a financial assistance of Rs. 4 lakh. It is issued in four stages, based on the progress of construction. ST beneficiaries living in remote tribal hamlets are provided with an assistance of Rs. 6 lakh, in 5 stages. Assistance is being issued to houses up to 400 sq. ft. in size.

In Phase II of LIFE Mission, as on 10 February 2020, 1,34,897 beneficiaries - 72.29% - have completed the construction of their homes. The Government of Kerala has spent Rs. 5,851.23 Cr in the second phase, which includes Rs. 2,975 Cr spent exclusively for LIFE, Rs. 612.60 Cr spent for PMAY Rural and Rs. 2,263.63 Cr spent for PMAY Urban. The remaining homes in the second phase are expected to be completed within this financial year.

As on 10 February 2020, 1,86,906 homes have been completed under Phases I and II of LIFE Mission. Meetings with beneficiary families who have already got their houses and government officials have been taking place at the block and district level. These meetings are being conducted to assure the beneficiaries of all the required follow up support,

taking into account their financial status and social empowerment requirements.

In the third phase, landless and homeless beneficiaries are being rehabilitated. Around 3.28 lakh beneficiaries were initially identified as landless and homeless. After a thorough verification for which 2,29,310 appeared, 1,07,393 beneficiaries were found to be eligible. They are being rehabilitated in housing complexes. All the housing complexes under the third phase would be constructed using prefab technology to save time and labour.

As a pilot, a housing complex constructed by Bhavanam Foundation at Adimali Grama Panchayat in Idukki District was acquired by the LIFE Mission at a cost of Rs. 24.82 Cr. This seven storey building has 217 independent apartments of which 163 have already been occupied. Each apartment is 460 sq. ft. big and the complex has common facilities like lift, washing area, compost plant, health sub-centre, Kudumbashree counselling centre, youth club, gender club, crèche, etc. The beneficiaries will receive various livelihoods training as well.

**“The LIFE Mission will emerge as another example for the country to follow, as an outcome of the Kerala Model of Development, which focuses on inclusivity and sustainability.”**

Across the State, a total of 84 housing complexes will be completed in the third phase, by the end of October 2020. Administrative Sanction has already been granted to all of them. Most of these projects are under various stages of implementation. At present, housing complexes at Perinthalmanna and Wadakkanchery, for which Rs. 5 Cr

has already been spent, are nearing completion.

Under the Care Home Project of the Cooperative Department, 14 apartment complexes would be constructed additionally, across Kerala. Soil tests are currently being carried out in the identified locations. Apart from these, the LIFE Mission has also identified 200 locations around the State for the construction of apartment complexes. The construction of apartment complexes in all these locations would mark the completion of the third phase of the LIFE Mission.

It needs to be noted that ninety work days under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Ayyankali Urban Employment Creation Scheme (AUECS) are spared for the construction of houses under the LIFE Mission. Special mention needs to be made of the fact that Kudumbashree has started women construction units to aid the LIFE Mission.

High cost of construction materials is one of the most important issues faced by the beneficiaries constructing houses on their own. Government had discussed this with various vendors and made arrangements for the distribution of electrical fittings, wiring material, paint, ceramic material, tap fittings, water tanks, cement, etc. at a rate as low as 20 to 60 per cent of the MRP. This has helped each beneficiary to save Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000.

Apart from the mounting construction costs, another challenge we face is the recurrence of natural disasters. Government is poised to overcome them by resorting to sustainable and environmentally friendly methods of construction. Thus, the LIFE Mission will emerge as another example for the country to follow, as an outcome of the Kerala Model of Development, which focuses on inclusivity and sustainability.



## A DREAM IS GETTING REALISED

*Target-Homeless on the move, in right direction, more to get the safety of Abodes*

**I**t is the Government of Kerala initiated the dream - reality - hope scheme Life, in mission mode. Over the years, since the inception of the Government lead by Pinarayi Vijayan, Life has provided the safety of homes to a substantial number of downtrodden, hapless families. Now the mission is into its third phase.

The construction of two lakh houses was completed in January. An emergency welfare scheme for all the landless and homeless people in the State is moving ahead. Safe housing to each beneficiary is being achieved in the second phase and third phase has begun with the same enthusiasm.

The first phase of Life mission focused on the realization of home for those who got financial assistance under various schemes but not able to construct houses owing to different reasons. Out of 54,183 houses to be completed, in the first phase, the construction of 51,950 (95.88%) houses is completed. Financial assistance of Rs. 664.87 crore has been distributed to the beneficiaries already.

The second phase of life mission focused on the construction of houses for those who owned land, but homeless. 99,910 beneficiaries were selected through document verification. 1, 76,394 applicants were identified through the

**Life has provided the safety of homes to a substantial number of downtrodden, hapless families.**

Gramasabha survey. Tie-ups with noted brands enabled a cost-effective material supply for construction. The electrical fittings, sanitary - wiring materials, paint, cement, water tank, etc were distributed among the beneficiaries at 20-60% discount, which helped in the swift completion of abodes. The keys of the completed houses were handed over to 163 beneficiaries at Adimali pachnayath.



In the third phase, homes for both, home-landless are being targeted. 1, 06,925 beneficiaries were selected for the third phase. Here the mission is planning to construct 84 housing complexes including 14 pilot complexes and 14 housing complexes through the care home initiative. The construction of pilot housing complexes in Thrissur and Malappuram is in progress. Tenders have been invited for construction, in Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts. The same process is being initiated in all other 10 districts. The pilot housing complexes are expected to be completed by August 2020 and the apartments by October 2020.

## New lease of life

The construction work of two lakh houses was completed under the life mission. Along with safe roofs, better education, job and better life provisions a sense of safety is provided via this Mission. Life mission has conducted many adalaths and family meetings of beneficiaries to ensure them better life opportunities. Adalaths were conducted with the co-operation of

**“ Three lakh landless and homeless people will get their homes through prefab technology. ”**

various government departments which helped the public to know about various services offered by The Government. This helped them to find out better opportunities. Around 20 government departments involved in Adalaths. Life beneficiary meetings helped to understand how to apply for title deed, Aadhar card, and Ration card, Self-employment opportunities, Information connected with agriculture, Industrial startups, Kudumbasree services, Pension schemes and Bank

account services. Along with these the meetings gave ideas about various welfare schemes and pensions offered by State and the Central government.

## Prefab Methodology

The government of Kerala is bringing a paradigm shift in the construction field, by analyzing and implementing alternate construction methodologies. These mainly focus to overcome the natural calamities happened in the state. Prior consideration is given to Pre-fab building techniques instead of the conventional concrete construction method.

The prefab construction methodology is nature-friendly, long-lasting and cost-effective. The construction using this technology can be completed in no time, when compared to the usual way of

**“ The construction of two lakh houses was completed in January. ”**

building construction. Since the prefab technology is nature-friendly, the government is keen not to plunder natural resources.

The third phase of life mission almost wholly depends on prefab technology. Three lakh landless and homeless people will get their homes through prefab technology. Houses in parts will be constructed in the factories and later on supplied to construction sites. Weightless steel is used for construction works. Walls are made with cement Particle board and Gypsum. These constructed panels are fixed on site. Flooring will be finished with 300,400,600 MM Cement board or sheets and tiles will be placed over it. Here concrete has no role to play. Lightweight buildings can be erected through prefab technology and these constructions are expected to withstand natural disasters like

earthquakes. A strong basement is not required for this type of construction and the seal used here is reusable too. It is estimated that using this technology, the construction of work can be

**“ Tie-ups with noted brands enabled a cost-effective material supply for construction. ”**

completed within 6 months. With the prefab technology, the realization of home for all with good technology can be achieved sans much effort.

## Ration card for Jabbar and Mubeena

Jabbar and his wife Mubeena hail from Malappuram received the key of their own house, thanks to Life Mission for fulfilling their dream of having a safe shelter. But what worried them after the dream come true situation was that they couldn't get their ration card. They used to get ration without any issues all these years but some technical issues stood against them and Ration Card was denied. But the issue got resolved in the Life Mission meeting, which they attended at Tirur block panchayath. In fact ration card was availed to them within an hour.

**“ The government of Kerala is bringing a paradigm shift in the construction field, by analyzing and implementing alternate construction methodologies. ”**

*“Life - the elixir of the landless has become the model for many housing schemes in the country.”*  
*U. V. Jose I. A. S, C. E. O -*  
*Life Mission elaborates in this interview how unique and successful the mission is.*



**LIFE (Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment) envisages a comprehensive housing scheme for all homeless people. What makes LIFE Mission unique from other housing schemes?**

LIFE Mission was implemented in the year 2016 by Government of Kerala. The Mission provides housing for the landless-houseless-poor along with a comprehensive rehabilitation programme aimed at enabling them to determine a sustainable livelihood through skill development, leading to financial self-reliance and ensuring an inclusive development scenario. Apart from the completion of incomplete houses and financial support for constructing houses for those having own land, the Mission also provides apartment complexes to the landless. The Mission primarily focuses on facilitating access to safe and honorable houses to all.

**The Government has implemented 'LIFE' as a mission not only to provide a safe roof to the beneficiaries but also to accelerate the infrastructure and social development in many ways. What are the achievements that LIFE mission accomplished so far?**

LIFE Mission has three phases. Phase I is the completion of incomplete houses, Phase II is the construction of houses for those who own land of their own and Phase III is the rehabilitation of landless - homeless beneficiaries of the state.

There were 54,173 incomplete houses in the state of which the Mission was successful in completing 52,033 houses till date (more than 96%). In the Second Phase, 1,00,461 beneficiaries were found eligible and 92,213 beneficiaries signed agreement with the LSGIs and they are provided with a financial assistance of Rs. 4

## **LIFE IS UNIQUE IN EVERY INCH**

**U.V. JOSE I.A.S.**  
 C.E.O.- Life Mission, Director - I&PRD

lakhs based on the progress of construction of their houses (in 4 stages). ST beneficiaries who are living in ST colonies are provided Rs. 6 lakhs (in 5 stages). The houses are of minimum 400 square feet with a multipurpose hall, two bedrooms, kitchen, toilet and a verandah. As of now 71,815 (78%) beneficiaries completed the construction of their houses and the Government aims to complete the rest of the houses not later than the end of March 2020.

Other than the houses being constructed under LIFE Mission, houses are constructed in our state under the LIFE-PMAY Rural and Urban Projects. Under Urban scheme, 79520 beneficiaries have signed agreement with the LSGIs out of which 46605 beneficiaries have completed the construction of their houses and under rural scheme, 17475 beneficiaries have signed agreements of which 16531 beneficiaries completed construction. Thus under LIFE and PMAY schemes, the construction of 1,86,984 houses were completed till date. The government will declare the completion of two lakh houses under LIFE Project on 29th February 2020.

For Phase III, 1, 07,393 beneficiaries are found eligible as of now. The Mission is planning to rehabilitate these beneficiaries mainly into housing complexes. All the housing complexes under Phase III would be constructed using Prefab technology to reduce natural building materials and to save time and labor.

Building materials were provided with a discount of 20-60% of their MRP. Again, under Kalavara scheme which is an initiative of Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra, building materials are supplied to beneficiaries who are below the poverty line at a rate lower than the market rate.

When houses are constructed in the State under LIFE Mission project, 90 man-days under MGNREGS is spared for construction of houses for LIFE Mission. This is the first time construction units are being set up under Kudumbasree Project for LIFE. Thus LIFE Mission beneficiaries are entitled with all these kinds of privileges and not just paid four lakh rupees for the completion of a house.

**By providing housing and financial empowerment to the beneficiaries, the LIFE mission has successfully entered into its third phase. How many beneficiaries will be included in this phase and when are you supposed to complete the third phase?**

Since almost 96% of Phase - I and 75% of Phase - II houses are over, we are now concentrating on Phase - III. Here all the landless - homeless beneficiaries will be included. Under Phase - III, 1, 07,393 beneficiaries are found eligible as of now. We are planning to rehabilitate these beneficiaries primarily into housing complexes.

As a pilot, a housing complex constructed by Bhavanam Foundation at Adimali Panchayat of

**“ The Mission primarily focuses on facilitating access to safe and honorable houses to all. ”**

Idukki district was taken up by us for a cost of Rs. 24.82 crores. The complex is a 7 storey building and has 217 independent apartments of which 163 are already occupied. Each apartment is of 460 sq.ft size and has common facilities like lift, washing area, compost plant, health sub-centre, Kudumbasree counseling centre, youth club, gender club, crèche, etc. The beneficiaries are also provided with various livelihood training programs.

The Mission is planning to complete a total of 84 such housing complexes across the state under its Phase - III by the end of October 2020. Administrative sanction was accorded for the construction of these 84 apartment complexes. Out of this, 14 apartment complexes are constructed as pilot in the 14 districts.

More than 300 locations across the state have been identified for the construction of apartment complexes. Many of the beneficiaries under Phase - III have also started buying land of their own. Hence they would be given financial assistance to build houses as well. So with the construction of these apartment complexes and individual houses, the Government plans to complete its Phase III within 2 years.

**For the first and second phase the LIFE mission has constructed houses. What are the plans and concept for the third phase housing?**

In the backdrop of the recurring floods and landslides, the Mission is poised to fast track the housing for homeless through the sustainable and environment friendly prefabricated construction.

**What are the challenges in front of the Mission and how are you planning to tackle them?**

Land is one of the biggest scarcities. Since land is scarce, we decided to build apartment complexes. For this we already identified more than 300 pieces of Government land. But this alone will not solve the issue. For the construction of apartment complexes, per unit cost would be 12 to 14 lakhs. To meet this, we are planning to proceed with initiatives like public partnership and CSR funding.

One of the best examples for public participation comes from Mr. Abdullah from Kadakkal Panchayat in Kollam district. Fifty-one-year-old Abdullah was a native of Puliyankudi village in Tenkasi district of Tamil Nadu. Poverty forced him to leave his home at the age of eight and reached Kadakkal village. Here, through hard work, he made a prosperous life.

**“ Building materials were provided at a discount of 20-60% of their MRP. ”**

Now, he donated 1 acre of land for LIFE mission. Abdullah and his wife Shameena visited the Chief Minister to hand over the title deed of the land. Here a housing complex that can accommodate 87 families will be constructed soon.

**As per the motto 'one house for one card' the Government is supposed to provide house for every Ration card-holders. But for a son/daughter from same family**

“ More than 300 locations across the state have been identified for the construction of apartment complexes. ”

owns a separate ration card, the Government is supposed to provide house for them also. How do you tackle these kinds of issues?

One house for one card was one of the basic criteria used for the selection of the beneficiaries during the current phases. The chief minister had already announced that a fresh list will be prepared to accommodate the new ration card holders and eligible ones who were left out.

“ Pre fab construction technology is preferred for the construction of housing complexes to the landless homeless ”



## LIFE STORY



All that Girija, resident of Kadinamkulam Panchayat, Thiruvnanthapuram, owned previously was a thatched shanty that could hardly be called a house.

Now this family got a beautiful house that has two rooms, a kitchen and a veranda.

This dream project that encompasses the true spirit of life has been a lifeline to thousands, and Girija is only one of the beneficiaries.

## A NEW LEASE OF 'LIFE'

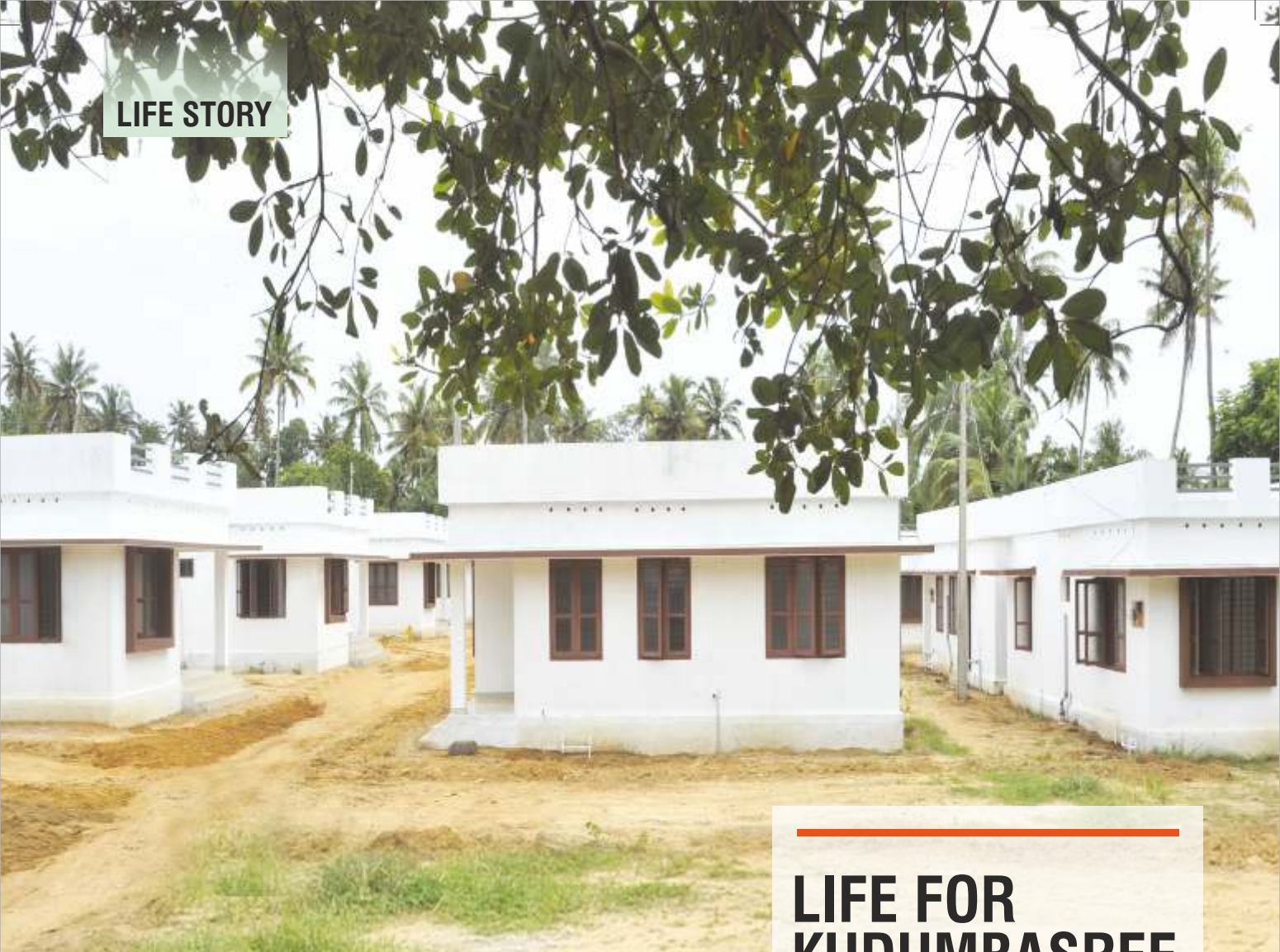
A new lease of life is what LIFE delivers. Umpteen numbers of lives are being benefitted with safe hoses through this scheme...

All that Girija, resident of Kadinamkulam Panchayat, Thiruvnanthapuram, owned previously was a thatched shanty that could hardly be called a house. She lived in fear most of the time. A strong gust of wind could shake it. A shower of rain could drench it. Adding to the miseries, this 59 year old woman was diagnosed with breast cancer.

Continuing to work as a domestic help became almost impossible, and her source of income soon dried up. Prolonged treatment and intake of medicines took a heavy toll on her. But even as she continued to face

life indefatigably, fate struck on younger son Biju, who had come back home on a brief vacation from the Gulf where he was working, tripped and fell while playing with his little daughter in a park. The young man sustained grievous injury to his spine and became bed-ridden. Lakhs of rupees were spent on rehabilitating him but it had little effect. He could merely sit up, supported by others. Seven months back, Girija's husband passed away, her life reached a new nadir. Tragedies, one after another, buffeted her relentlessly. But there was light at the end of the long tunnel. It came in the form of 'LIFE' (Livelihood Inclusion and

Financial Empowerment), a comprehensive housing scheme for all the landless and the homeless initiated by the Government of Kerala. A house was sanctioned to her in Kadinamkulam panchayat, in the northern suburbs of Thiruvananthapuram city. A sum of four lakhs was sanctioned by the State government via Kadinamkulam panchayat for building the house. Now this family got a beautiful house that has two rooms, a kitchen and a veranda. This dream project that encompasses the true spirit of life has been a lifeline to thousands, and Girija is only one of the beneficiaries.



## LIFE FOR KUDUMBASREE...

**W**hen Life Mission took the responsibility to build abodes to the needy, indirect beneficiaries were there to share success. Kollam District witnessed the construction skills of Kudumbasree women in awe. The Government has introduced LIFE mission to elevate the standard of life and livelihood of the common people. Under this initiative, Kollam Corporation has showcased excellent progress by ensuring safe roofs to homeless people.

Many were given financial assistance under various schemes but couldn't finish construction of houses owing to different reasons were considered in the beginning phase. 295 houses were completed then.

The second phase of life mission focussed on the construction of houses for those who owned land. 1469 out of 3973 were completed. The work of the rest of the houses is in progress. An amount of Rs. 1.42 crore was spent for the first phase and Rs. 36.39 crore for the second phase.

The people from Alakuzhi Colony (Where Dhobis resided in pathetic living conditions) were rehabilitated to Kachikadav by ensuring newly constructed houses under the LIFE mission. 20 houses were constructed here.

Kudumbashree construction workers under the banner of 'phoenix' have completed all these houses within a short span of time. The project worth 1.7 crore has been initiated by Kollam

Corporation under its rehabilitation project for the colony residents. The team consisting of 32 women completed the work in a record time of nine months thus becoming the first women's group in the state to finish the construction of houses in a time bound manner. The team were trained by the Kudumbasree district mission from Sasthamkotta and Kollam. The land for the project was allotted by the Corporation. Each house was constructed in an area of 500 square feet including two bedrooms, kitchen, living rooms veranda, and a toilet. The project was aimed to better the lives of those rehabilitated families of the colony. The land near Kollam railway station where these people used to live will be utilized for parking purposes.



Life in the safety of a deserving abode is not a tall a claim, not even a dream these days. Life Mission made several lives happy and Sunitha's life is nothing but another successful story from the caring roof of 'Life'. Sunitha Umesh hails from Kumbala, Kasaragod knows little Malayalam but has a true heart for Kerala. Even though Sunitha's family is rooted in Andrapradesh, she can safely sleep under the roofs of her own house in this land – now she accepts the land as God's own.

Sunitha reached Kasaragod during her childhood days and later married Umesh from Kumbala. Unfortunately, Umesh passed away in two years back and the responsibility of two children was

entirely in the lean shoulders of Sunitha.

Along with her 12 and 9-year-old wards - Maneesh and Aneesa, she used to live in a dilapidated house. Life mission opened a new window of light towards the life of Sunitha and children.

With the help of LIFE Mission, the State Government has constructed a house with two bedrooms, one hall, and a kitchen in four-cent land. The construction works have been completed and the electrification work is in progress. Apart from this, income gained through the employment guarantee scheme also came to her as a blessing in disguise. Now she thankfully shifts her otherwise torn life, to a new high.

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## SUNITHA HAS A HAPPY STORY TO TELL...

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## LIFE STORY



Rasheeda



Simi

“We don't need old stories when we have new sagas of 'Life' to say.” Simi and Rasheeda, both reside in Muvatupuzha has a story to share, that changed their lives. The Life Mission meet held at Thrikkakara witnessed their expression of gratitude to the Government, especially to Life Mission.

Living all these years in pathetic condition, in dilapidated tiled - roof homes, they never dared to dream of a new house. Simi mother of three lost her life partner years back. She was struggling to meet day-today demands as well as the expense to educate her wards studying in plus two and SSLC.

Almost the same fate added to the struggles of Rasheeda. Her children were degree level students.

Now their lives at crossroads, in came a ray hope in disguise. Both of them were included in the total housing scheme - Life. They were provided with rupees four lakh each to construct new homes. With the help of certain good Samaritans they fulfilled their dream in flying colours.

Now their children are safe, happy to have a decent place to live- in and in an environment conducive to concentrate on studies. Thanks to Life Mission for changing lives - they proclaimed in ecstasy.

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## DREAMS CAN BE TRUE SOMETIMES...

*What had eluded the lives of two hapless women from Muvatupuzha, has now become a reality. They are sheltered safely under the roof of the Life Mission.*

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## LIFE STORY

# PRE-FAB TECHNOLOGY TO MEET HOUSING SHORTAGE

*When it comes to tackling new – age challenges, fool-proof alternatives has to be found. Pre-fab building technology, endorsed with confidence by the State Government, is worth emulating in the changing world.*

## LIFE MISSION COMPLETES HOUSES IN RECORD TIME

BIMAL SHIVAJI, Senior Journalist

In the wake of the novel coronavirus breakout in China, the authorities in the Wuhan province, the epicenter of the deadly virus, built a prefabricated hospital with capacity for 1,000 patients in just nine days.

For Kerala, which has been facing recurring destructive natural calamities, prefab technology has been the answer to meet the large housing shortage it faces.

The government had recently taken steps to promote prefabrication in a big way. It had also decided to introduce prefabrication technology to build houses and other structures across the state.

**For Kerala, which has been facing recurring destructive natural calamities, prefab technology has been the answer to meet the large housing shortage it faces.**

Prefabrication is the practice of assembling parts of a structure and shifting fully or partially assembled units to its construction site. The prefabricated units have that advantage of minimal use of conventional methods and limiting use of limited natural resources. These structures can also withstand natural disasters. Made of light and durable materials, they are easy to

build and that too within days. The Life Mission, tasked with providing housing for all homeless in the state, has adopted pre-fab technology for speedy implementation of various housing

**The prefabricated units have that advantage of minimal use of conventional methods and limiting use of limited natural resources.**

projects in the state. The main driving factor for the mission to adopt prefab construction path was the fact that prefab units are much cheaper and environmentally less polluting than the traditional construction methods. The Mission has plans to construct around 8,000 housing units by engaging the technology.

The pre-fab technology, which has been employed in other parts of the country for long, was now being adopted in the State to reduce the exploitation of sand, granite and other construction materials from nature. In the aftermath of the deluge of 2018 and the havoc played by excessive rain in 2019 leading to landslides in some parts of the State, the government decided to put a stop to overexploitation of the limited land resources in the State.

The State was forced to change its construction practices and approach to housing, the prefab technology was a proven one and has been used

for constructing even 13-storey buildings. An individual housing unit under the Mission would cost up to Rs.11 lakh, which is significantly lower than the conventionally constructed ones. The time required for completing the construction of pre-fab houses was also much less. A multi-storey complex can be completed within four to six months. An expert panel was involved in the selection of the technology best suited for the State for mass house construction.

Criticism against houses and structures constructed with pre-fab technology were found to be baseless. The houses were climate-resilient and economically feasible. Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala said in the last week of January this year that a campaign will be carried out to introduce the method to the public. He said that Keralites do not know much about it, though the technology was quite popular globally. "It might not be well received initially, but a change in attitude will increase acceptance. Durability and comfort will make them attractive," the chief minister had said.

A total of 54,183 houses are being built in the state in the first phase of Life Mission, in the second phase, there would be 91,147 houses and 60,524 have been completed so far.

**A multi-storey complex can be completed within four to six months.**

# BUDGET-HIGHLIGHTS



**WELFARE PENSIONS  
ARE RAISED TO RS 1300**



**2400 CRORE FOR  
KUTTANAD PACKAGE.**



**KUDUMBASHREE TO START  
1000 HUNGER-FREE  
HOTEL INITIATIVES TO  
PROVIDE MEALS AT RS. 25.**



**150 CRORE FOR  
MEGA FOOD PARK.**



**REMARKABLE, INCREASED  
INDUSTRIAL GROWTH FROM  
9.8 TO 13.2 PER CENTAGE.**



**NEW WATER CONNECTION  
FOR 2.5 LAKH PEOPLE.**



**RS 2000 CRORE  
FOR WAYANAD  
PACKAGE.**



**320 CRORE FOR  
TOURISM  
DEVELOPMENT.**



**THE CONSTRUCTION  
OF 5000 KM ROAD  
WILL BE COMPLETED  
BY PWD.**



**LEAP (LOCAL EMPLOYMENT  
ASSURANCE PROGRAMME)-  
1.5 LAKHS NEW JOB  
OPPORTUNITIES  
WILL BE CREATED IN THE  
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.**

The world looked on with anxiety as the novel coronavirus outbreak began to get out of hand in Wuhan, China, and very quickly spread to more than 20 countries across the globe. It infected thousands of people and destroyed many lives.

As soon as the Government of Kerala received an alert regarding this disease from the World Health Organization (WHO), preventive measures were taken in no time. Preparations on a war footing were initiated by preparing guidelines and plan outlines for combating the disease. In consultation with the Central Government's department of communicable diseases, all the necessary steps to prevent further

spread of the infection too were initiated.

The state-level Rapid Response Team (RRT) convened a meeting and distributed guidelines to all districts regarding the detection of the disease, surveillance of laboratories, treatment protocol, training of personnel, awareness programs and so on.

Instructions were given to ensure that all returnees from China met the District Medical Officers concerned, everyone who showed symptoms of the disease was kept under observation, and those diagnosed with infection were properly taken care of. Preventive measures have been vigorously enforced at various levels since January 18. Close watch was mainly

*A sense of togetherness is in the air...no Virus can infect this kind of unity. The State is there to support each and everyone. It is my assurance and confidence that we will overcome the tough times once again.*

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## TOGETHER WE CAN OVERCOME



**K. K. Shailaja Teacher**  
Minister for Health

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centred on the different airports of Kerala.

On January 30, the Central Government confirmed that the first reported case of novel coronavirus infection in India was from Kerala. A student who had been undergoing treatment in an isolated ward in General Hospital, Thrissur, tested positive for the disease. Owing to the treatment, the patient's condition went on stable.

On February 2, the second case in Kerala was confirmed by the Virology Institute, Pune. The patient, a student who had come from China with suspected coronavirus infection, had been undergoing treatment in an isolation ward since January 24, when she returned home to Alappuzha. Her condition is also satisfactory.

In a bid to effectively strengthen the preparations to counter the threat, state - district level control rooms had been set up in the state. Meetings are held on a daily basis under the leadership of the Principal Secretary of the Department of Health. Those under surveillance are brought under the jurisdiction of Family Healthcare Centres, with the help of self-governing bodies.

Special Corona virus OP clinics and isolation wards were opened in all Medical College Hospitals as well as the General - District Hospitals in each district. Sterilization procedures in all hospitals were intensified. The Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited (KMSCL) was given the responsibility of supplying personal safety equipment like masks, gloves and protective suits as well as medicines. The samples of those who showed symptoms of coronavirus infection were sent to the National Virology Laboratory in Pune.

Close scrutiny to detect patients infected with coronavirus is done primarily at Airports and Seaports. Suspected cases are immediately

referred to hospitals that have isolation ward facilities. The rest are made aware of the disease, and sent back home where they will be under surveillance for 28 days. Instructions have been given to all concerned to ensure that if symptoms of coronavirus infection are detected, the patients are immediately taken to hospitals equipped with isolation wards.

A central team, that made a visit to the Cochin International Airport and allied hospitals on January 27, expressed satisfaction at the arrangements. A surveillance system has been set up at the Thiruvananthapuram airport, and four Medical Officers as well as six para medical staff have been deployed.

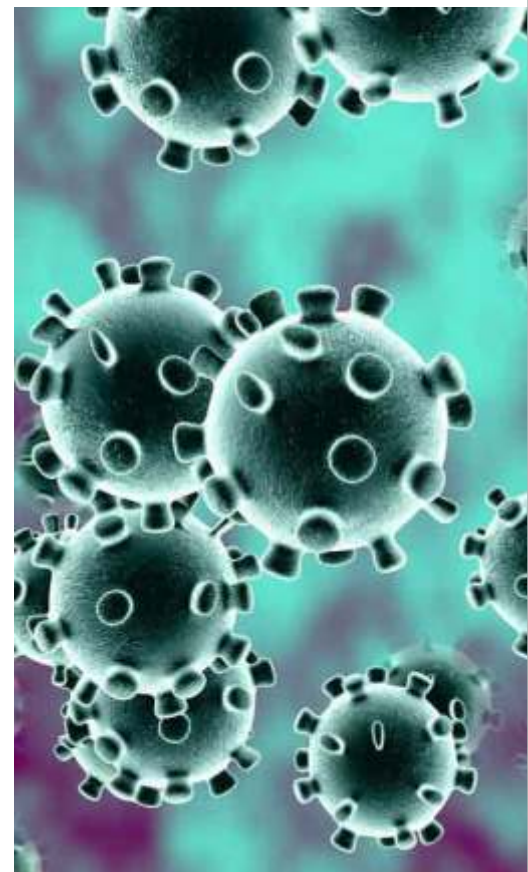
As soon as the first case of novel Corona virus was confirmed, an emergency meeting was convened by Health Minister to further proceedings towards containing the spread of disease. Agriculture minister V. S. Sunil Kumar attended this meeting. On the very night (January 30) that novel coronavirus infection was confirmed, a high level meeting was convened at the Medical College, Thrissur. It was chaired by the Minister of Health and attended by, among others, the Ministers of Local Self Government, Education and Agriculture.

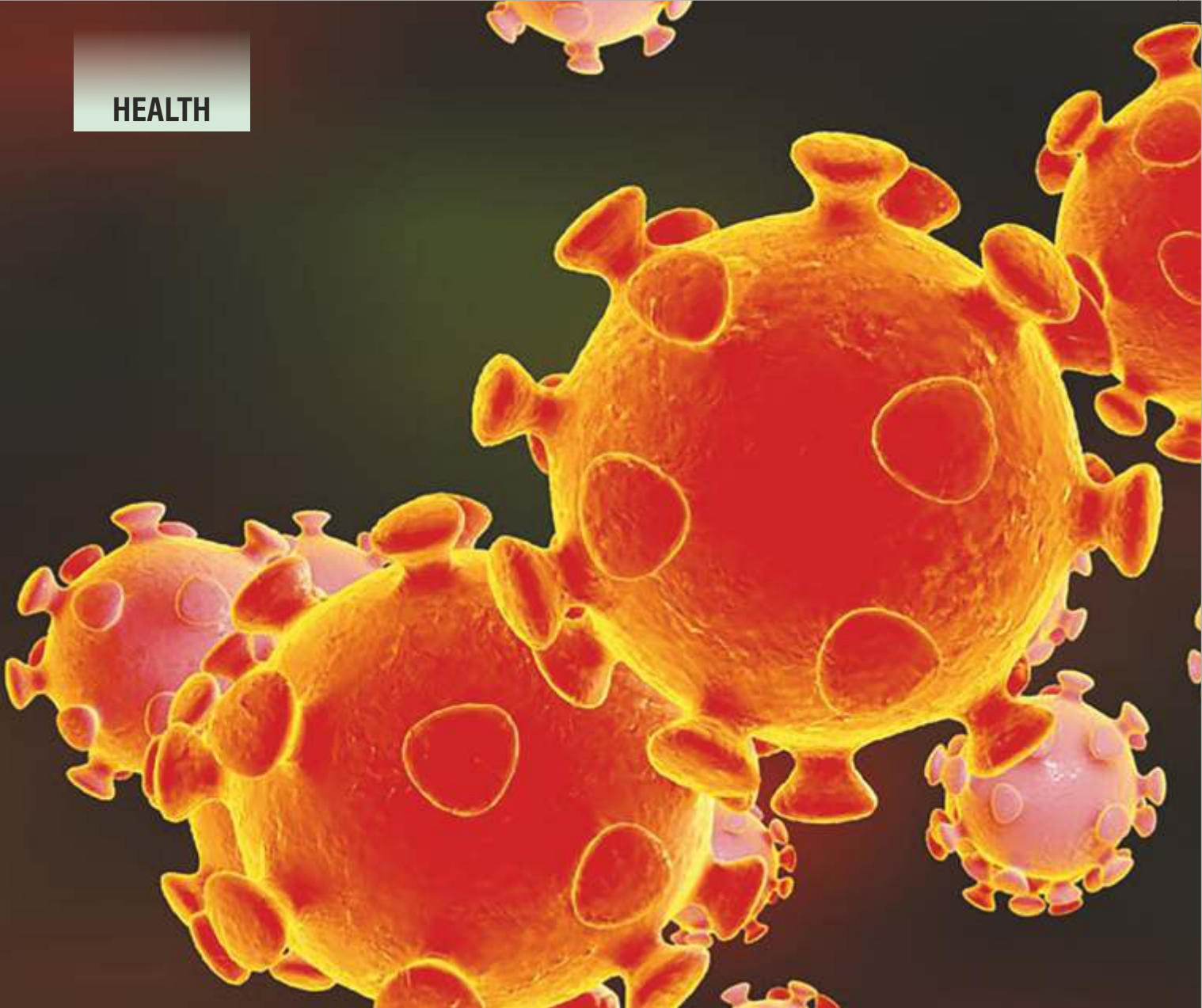
Since the confirmation of the second case, this time in Alappuzha, combat measures have been intensified. Special meetings were held there too in order to co-ordinate the activities of the various departments. Instructions have been sent to private hospitals too to remain alert.

Information regarding phone numbers of DISHA (Direct Information System for Health Awareness - 1056 [toll free]) and other health helplines (0471-2552056) as well as contact numbers of the Nodal Officers of the hospitals concerned, has been circulated so that anyone who show symptoms or have doubts can seek immediate help.

We could overcome the Nipah threat, the floods and the Okhi cyclone through our joint efforts. It is the same attitude and joint effort that is required to resist novel Corona virus infection. The wholehearted support and co-operation of all the people's representatives of the state and all communities is solicited in the ongoing as well as future activities.

“  
**As soon as the Government of Kerala received an alert regarding this disease from the World Health Organization (WHO), preventive measures were taken in no time.**  
”





**L**ife in the time of Corona, Keralites are in for another hard time. Once again the entire State and its medical system are fighting it out with the same confidence that was tested during the Nipah wave that has struck recently. Appropriate biosecurity measures are taken to control the spread of infection.

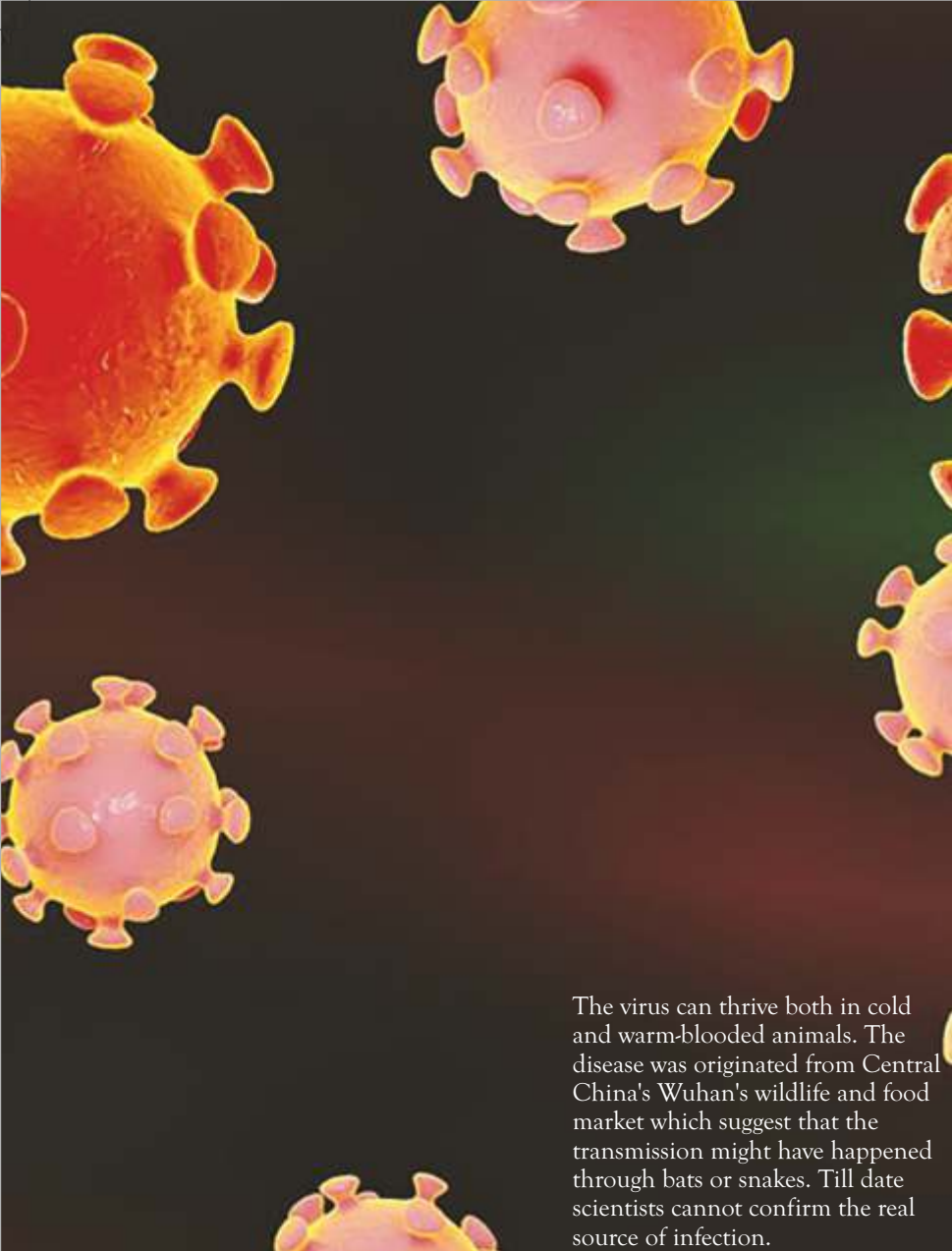
Of the several strains of Corona virus, around six strains are pathogenic which include virus which caused severe acute respiratory disease in 2002 and Middle East respiratory syndrome during 2012. Compared to SARS and MERS infection, even though

the morbidity rate is very high for novel Corona Virus, mortality is less than three per cent. It may be due to sudden genetic variation of the strain which transformed the virus into a virulent highly pathogenic form. Viruses are transmitted between animals and people. Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to

“Appropriate biosecurity measures are taken to control the spread of infection.”

## STRINGENT BIO-SECURITY MEASURES REQUIRED

**Dr. T.P. Sethumadhavan**  
Former Director of Entrepreneurship of  
Kerala Veterinary & Animal Sciences  
University and Consultant to the World Bank.



The virus can thrive both in cold and warm-blooded animals. The disease was originated from Central China's Wuhan's wildlife and food market which suggest that the transmission might have happened through bats or snakes. Till date scientists cannot confirm the real source of infection.

humans. Several known corona viruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

**The virus can thrive both in cold and warm-blooded animals.**

Even though Corona infection comes under zoonotic diseases the real animal source of the disease is yet to be found. Researchers of Alabama University, the United States suggests that genomics of novel Corona virus is having similarity with snakes, thus suggests

Corona is a six-decade-old virus. Even though a lot of epidemiological studies on Corona in animals were held, studies in human beings are comparatively less. There is no vaccine available against this infection in humans, but vaccines for dogs are available. China is seeking help from Russia to develop a vaccine for human beings against Corona viral infection. But it will take at least 6 months to develop a potent vaccine. The current crisis is human to human transmission.

World health organisation has declared a global health emergency. Taking into account the scarcity of epidemiological studies on novel Corona viral infection, an interdisciplinary research

programme incorporating Medical and Veterinary Science researchers along with public health experts including allied health care system is imperative.

**World Health Organisation has declared a global health emergency.**

Currently, Corona cases are reported from 20 countries. Disease control measures include washing the hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands, close contact with people who are sick. Those who arrive from disease-affected countries should be quarantined.

Stay home when you are sick. Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Used tissues should be disposed of properly. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Frequent visit to infected ones admitted in hospitals may be discouraged. Always try to wear masks in crowded places and try to avoid air travel unless it is unavoidable. Always follow the guidelines of health authorities. Never believe unscientific new media messages or myths. Animal owners and farmers need to follow appropriate measures to disinfect their cattle shed or animal houses. Strict personal hygiene needs to adhere to. Strategic biosecurity measures will pave the way for sustainably controlling the disease.

**Always follow the guidelines of health authorities. Never do believe unscientific new media messages or myths.**

## Corona Virus Disease 2019

# COVID-19

## Essential facts



MANY PEOPLE WONDER ABOUT THE NEW CORONA VIRUS,

 **WHAT IS IT?**



Corona is a large group of viruses which can infect both humans and animals. The spectrum of infection ranges from common cold to acute respiratory distress syndrome.

However the new strain of corona virus which causes Covid19, is a novel virus to humans.

Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WHO and international experts are working on finding out more about this virus.

**IS THERE A TREATMENT OR VACCINE FOR COVID 19?**

Supportive medical care is the mainstay of treatment.

**UN-  
KNOWN**

**IS THERE A NEW VACCINE FOR THE NEW CORONA VIRUS?**

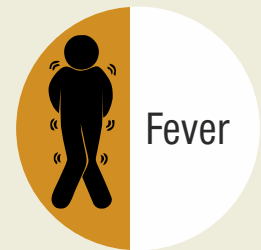


So far there is no specific antiviral drug to treat COVID and no vaccine to protect against this virus.

**WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF THE NEW CORONA VIRUS INFECTION?**



Cough



Fever



Head  
ache



Shortness  
of breath



Sore  
throat



Diarrhoea



Vomiting

**HOW IS COVID19 TRANSMITTED ?**

It is believed that the New Corona virus transmits like other corona viruses and Flu which transmits through:



**1**  
Primarily via respiratory droplets while coughing or sneezing, through close contact.



**2**  
Touching face, especially mouth nose and eyes with unwashed contaminated hands.



**3**  
Contact with surfaces directly touching the nose, mouth or eyes.



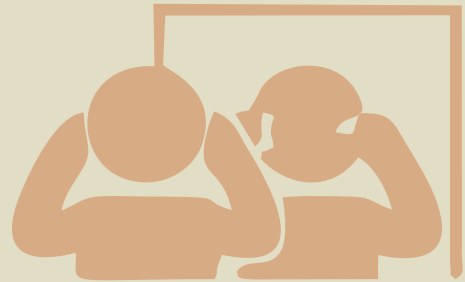
## How can we protect ourselves from Covid19?

Maintain good hand hygiene by frequent hand washing using soap and water / hand sanitizer.

1



2



Maintain strict cough hygiene. If you have cough or cold, cover your face with tissue/kerchief/ inner elbow.

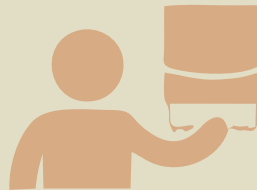
Avoid touching your mouth, nose and eyes with unwashed hands.

3



Avoid unnecessary hospital visits.

4



Avoid close contact with people who have respiratory symptoms. Keep a distance of 6 feet/ 2metres

5



# PREVENTION IS THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM COVID 19.



**J**effrey Charles Alexander (born 1947) is an American sociologist, and one of the world's leading social theorists. He is the founding figure in the contemporary school of cultural sociology referred to as the "strong program". Alexander distinguishes between the sociology of culture and cultural sociology. He worked at the University of California, Los Angeles, from 1974 until joining Yale University in 2001, where he is the Professor of Sociology and co-Director of the Centre for Cultural Sociology. Alexander has authored or co-authored ten books. He was one of the editors of the journal *Sociological Theory*, and he is currently co-editor of the *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.

In an interview, exclusively for Kerala Calling, Jeffrey C Alexander speaks broadly on diverse areas such as cultural trauma and civic sphere. Also, he speaks voluminously about the secular and progressive mindset of the Keralites.

**The ambitious theoretical model of "cultural trauma" build a new understanding of how social groups interact with emotion to create new and binding understandings of social responsibility and the theory of civil sphere explains how do real individuals live together in the real societies in the real world. Could you explain the inter relationship between cultural trauma and civic**

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## KERALA IS A WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM AND PLANNING.

JEFFREY C. ALEXANDER /  
Chandralekha C. S. & Dr. Chitra S. Nair

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## sphere? Are they mutually influencing?

I think that at some moment the construction of a cultural trauma can help the civil sphere to expand. It can also be an opportunity to contract the civil sphere. And make it worse too. For example, Progressive movements and organisations try to construct and symbolise immigrants as untruly suffering people who fled from other countries, as refugees who deserve the sympathy of people in the society. So they say that immigration is a crisis and they try to make it positive, ie, a cultural trauma that the whole country should be concerned with. Efforts are made to create more identifications like, the pictures of the little boy who died in the process of migration and him lying on the sand or the starving mother who tells stories about the country from which she came from are successful to create cultural trauma that can expand the identification between the national group and the out group.

**“Kerala is a wonderful example of democratic socialism and planning.”**

## What is your opinion about the complaints of nations that migration results in economic crisis for the host countries?

It is an illusion that migration undermines a country's economic situation. It is not true. Most of the studies show that migration, overall, add to the wealth of the country. Because migrants do jobs that other people don't want to do and at less expense. So, the problem of migration really is that it displaces some groups inside the country. Government has to develop a policy to handling the displacement of workers. But on the whole both of the countries are partly related to its population and to the value-added

migrants as you see are also adequately valued and are more motivated than other people. They are more energetic, they have more to prove, they work on extra hours, they want to send money back home. These are many ways in which migrants are ideal. Kerala is an example for better labour relations, wages, labour rights and like for the migrants.

## Kerala, a state of India, is different from the rest of the country, have you noticed any difference?

I have noticed many differences. The state of Kerala is seeming to be much more well organized, it is much greener, the people seems much healthier, seems to be less poverty here. I see it is more like the cities in Europe.

**You mention that “traumas can be re - imagined and re - presented. The collective identity will shift. There will be a searching re - remembering of the collective past. Solidarity can be expanded and much needed civil repairs can be made”. In the present scenario, how would you like to see this?**

I have written a book about the Egyptian upraise in 2011. Inside the upraise, there was a microcosm of the civil sphere. So I think that there would be the trauma of the partition and the recent incidents will create a connection to that traumatic past.

## What is the role of digital media and internet and digital devices in strengthening the civil society movements and the civil sphere?

In India and elsewhere, it has helped a lot. But we have to remember that there is an overemphasis on the world of the digital and social media. Social movements have always existed. Every social movement had a news

paper. We also have to remember that the internet and digital technology can be used in very anti civil way. The television, the computer, the radio, everything can be thought of in the same way.

## Kerala provides an empirical example to show how it is possible to achieve both growth and improved income distribution through human development. What is your opinion about this?

Kerala is a wonderful example of democratic socialism and planning. When it is committed to social democracies, it can be a very progressive governing force and I think many western people understand that. The challenge is that where does the money come from to continue this. Is it possible for a very progressive state like Kerala also to be a dynamic capital? At the same time, it should have thriving and successful IT business. I came to know that IT people working here in special economic zones and they can make much money. Anyway, I think that the challenge for the future is, you can have a dynamic private sector and a very progressive economy. Countries like US has very dynamic, tremendously dynamic system but with very weak social democratic controls. We have higher education but we do not have equal education for the average person. We don't have a good retirement system, we have lot of poverty, and we have an underclass, African Americans, who have treated terribly by society. So, I think, you have US on one side and Kerala on the other side and maybe you have Denmark or Sweden in the middle.

**“The state of Kerala is seeming to be much more well organized, it is much greener, the people seems much healthier, seems to be less poverty here. I see it is more like the cities in Europe.”**

# LET ME FLOW NOW... WATER STREAM REJUVENATION DRIVE FROM HARITHA KERALAM MISSION

*Water conservation comes as more than a priority, as we are out there to face water scarcity and getting ready to fight for each and every drop. Our rivers are getting rejuvenated, thanks to the visionary mission initiated by the Government of Kerala – Haritha Keralam Mission.*

**B. MANOJ**  
Public Relations Officer,  
Haritha Keralam Mission

**T**o save a river from extinction, priority should be given to the flow of water in the inlets. By doing so, with people's participation, water scarcity and pollution can be checked. It is with this motto Haritha Keralam Mission formulated *Ini Njan Ozhukatte - Let me flow now*- a novel mass drive to rejuvenate water streams in the State with the leadership of Local Self Government Institutions.

The campaign was held in majority of the local bodies to ensure that every water body, including streams, rivulets and canals are rejuvenated. The cleaning of the rivulets was carried out with the help of the local people in each local body. Local Organizations, Residents' associations, College and School students, National Service Scheme volunteers, Student Police Cadets, Merchant bodies, Traders, Government agencies, NGOs and elected representatives took part in the cleaning drive.

The Mission expected to redeem at least 1000 water streams spreading across almost 2000 km in the State. The drive created festive ambience in most of the places as people realized the necessity to clean their

nearby water streams so as to ensure the free flow of clear water.

Ministers, MLAs and Heads of Local Self Government institutions inaugurated the drive at district level. At Thrissur, Minister for Local Self Government A.C. Moideen and at Kollam Minister for Fisheries and Harbour Engineering J. Mercykutty Amma inaugurated the district level drive.

T.P. Ramakrishnan, Minister for Labour and Excise inaugurated the Kozhikode district level drive, while Shri Ramachandran Kadannappalli, Minister for Ports - Museums and Archaeology, inaugurated the Kannur district level programme. Minister for Food and Civil Supplies P. Thilothaman inaugurated the Alappuzha district level drive.

The mission conducted awareness programmes in each locality to restrict further pollution of the cleaned rivulets and to discourage disposal of waste and plastic remains in water bodies. Follow-up activities are being carried out through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MNREGP).

As much as possible water is filled to the nearby ponds, wells, irrigation canals and quarries. Trough these follow up activities rivulets are rejuvenated to water sufficient level and the same is preserved in view of approaching scorching summer.

As part of the cleaning activities of Haritha Keralam Mission, rivers stretching 390 km and streams stretching 34,289 km were revived. On December 8, 2018 in connection with the second anniversary of Haritha Keralam Mission, 137 water springs covering 210 km from various local bodies were also cleaned. The event became very popular with the participation of 30,510 volunteers in the drive.

Concerted effort from all walks of life helped a lot in the success of the drive. The same is expected in months and years ahead, that can spell magic around the conservation activities initiated by the State Government.

The on-going mission will assure a much cleaner Kerala and a better tomorrow for generations to come.



IIIC's Placement crossed 85 per cent; Expecting 100 per cent by march 31st

**K**ollam based Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction (IIIC) can now be trusted as one of the premier institutes in the State that provides umpteen number of job opportunities to aspiring skilled youth. Even in the midst of emerging economic recession, the students of the Indian Institute of Infrastructure and Construction (IIIC) has showcased excellence in placement and academic field these days.

Spectacular growth in placement over the last two years right earnestly points towards the quality of courses provided. This year the placement for the current batch crossed 85 per cent. At a time when NASSCOM studies reveal that employability among technical graduates is only 17 per cent in the country, IIIC's placement record is unparalleled. By the end of the current financial year, the placement may reach 100 per cent.

Academia industry interface, student-centric internships, interventions in technical, domain and communication skills are major reasons to augment employability of

educated youth and subsequent increase in the placement rates. - Says Dr. T. P. Sethumadhavan, Director, Kerala Academy for Skills under the ministry of Labour and Skills, Govt of Kerala along with 95-year-old Co-operative ULCCS jointly manage the institution.

Institute conducts academia-industry interface - Places on an annual basis to identify job roles and courses based on industry needs, career forecasting, focus group discussions, SWOT analysis and future skills. Recent findings by the International Labour Organisation reveal that novel skills are emerging and these skills, in fact, may decide the nature of future jobs.

**“Spectacular growth in placement over the last two years right earnestly points towards the quality of courses provided. This year the placement for the current batch crossed 85 %.”**

## JOBS AT HAND; IIIC ANOTHER INSTITUTIONAL SUCCESS

Taking into account the major changes taking place in the industry, academia, research and technology in construction, infrastructure and allied sectors, IIIC used to make appropriate modifications in the curriculum in the technical, supervisory and managerial level courses.

Basic eligibility for Technical level courses is 8th Pass/10th Standard/SSLC. Plus 2, Diploma and ITI certificate holders can apply for Supervisory level courses. Graduates including engineering graduates can apply for different managerial level courses. The courses will cover different

sectors including construction and infrastructure, hospitality management, retail management, IT and IT-enabled services, urban planning, interior design, etc. It includes six months Graduate ship programme for Civil, Architecture and Mechanical and Computer science graduates.

All the courses are recognised by the Government of Kerala and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Moreover, AICTE, AIMA and International facility management association, Cambridge English and Construction sector skill council approved courses are also offered here. Moreover IIIC offer CEPT and lingua skill programme of Cambridge English which helps to improve the English language Listening, Reading, Writing and speaking skills of students.

Since ULCCS is an affiliated centre of Cambridge University, UK, various courses notified by the University are available in IIIC. Students above 17 years of age can

**“Institute after analysing the existing skills among the learners try to bridge the skill gap with the required skills for the industry.”**

enrol for the Cambridge English programme.

IIIC successfully placed its students in Advanced construction management, Urban planning, Graduate ship programmes for engineering graduates, plumbing engineering, STP/WTP, Bar bending and steel fixing, hospitality management, housekeeping, Painting and finishing works, retail management, facilities management, data analytics, etc. Major recruiters include Air link, Dubai, Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, ULCCS Ltd, UL Technology solutions, Jaguar, KSIDC, Phoenix infrastructure, Abhilash architects, L

& W Bangalore, Sargaalaya, Paristhithi Chemicals & Suppliers, Micromec, Naturaliste, Indus Motors, Popular motors, RAVIZ, etc.

IIIC is in the process of signing MOU with technical institutions, engineering and arts and science colleges in the country to facilitate appropriate skilling interventions in technical, domain and communication skills. For those who opt this institution to shape up their career, a sea of opportunities beckons. Taking into account the major changes taking place in the industry, academia, research and technology in construction, infrastructure and allied sectors, IIIC used to make appropriate modifications in the curriculum in the technical, supervisory and managerial level courses.

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**“Courses include construction and infrastructure; hospitality management, retail management, IT and IT enabled services, urban planning, interior design and a lot more.”**

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***WE DESERVE:  
A DIFFERENT  
APPROACH  
TO THE  
DIFFERENTLY  
ABLED***



**Dr. Ashalekshmi B. S.**  
Central University of Kerala, Kasargod.

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*Technological advancements should reach people from every strata of life. In that Kasaragod District has travelled miles ahead.*

Information Society must be shaped on the doctrine of social engagement, i.e. involvement of all citizens, regardless of their abilities, background, social status and ethnicity and so on. The common grounds of this approach were expressed in Declaration of Principles of World Summit on Information Society.

Internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are becoming common and popular channels for the delivery and implementation of governance, welfare, socioeconomic development, and human rights programming. Both have the potential to ensure the social, economic, and civic participation of persons with disabilities. The internet and ICT is becoming a key driver of inclusive development because of their growing pervasiveness in the delivery of public and private services coupled and the increasing ability to use everyday ICT devices as assistive devices.

### Kasaragod District has recently launched a different initiative

*We Deserve*

Apart from the conventional practices of providing ICT services to the persons with disabilities, the district of Kasaragod has recently launched a different initiative *We Deserve* for bringing all the differently abled under a digital umbrella.

As per the disability census conducted by Kerala Social Security Mission in 2015, 35671 people are disabled in Kasaragod district. Among this, 50% possess Disability Medical Board certificates, issued by the Board.

Government has allotted 164.30 Crores of rupees from 2013 to 2018 for various health-socio-economic and educational programmes, for this disabled population. Understanding the disparity of demand and distribution of services, the district administration of Kasaragod had planned to introduce

**The people with disabilities need not to carry any certificate with them for claiming various benefits from different offices.**

a programme called RAPT (Right Assistance to the Right Person at the Right Time), with the support of various government departments, such as Health, Social justice, Women and child, Education, Revenue, LSGD and Kerala Social Security Mission. The programme was later renamed as *We Deserve*.

The programme got launched on the following objectives:  
Identifying the spatial and temporal distribution of the disabled  
Finding out a right person among the group of deserving people  
Providing Right assistance to the disabled person.

This programme is unique and first of its kind anywhere in India. After issuing the UDID card, the people with disabilities need not to carry any certificate with them for claiming various benefits from different offices. The entire medical records and financial assistance will be available for all the verifying agencies.

This unique concept was introduced by the District Collector and for designing the website - Finest Innovations was entrusted with the responsibility. 3000 applications were scrutinised and training was imparted to volunteers from various educational institutions. 13 camps

at Panchayat/Municipality levels were conducted for the online registration of the persons with disabilities. This was followed by online registration through Akshaya centres. Later, second and third phases of the camp were conducted. The official launching of *We Deserve* was held on 16th August 2019.

As of now, online registration of 19541 persons with disabilities has been completed through 36 camps and among them 4886 persons ensured their presence before the Medical Board. Disability certificates were issued to 3745 persons as per RPWD Act 2018 and assistive devices were distributed on completion of procedures.

The novel initiative *We Deserve* has become successful because of the 'inclusive' element in all aspects of its implementation. This not only encompasses the differently abled but a heterogeneous composition from the district also, comprising of LSGs, Akshaya, Kudumbasree, Anganwadis, medical professionals and students from various institutions. The National e-Governance Award won by this innovative programme gives a message of 'inclusive governance' and the potential of ICT in ensuring the quality of life of every human being.

**The novel initiative *We Deserve* has become successful because of the 'inclusive' element in all aspects of its implementation.**



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# ALLAY YOUR FEARS, ITS EXAM TIME...

*It's February, the fag end of most courses and exams. Student community from almost all discipline tends to show signs of anxiety and fear these days. But one has to overcome all the wrong notions associated with examinations.*



**Dr. Namita Nazeer**  
**MBBS, MD**

Medical Officer, PHC Chirakkara, Kollam.

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**N**obody is happy on hearing the word exam. It's due to stress faced by the students during exam time. Stress is a normal response to adversity but if it becomes too much, can impair abilities. Factors which cause exam stress are family pressure, peer pressure, over expectation, poor self image, negative thoughts and excessive use of stimulants like caffeine. Suicide attempts are more during exams or declaration of results. Students face depression, anxieties and phobias. In such cases they may need counselling, medication and family support.

The signs of exam stress are symptoms of anxiety like dry mouth, increased sweating, pounding of heart, muscle tension. Excessive stress leads to headache, loss of sleep and appetite, tired and sick feeling, lack of concentration, restlessness. Sometimes it leads to depression, panic attack, drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorder, self harm or suicide.

Systematic, planned, organized and regular effort from beginning of the academic session is the apt method to counter this problem. Study portions should be divided according to the time you have and try to study daily portions from beginning of academic session and study systematically on a daily basis. Avoid late night reading and dinner,

unhealthy foods on pre-exam day. Don't attempt to study a new topic. Keep pens, pencils, eraser and scale, day before the exam. On the exam day avoid anxiety provoking discussion. Go to hall in correct time with confidence. Plan time for each answer and write accordingly. Write answers which you know first and attempt difficult questions towards the end. Write answers to the point. It's better not to discuss the paper afterwards.

Breathing technique, relaxation routine, regular physical activity 10-20 minutes per day, yoga, meditation, massage, good - sleep - hygiene, good support groups of friends and family can help in managing exam stress. In breathing technique, take sharp intake of breath and breathe out slowly in about five seconds, keep hands over abdomen, practice abdominal breathing, do it 8-10 times. Better to practice abdominal breathing daily for 20 minutes.

Good sleep hygiene is, taking food at least 3 hours before bedtime, drink a glass of warm milk just before going to bed, avoid stimulants like tea, coffee after 4 PM, avoid heavy exercise in night, do not use bed for study other than sleeping, keep the bed room dark while sleeping, can opt eye cover too.

In relaxation technique, concentrate on tense muscle, say relax in mind

with breathing technique, stretch after 20 minutes. Else progressive muscle relaxation by tensing and relaxing different groups of muscles learnt under supervision of a therapist can be done. If none of these self help techniques mitigate stress, consult a psychiatrist for appropriate treatment.

Parents should not burden their children with their expectations. They should be open to different avenues of studies and provide their children with alternative options for studies and employment. Spend time with your child during their difficult times. Don't shame or blame or neglect them. Avoid conflicts in family during exam time. The child must understand that if one door closes many other doors will be there to open. Suicide can't be an option.

To reduce exam stress Government of Kerala has introduced grade system. School counsellors and other counselling services are provided by the Government designated experts and NGO's. DISHA (Direct Intervention System for Health Awareness)

**The signs of exam stress are symptoms of anxiety like dry mouth, increased sweating, pounding of heart, muscle tension.**





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## **FRONT FOOT DRIVE FOR A BACK FOOT DEFENSE IN ACCIDENTS IMPERATIVE**



**Dr. S. Pradeesh Kumar**

Programme Associate  
Centre for Development Studies (CDS)  
Thiruvananthapuram.

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*Kerala witnesses a disproportionately high number of road accident related fatalities and injuries as compared to other states with larger geographical area. These accidents come with high economic and social costs.*

Road Transportation is a widely preferred mode of travel due to its easy availability and longest last-mile connectivity. When there is a high demand for the road stretch and supply is unable to cope with the increased demand there are bound to be some after effects, and in the case of roads, it is the increased number of road accidents.

Every year nearly 13 lakh people die in road accidents around the world and 50 crores are injured.

Developing countries are hit the hardest with 90 per cent of fatalities registered in the world taking place in the developing economies including India.

India witnesses nearly 5 lakh road accidents every year in which nearly 1.5 lakh people die and more than

**Every year nearly 13 lakh people die in road accidents around the world and 50 crores are injured.**

5 lakh persons are injured. India is the only country in which accident-related fatalities crossed one lakh. Kerala registers eight to nine per cent of road accidents that happen in the country. Over 40,000 road accidents cases and a high number of injured victims must be a concern to a state which prides itself on a Human Development Index at par with the developed nations.

In the year 2018, the road accidents statistics of the state show that Kerala roads witnessed 40181 road accidents cases in which 4303 people died and 45458 people injured.

The category wise analysis of Kerala road accidents uncovers the following salient points:

- The four per cent of total road stretch in the state that belongs to the National and State Highways

witnesses more than fifty per cent of the total registered road accidents, fatalities and injuries.

- Two-wheelers dominate not only in the registration of the total motorized vehicles but also in their involvement in road accidents.
- Rash driving or driver error is found as the main cause of ninety per cent of road accidents in the state.

Rash driving is a pointer to the fact that road accidents in Kerala are predominantly man-made tragedies. It is a cause with a remedy - Road Safety Activities. The activities should be spread across a number of areas such as the availability and efficiency of road stretches, educating the road users about using the stretch, the engineering and design of the vehicles, the availability of road traffic enforcement, and the road emergency responsive systems.

**India is the only country in which accident-related fatalities crossed one lakh.**

Though Kerala has been implementing road safety measures, the fact that over the past several years, the number of road accidents, fatalities, and injuries caused has more or less hovered around the same range, which raises several questions on the implementation part. Here road safety activities are spearheaded by the Road Safety Authority of Kerala. According to studies in this regard, the coordination among the stakeholders has to be strengthened.

The problem of road accidents creates severe economic and social burdens. For a geographically smaller state like Kerala, it creates a huge economic loss to the society with the victims unable to contribute productively for a short

period of time and in some cases, permanently.

**The social problem arises especially when the victims become permanently disabled and get excluded from the society.**

The social problem arises especially when the victims become permanently disabled and get excluded from the society which they have always been part of. Kerala has been consistently featuring as one of the top five states in the country in terms of road accidents, and this is a "leadership" position that Kerala has to shed in no time. As a solution responsibility for assessing the road transportation problems can be entrusted more to the local self-government (LSG) bodies. These LSGs will have a better knowledge of the local roads and safety issues, and decentralization would be more effective in road safety activities. The LSG bodies can constitute Road Safety Wings which can easily collect and compile the data of road accidents and can implement the measures for mitigating the risks.

**Rash driving is a pointer to the fact that road accidents in Kerala are predominantly man-made tragedies.**

*(This article can also be read at [www.ala.keralascholars.org](http://www.ala.keralascholars.org))*



It functions as a multi-disciplinary clinic, whereby the treatment protocol for every patient is decided following discussions among doctors who are experts in different fields of medical treatment.

Patients are examined and given treatments in clinics A to G which look into lymphoreticular diseases,

**“RCC initiated many novel projects in cancer control. The first Community Oncology Department in India was initiated by this institution.”**

diseases in the mouth and throat, breast and brain, reproductive organs, lungs and stomach, pediatric cases and thyroid diseases respectively. The RCC uses diagnostic techniques that are on a par with those available in world-class hospitals.

The center offers facilities like digital radiography, CT scan, MRI scan, PET scan, digital mammogram, prone biopsy table, stereotactic biopsy, color doppler, Picture Archives Communication

System (PACS), DEXA scan, isotope scan, bone scan, gamma camera, renogram, MUGA scan, nuclear medicine examinations, PCR, cytogenetics, FISH test, immunohistochemistry, hematopathology, biochemistry, hematology, cytology and so on.

RCC conducts Onco surgery, lymph salvage surgery, laser surgery, laparoscopic and thoracoscopic surgery, organ reconstruction surgery etc. Radiation treatment regimens like conformal radiotherapy, IMRT, IGRT, HDR Brachytherapy, photon therapy, radio iodine therapy too are provided here. Medical oncology procedures like high dose chemotherapy, bone marrow transplantation, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, etc. are also available. The Blood Bank is attached with the most modern facilities like the Apheresis Unit. Besides all these, the RCC also has a Pain Relief Clinic and a special Palliative Treatment ward.

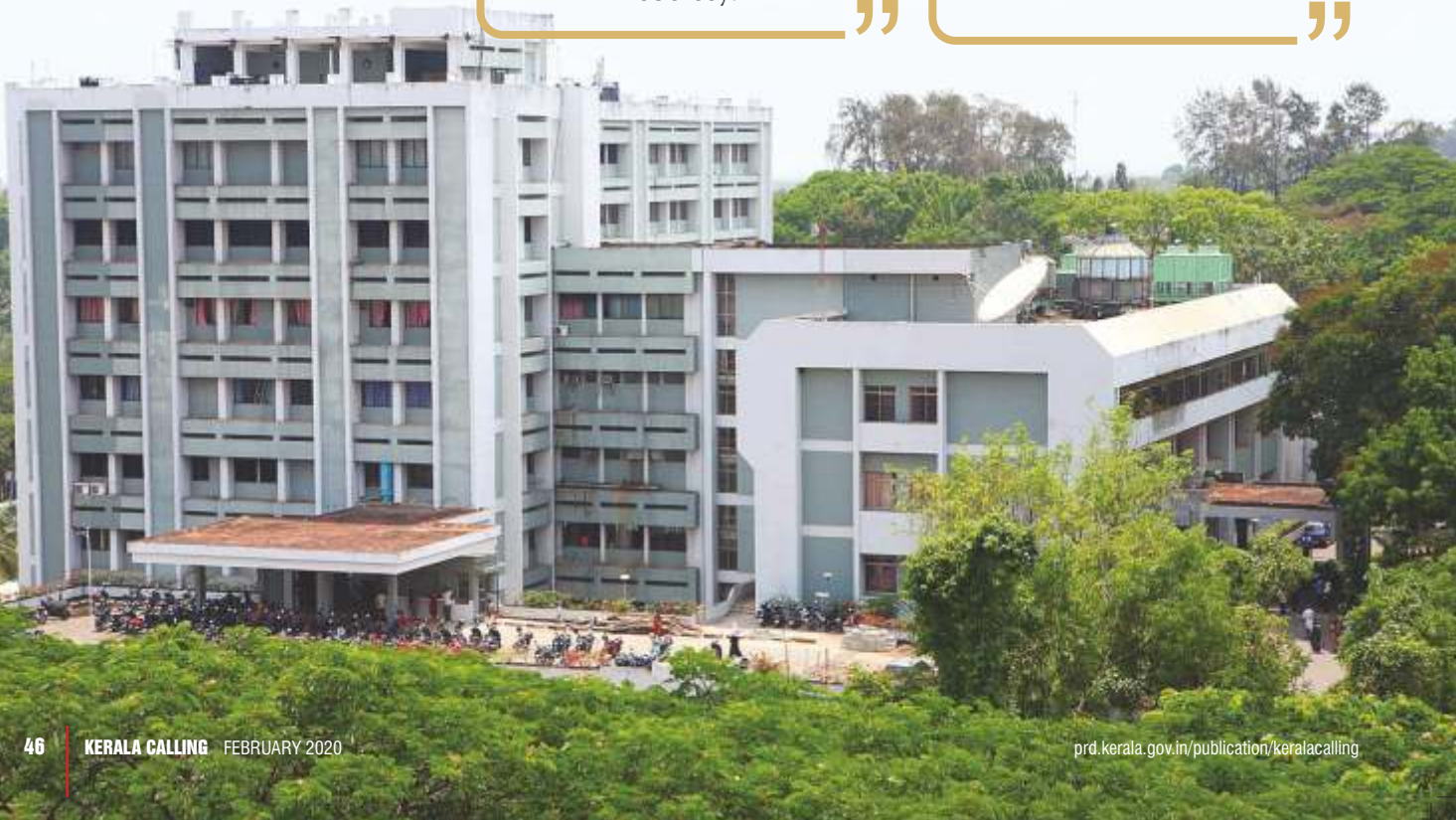
**“RCC renders free service to patients who come from the poorer sections of the society.”**

Education and training institute too functions here. RCC renders free service to patients who come from the poorer sections of the society. A treatment assistance fund, created with public participation, called “Akshayapatram” guarantees the supply of free food to poor patients admitted in wards.

Nearly 17,000 new patients and two lakh existing patients visit the RCC every year for treatment and follow-up. A new multi-storeyed building is in the process of construction in the premises to address the huge influx of patients.

As a Centre of Excellence, the RCC now occupies the special status as the State Cancer Institute. The founder director of this institution which has set a new bench mark in service culture was Dr. M. Krishnan Nair. Today as it marches towards progress, it is headed by Dr. Rekha A. Nair.

**“It was in a bid to reach cancer detection facilities to the common people that the RCC set up early cancer detection centers at Palakkad, Ernakulam and Kollam.”**





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## C. KESAVAN- A MULTI- FACETED PERSONALITY

*Knowing men of eminence is a boon for history enthusiasts especially those who seek the roots of revolutionaries. C. Kesavan's multi-faceted personality needs to be probed at a time where history itself is being manipulated.*



Hashim Rajan  
Senior Journalist

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**A** Kerala icon, former Chief Minister of erstwhile Travancore-Cochin, leader of Freedom Movement, founding father of Travancore State Congress, hero of Abstention Movement; C.Kesavan was an outstanding social reformer of avowed commitment who revolutionized the society of Kerala with his trademark honesty, humility and inexorable determination. Known for fierce independence of thought, outlook and action, C.Kesavan's brilliant and coercive oratory skills moved millions in their pursuit for political independence and social regeneration.

Born into a humble family of traditional weavers in 1891 in Mayyanad, a village in Quilon; C.Kesavan had his formal education in Maharajas College, Ernakulam; University College, Trivandrum and later took his law degree from Law College, Trivandrum.

**He was a prominent freedom fighter who organised, guided and led the struggle for the independence of India and was the chief architect of the liberation of Travancore State from the clutches of monarchy.**

He was a prominent freedom fighter who organised, guided and led the struggle for the independence of India and was the chief architect of the liberation of Travancore State from the clutches of monarchy. After obtaining BA and BL degrees, he started legal practice at Kollam. He imbibed the teachings of Sree Narayana Guru and was gradually attracted to the dynamic philosophy of Gandhiji. As a man of the masses, he admired the radical

economic and political teachings of Karl Marx also. Serving as the general secretary of the social organisation Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, he gave a new momentum to the social and political struggles in the State.

**C.Kesavan was a multifaceted person. He was a remarkable singer in his own right.**

### Hero of Abstention Movement

C.Kesavan was a practicing lawyer at the Bar in Quilon, alongwith E.V.Krishna Pillai and T.M.Varghese. He plunged into political activity with the Abstention Movement in 1933. In 1935, he made that historic speech in Kozhencherry, which was the turning point in the history of modern Kerala. C.Kesavan was arrested; sent to imprisonment and was released in 1937.

The rousing reception C.Kesavan got at Kidanganparambu Maidan, in Alleppy is history. The stormy political life of C.Kesavan began with the establishment of Travancore State Congress in 1938. The Abstention Movement led to the formation of Travancore State Congress held at Rashtriya Hotel. Pattom A. Thanu Pillai and T.M.Varghese were elected to the working committee as members. Later, C.Kesavan courted arrest and was jailed at Poojappura Central Prison in Trivandrum. He was imprisoned again, from August 29, 1942 for one year for taking part in the Quit India Movement. Finally, C.Kesavan won the battle against all odds. C.Kesavan became the Minister in the first popular government, formed in 1948 and later, the Chief Minister of Travancore-Cochin in 1951.

### Multifaceted Personality

C.Kesavan was a multifaceted person. He was a remarkable singer in his own right. In 1922, when Rabindranath Tagore visited Trivandrum, C.Kesavan sang that unforgettable 'Divyakokilam', penned by Kumaran Asan in praise of Tagore.

As an actor, C.Kesavan was the immortal 'Dushyantam' of the epic Shakuntalam. In the field of journalism, again he created history. He was the founder - editor of Kaumudi, established in 1938 and the first daily which came out from C.V.Kunhuraman's family. Later, he published Navasakthi, Prabodhini and Samatha.

As a teacher, C.Kesavan was widely respected. He had stints at Mavelikkara English School and Palghat Basal Mission School. C.Kesavan in his student days was an excellent weaver and sold his products in the markets of Quilon.

C.Kesavan met the 'queen' of his life: Vasanthi, the only daughter of C.V.Kunjuraman, the founder-editor of Kerala Kaumudi. She was a teacher. He penned one of the classic autobiographies in literary history: Jeevitha Samaram (Life Stuggles).

Being an honest freedom fighter, who championed the cause of downtrodden, C.Kesavan will be remembered forever.

**The stormy political life of C.Kesavan began with the establishment of Travancore State Congress in 1938.**





IIITM-Kis all poised to become the first Digital university in Kerala.

**D**igital innovation is all about tackling new - age challenges that have direct impact on everyday life. Be it the ever transforming technology or the wonderments of Artificial Intelligence, digital solutions are more than imperative these days. The proposed Digital University is a major step taken by the Government of Kerala in this regard. It focuses to leverage new-age, cutting-edge technologies which play a major role in the creation and dissemination of knowledge with a strong focus on Social Innovation.

The University aims to play this pivotal role by acting as a window to the outside world of opportunities through a strong interface with existing IT initiatives of the State Government. This includes the Kerala Start-Up Mission, KSUM, ICT Academy, Maker Village and Kerala Block Chain Academy.

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## FOCUS ON SOCIAL INNOVATION



**Madhavan Nambiar**  
Chairman IIITM-K

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Collaboration with Industry will be a major focus of the University. Chairs in certain key areas will be set up, funded by the industry so that a strong Public-Private Partnership is established. Providing highly skilled manpower to the IT Industry, apart from providing them state - of - the - Art research facilities is the priority.

The University will develop an internationally acclaimed talent pool by attracting the best capabilities in various disciplines. Every effort will be made to nurture and retain such talent. The emphasis will be both on knowledge generation and knowledge dissemination. It will ensure that there is professional freedom with clear definitions of measures of accountability. A robust incentive scheme will be put in place.

The programs include unique branding, carefully designed learner

centric content, research and innovation focus. Collaborations with Institutes of Excellence both in India and abroad will be set up. The University will encourage and promote innovation and entrepreneurship among students through immersive and experiential pedagogical practices.

The university offer education that propels India into an anytime, anyplace and anywhere continuous self-paced learning paradigm. It will generate high-quality manpower that will address the need of the nation and the world in the high end of the value chain in AI 2.0 and Industry 4.0.

The future of Digital University lies in the enthusiasm of aspiring youth. Those who seek a better world through innovative learning and a never ending passion to acquire new vistas of knowledge would find themselves in a sound environment here.

**“ The University aims to play this pivotal role by acting as a window to the outside world of opportunities through a strong interface with existing IT initiatives of the State Government. This includes the Kerala Start-Up Mission, KSUM, ICT Academy, Maker Village and Kerala Block Chain Academy.**

**Those who seek a better world through innovative learning and a never ending passion to acquire new vistas of knowledge would find themselves in a sound environment here.**”



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