

to Top-Gear

MISSION 676



THE TIMELINE



Kochi Metro
To commence on 31 December 2015.



Vizhinjam Seaport
Project partner to be finalized by August 2014.



Kannur Airport
Laying of foundation-stone of terminal on 5 July 2014; touchdown of maiden flight on 31 December 2015.



Smart City
Opening of 6.5 lakh sq ft building on 25 March 2015.



National Waterway 3
Kollam-Kottappuram National Waterway to be commissioned in 2014.



Light Metro
Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode



Suburban Rail
Follow-up works based on detailed project report to begin this year itself.



Development of Roads, including National Highways
Work on By-Passes; Four-Lane Roads and National Highways progressing in time-bound manner.



Student Entrepreneurship Programme
2000 start-ups before 28 Feb 2016; Employment to 20,000 and Building of 2 lakh sq ft.

30 welfare and development projects, supervised directly by ministers, plus projects of other departments.

- Planning Commission to come up with projects for the effective implementation of Annual Projects.
- Five-pronged approach under the Chief Secretary for making government services quick and efficient:

1. Right to Services
2. e Governance
3. Disposal of Pending Files
4. Right to Hearing
5. Simplifying of Administrative and Financial Procedures

MISSION 676



Kerala moving forward



National Games
KERALA 2015

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A full-page photograph of Sachin Tendulkar standing on a cricket field at night. He is wearing a black polo shirt, dark jeans, a watch, and a bracelet. The background shows a large stadium with blue seating under a dramatic, cloudy sky with spotlights illuminating the field.

“Kerala has always held a special place in my heart and I am sure that you will extend support to the National Games in the same vein you have supported Kerala Blasters. Let’s celebrate the spirit of Sports.”

Sachin Tendulkar
Goodwill Ambassador



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FOCUS



The CM in focus

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EDITORIAL

Games, NRK meet unleashes positive energy

The 35th edition of National Games which got off to a colourful start, has now come to an end sending out a strong message across the country that Gods Own Country and its people can rise up to any occasion to achieve greater goals.

The entire state was in the grip of sports fever for the past many days with players breaking records after records on the field in various events.

There were quite a few stunning performances during the Games with the notable being that of Kerala's Sajan Prakash who set the swimming pool on fire bagging a record eight medals including six golds, the highest individual tally for any sportsman during the games. Success stories of sportsmen, who despite all odds and adversities won laurels here, will go a long way in inspiring the young generation to push the limits.

It goes without saying that sportspersons, officials and legendary players, all were in great awe of the excellent sports infrastructure facilities of international standards that the state had put in place for the games. The warmth, affection and hospitality shown by people of state has clearly won the hearts of players, guests and all others who came from the country to take part in the games and it will remain etched in their memories for a long time.

Along with National Games another mega event that spoke loudly about vibrant Kerala, government's development agenda and its high priority for Non Resident Keralities, was the Global NRK Meet in Kochi. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy's path breaking announcement of giving relaxation to the land ceiling was a historic one. Besides, the incentives announced by the government for NRKs investing in the state, have paved the way for fast forward development mode in the state besides throwing up immense job opportunities for the youth.

The meet provided a platform for NRKs to explore investment opportunities especially in infrastructure, industry and development projects for making them an integral part of the state's growth story.

Both the National Games and the Global NRK meet have unleashed positive energy which will hold the state in good stead in days to come. On the occasion of the concluding ceremony of National Games, one can say with pride that 35th edition of the games was one of the best organized event.

Mini Antony IAS
Editor in Chief



National Games

KERALA 2015

The visual Identity of the 35th National Games has been carefully crafted to capture the renewed spirit of the Games and the true essence of the host State, Kerala. Energetic and vivacious, this unique mnemonic uses a distinctive visual device, a customized typography and a youthful colour palette to set the new tone of the Kerala National Games, 2015.

Anthem

NATIONAL
GAMES

सुनो नौजवाँ (२)
सब हिन्दुस्तान प्यार से देखता है तुझे
नौजवा हों दिखा तू कमाल अपना

मैदान खेलौका है तुझको पुकारे
आकाश धरती करे तुझको इशारे
तू जानता है ये तो सबको बताते
हारे के जिते, कोई हिम्मत ना हारे

Now is the time u got a get set
This is the time you wanna get set
Now is the time u got a get set
It's the time you wanna a get set Go.

चिते कि जैसी तू इस में तेजी भरले
बादल में चमके जो, ऐसी तू बिजली भर ले
चिते कि जैसी तू इस तन में तेजी भरले
बादल में चमके जो, ऐसी तू बिजली भर ले
तीर की तरह चल, अपने निशान पर तू
छायेगा नौचवाँ सारे जमाने पर तू
नौजवाँ, वही जिन्दगी है, जिसमें के तझे जीतने
की लगन, हर घडी है
खेलेंगे खेलेंगे दिल से हम खेलेंगे (२)

Rap Section
On your mark yeah, get the spark
yeah
You got a push it, till the end from
the start, yeah (2)

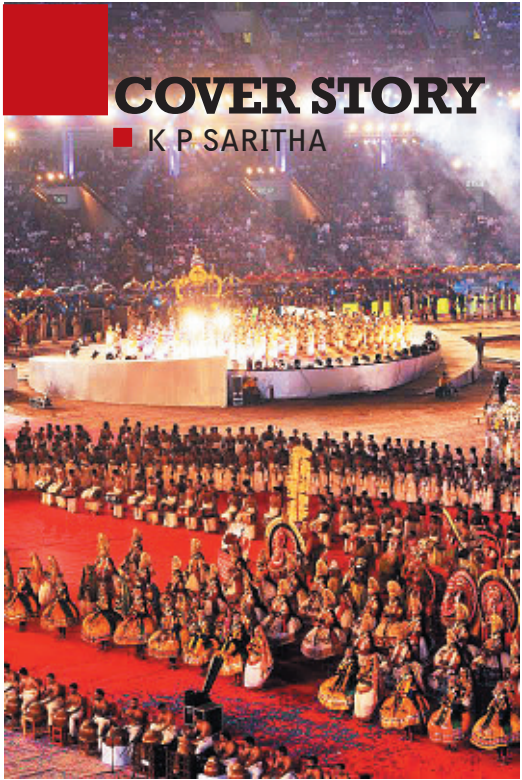
By pitching the Games as
an exciting, everybody's
event, Get Set Play shall
make the National Games
identifiable with the
masses, make the Games
visible and eventually,
make it popular.

The
**GET
SET
PLAY**
philosophy



COVER STORY

■ K P SARITHA



National Games off to a Glittering Start

Kerala rolled out a classy opening ceremony to mark the beginning of the 35th National Games. The grand opening ceremony of the 15-day event was marked with both glitter and glamour in full measure. The huge public enthusiasm and the diverse cultural fanfare were the hallmarks of the four-hour non-stop programme.

In front of a lakh-strong crowd at the marvelous Greenfield Stadium, Sachin Tendulkar, the goodwill ambassador, passed on the Games Torch to Olympians P.T. Usha and Anju Bobby George, who then lit the flame to the cauldron, shaped in the form of a traditional Kerala lamp. The Games torch, which had traversed

across the state from Kasargode to Thiruvananthapuram, was brought into the stadium and took a complete circle by the state's Arjuna and Dronacharya awardees before it was handed over to Sachin Tendulkar by Arjuna awardee KM Beenamol.

The 35th National Games, was declared open by Union

Minister for Urban and Parliamentary Affairs Venkaiah Naidu in the fully-packed newly built Greenfield Stadium. The Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy, Sports Minister, Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, and the Union Minister of State for Sports, Sarbananda briefly spoke. Indian Olympics Association President

N.Ramachandran presided over the function. Delivering the inaugural address, the Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu was vocal with his praise on the rich traditions of Kerala sport and lauded the State's commitment, discipline and devotion that helped in completing the stadium construction in time and in conducting the





ceremony in utmost harmony. He also urged for a health conscious life and added "let us work together as a team."

The Chief Minister Oommen Chandy offered a hearty welcome to the athletes from different states by saying, "I hope the enthusiasm that revolves around this event will translate into the improvement of sport in the state. We are not stopping with this. Instead, my government will soon come out with a special sports package for the overall development of sports and games," the CM said. He also inaugurated the free ticket distribution for the inaugural function at Greenfield Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 50,000.

Sachin Tendulkar, the star attraction in the inaugural ceremony, had actually stolen the show. Each time the speakers mentioned the name of Tendulkar, the more than 40,000-strong crowd roared and when Chief Minister

Oommen Chandy welcomed him, the roar went on for a few minutes prompting the CM to profusely thank the master blaster. "I and my government on behalf of the people of Kerala extend our thanks to you for gracing this occasion and also by being the goodwill ambassador. Your gesture towards us will always be remembered," said the Chief Minister in the midst of thunderous applause.

The show had a percussion-based start, followed by a colourful march past of the teams. Services, the overall champion over the last two editions of the Games, led the teams, followed by other States and Union territories in alphabetical order, with host Kerala bringing up the rear. The entry of the IOA flag too was greeted warmly by the crowd as it was brought in by six former internationals and hoisted. The sports protocol was to end with the oath taking on behalf of the

participants by the Kerala captain, Preeja Sreedharan, leaving the stage open to the much awaited cultural extravaganza.

The colourful fireworks that followed and the criss-crossing mesh of myriad light spouts altogether gave an electric dimension to the evening sky. The cultural extravaganza started with Film Star Mohanlal's theme play simulating the war scenes based on true life of Kunjali Marakkar who fought against the Parankikal. A ballet called "Bhava Rasa" was put into play by about 200 men bearing burning torches, supporting pyrotechnics, 40 Mizhavu and 20 Timpani performing in unison who were joined by 80 percussionists, 100 Kuzhal players, 200 Elathalam players.

Another show included 100 each of Thimila and Maddalam artists, 100 Kathakali dancers, 200

Chenda, 100 Velakali performers, 200 Mohiniyattam dancers, 100 Kalaripayattu performers, 340 Muthukuda and 80 Theyyam performers in the backdrop of Chendamalam led by Padmasree Mattanoor. The grand ceremony concluded with "Lalism - India singing", a special musical show by Mohanlal and his new troupe. Udit Narayan, Hariharan, Ankit Trivedi, Alka Yagnik, Bhoomi Trivedi, Karthik, MG Sreekumar and Sujatha were among those who sang. Cine director TK Rajeev Kumar was the creative director of the programme.

Nearly 11,250 sportspersons from 30 states, five Union Territories and Services will vie for 1,369 medals in 410 events spread over seven districts. Two thousand technical officials and a 1,500-strong media contingent have also arrived to cover the sports jamboree. ■

A Meet with a PURPOSE



The two-day Global NRK Meet provided a major platform for the government to boost the confidence of expatriate Keralites in investing in infrastructure development projects in the state. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and our cabinet ministers held a series of discussions in separate sessions with Non-Resident Keralites at the conclave on various issues, ranging from investment opportunities, rehabilitation of returnees and the problems being faced by NRK women etc. Around 1,000 NRKs from various countries such as UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the US attended the meet.

The meet was inaugurated by Chief Minister Oommen Chandy. A thunderous applause from a high-profile gathering of Non-Resident Keralites greeted the Chief Minister when he announced that his government would give a

slew of concessions and benefits, including relaxation on land ceiling, to those willing to make investments, generate employment and give a fillip to the state's economy. "We have been facing several road blocks when it comes to attracting investment to the state. As per the current policy, a person cannot hold land in excess of 15 acres. The government has now decided to relax this policy with certain conditions in order to attract investors to the state," declared the Chief Minister.

Conscious of the fact that huge investments from the expatriate Malayalees were an imperative need to power the state's economy, the Chief Minister proposed the idea of making the NRK meet an annual event rather than a biennale one. "Currently, the NRK meet is organised once in two years. The government is willing to organise the event every year as it is a perfect platform for the NRKs to raise their issues and

discuss it with the government," the CM said.

The Chief Minister's proposal was sweetened by Minister for Home and Vigilance Ramesh Chennithala, who announced that the government would establish a commission headed by a retired High Court Judge to look into the complaints filed by NRKs with regard to their property and other assets at home. The Commission, to be modelled on the lines of a similar body in Punjab, will have quasi-judicial powers on such complaints. A bill in this regard is to be tabled in the assembly.

K C Joseph, Minister for Rural Development, culture and NORKA led the meet in the forefront and was with the Non Resident Keralite community across the globe throughout the event. He assured all possible help to the NRKs. "More than 23.6 lakh Malayalis live and work outside Kerala and nearly 50 lakh of our population is



dependent on them. The socio-economic-cultural contribution of NRKs to their home state is invaluable and we are committed to resolving any issues they face,” said the Minister.

Significantly, K M Mani, the Finance Minister said that the Kerala Financial Corporation would provide interest-free loan up to Rs 20 lakh while the state government would offer 10 per cent capital participation fund to support those returnees who wanted to start their own enterprise. Similarly, IT and

Industries Minister P K Kunhalikutty announced that the government was actively considering promoting private industrial parks in the state. On the other hand, Fisheries, Ports and Excise Minister K Babu made a plea to the NRKs to invest in projects like coastal shipping and Kannur airport.

V S Sivakumar Minister for Health mooted NRKs participation in the Kerala Government’s new initiative “Sukrutham,” the project meant for free treatment to all

The meet attracted wide round of appreciation from the Global NRK community by announcing a 7-point action plan formulated on the basis of deliberations and discussions in the meet.

The action plan envisages

Setting up an NRI Commission with quasi-judicial powers for looking into the complaints of NRKs related to their properties and other personal assets in Kerala.

Certification of skills of NRKs who possess professional work experience but have no educational qualifications for their skills.

Form a Pravasi education cell to give guidelines to the children of pravasis on opportunities for higher education in Kerala.

Take up with the Union Government the request to include the International Airports in Kerala in the list of International Airport hubs.

NORKA to form an advisory board for different regions across the world to help in formulating policies, schemes and projects for NRKs in the region.

Enhance the man power and skill of Government agencies to do recruitment of employees to different countries.

NORKA would form a special purpose vehicle for facilitating investment of NRKs.





cancer patients. V.K. Ebrahim Kunju, Minister for Public Works said that Kerala would go ahead with its infrastructure projects by soliciting the involvement of the non resident community. Shibu Baby John, Minister for Labour and Skills pointed out the need for upgradation of skills by the prospective job seekers abroad and with this objective his ministry have set up an academy, the Kerala Academy for Skill Excellence.

Rani George, Secretary of NORKA and Director of NORKA-ROOTS, informed

that in 2013-14, Kerala received foreign remittances in excess of Rs 72,000 crores. "It gives an idea of the scale of the economic impact they are making. But we want this to be more participatory; we want NRKs to invest in infrastructure, industrial and development projects and be part of the state's growth story," the Secretary said.

Justice P. Sathasivam, Governor of Kerala inaugurated the valedictory function. The valedictory function was presided over by P J Kurian, Deputy Chairman of Rajyasabha.



It is the first time in the history of Kerala that a meet under the auspicious of Government discussed the problems and issues of women with an international perspective. Separate parallel sessions on Gulf, Europe and America have been conducted. Problems faced by NRK women – issues and way out measures were discussed at large in the meet in a separate session which is the highlight of the meet. The Malayalam and Kerala culture session was blessed with legendary laureates of Malayalam like Perumbadavam Sreedharan and Benyamin enriched with elegant participation of NRKs. The sessions on NRK problems, challenges and opportunities, Investment

opportunities and Infrastructure development and Role of community organizations in the welfare of NRKS were also the key attraction of the event.

In order to boost infrastructure development, the government threw open three of its major projects – Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL), Kannur International Airport and Startup Village – before the NRKs for making investments in it. Kannur International Airport Ltd MD, G Chandramouli, chipped in by saying that the nearly Rs 1900 crore airport project was on the right track and its trial run would be conducted by this year-end. "We have been able to get





GLOBAL NRK MEET

An open forum with the presence of Chief Minister and Minister for NORKA was conducted as part of the meet, which witnessed discussions beyond boundaries. It was in this session; the CM assured that Air Kerala, the dream project, would surely take off. "We have examples like successful ventures like the CIAL and Air Kerala project will be yet another milestone in the development history of the State. The Union Civil Aviation ministry shot down the project just because we do not have the required five-year experience in running domestic services. The government has decided to overcome this hurdle by operating services connecting the airports in Kerala," the CM said. During the meeting, representatives of various NRK associations and organisations raised various demands, such as the rehabilitation of NRK returnees, increasing the age limit of the beneficiaries to become members of the state NRK Welfare Board, poor living conditions in labour camps in Gulf countries, ending domination of private players in overseas recruitment sector, and enacting a Pravasi Property Protection Law. The Chief Minister answered calmly but categorically to all the queries raised by the NRKs.



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considerable investment from AAI. Of the 16 per cent stake open to public, we have been able to get investment up to 14 per cent and we want the NRKs to investment in the remaining two per cent," he said.

Startup Village Chairman Sanjay Vijayakumar, in his presentation, highlighted the different investment options available for the NRKs at the Startup Village which has created a revolutionary ecosystem for startups in the state. "In the last three years, we have been able to support 900 startups and are targeting to support 10,000 startups by 2025. To fuel this growth, we are targeting an investment of Rs 750 crore to set up a million sqft world class infrastructure incubation facility and an angel fund to finance the start ups," he added.

The Folklore Academy presented a colorful cultural evening on the first day of the event. As such the second Global NRK meet would be regarded as a milestone in formulating the policies and welfare schemes for Non Resident Keralite community all over the world. ■

The writer is Additional Secretary, Norka



Include more items under MNREGS

This is the Statement by Minister for Rural Development, K C Joseph at the Regional Conference of State Rural Development Ministers on MGNREGA.

The State of Kerala is repeatedly demanding for the last three year changes in works included in the schedule of MGNREGS. This revolutionary employment generation programme should be production linked and also should facilitate creation of durable assets in the rural sector. Kerala always takes special care to promote all centrally sponsored schemes

including MGNREGS. While the employment generated in 2010-11 was 492 lakhs and expenditure was 701 crores when we assumed office, it rose to 633 lakh jobs and Rs.1049 crores expenditure in 2011-12 and 837 lakh job and expenditure of Rs.1418 crores in 2012-13.

The recent changes made in the schedule of works has a negative impact in our State. Till December last year we created 491 lakh

jobs and spent Rs. 902.44 crores, this time in the corresponding month we could only generate 292 lakh days of work and spend 609 crores of rupees. This is only because of the recent changes in the schedule of the Act, and I request this conference to look into this aspect.

While restricting 2500 blocks in the national level for Intensive Participatory, Planning Exercise, only 22 out of 152 blocks in Kerala

are selected and included for the exercise. Based on the central norms we conducted a study and recommended inclusion of 50 blocks in this list. This may be kindly looked into.

Mahatma Gandhi NREGA provides for one time treatment of barren/fallow land for making it cultivable in Public land as well as land owned by small & marginal farmers. Most of the workers under the scheme has to depend on



Union Minister praises Kerala

The State's implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) came in for praise from Union Minister for Rural Development Chaudhary Birender



Singh. The praise was for its utilisation of self-help groups (SHGs) of women under Kudumbasree for implementing the MGNREGS programmes, among others. He was delivering the opening remarks at the Regional Conference of State Rural Development Ministers at Kovalam.

Kerala was unique in utilising SHGs under Kudumbasree to manage the implementation of the MGNREGS, with the result that the participation of women in the scheme here was touching 90 per cent. It also had the 'most thorough' involvement of grama panchayats. The financial inclusion model through the MGNREGS was also pioneered by Kerala, where bank accounts were not used merely as a pass-through mechanism for wages but for real savings, he said. Kerala had also developed 'excellent local building' technologies, the Minister said.



works on land for employment. Of the 38.86lakhs of hectares of land available in the State about 3 lakh hectares constitute the available land for providing employment. This is only 7% of the total landed property of the State. Most of the 29 lakhs of families

who have registered under the scheme in the State belong to Below Poverty Line families. They own lesser extent of land. This prohibits them to make their own land productive for increased income. Therefore the State has arrived at a conclusion to

suggest inclusion of more items of works under the scheme, which is productive in nature. This is for addressing the grievances of the Below Poverty Line and low income workers who earn their livelihood through the works in the traditional sectors.



Dairy Farming

I wish to stress on the need for inclusion of Cattle Rearing & Dairying also in the categories of works under MGNREGA as it would not only generate more income to the rural households, but also help to improve the production of milk thereby increase the nutrient levels of the population. This is more relevant in the scenario existing in Kerala.

Livestock related interventions are found to be a successful strategy for poverty alleviation and employment generation all over the world. Dairy Farming is a major livestock enterprise in India where small and marginal farmers are engaged to earn their livelihood.

There are about 3278 functional village level dairy co-operatives in Kerala (2808 APCOS and 470 traditional). They procured over 15.0 lakh litres of milk per day from farmers in 2013-14. Besides, there are organizations registered as charitable societies and they handle about 1.2 lakh litres of milk daily. There are a few private dairies, which

came up in the State in the post-liberalization phase. All of them procure milk from Tamil Nadu/Karnataka. Kerala Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation and its affiliated Regional Milk Unions procure nearly 10.80 lakh litres of milk per day and sell 12.50 lakh litres per day during December, 2014. The gap in procurement and sale of milk is bridged by import of milk from neighboring States. Dairying in Kerala is

livelihood intensive to the marginal and landless farmers. Not less than 83% of the cattle keepers belong this economic strata.

The State's dairy production system is characterized by smallholdings, most of them keeping one adult cow and a calf. Commercial farms keeping larger numbers are rare in the State, though a few with 10 to 20 cows, buffaloes or both are seen in

While restricting 2500 blocks in the national level for Intensive Participatory, Planning Exercise, only 22 out of 152 blocks in Kerala are selected and included for the exercise.





Special Address by Chief Minister, Oommen Chandy

Respected Union Minister for Rural Development Sri. Chaudhary Birender Singhji, Rural Development Ministers of various States, Department Secretaries of Govt. of India, and other States, officers of the different States, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very happy to be here to address the Regional Conference of State Rural Development Ministers. I consider this as a rare opportunity to be a part of the discussions on Mahatma Gandhi NREGA organized by Govt. of India for the Southern States and I am thankful to Chaudhary Birender Singhji for taking initiative to have such a session in Trivandrum. Soon after the launching of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in 2005 and subsequent notifications in the month of February 2006, Govt. of Kerala issued guidelines for implementing the scheme in Palakkad & Wayanad districts. Govt. had issued orders to make payment of wages to workers under MGNREGS through Bank account in the month of March 2006 itself. This helped to ensure transparency in the payment of wages to the workers. I think that Kerala is the first State to do so.

The State Govt, has taken many decisions that would augment and support the effective implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Rural Development schemes. The incentives given to workers of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS who have completed 100 days of employment in the last 2 years and tender premium upto 42% above the rates of PMGSY works are few examples. One of the problem faced by the States in implementing centrally sponsored programmes is lack of flexibility in the central guidelines. National level guidelines are to be followed by the State regardless of the variation in topography, culture, habitation, etc. prevalent in different States. I think, there is need to have more freedom in the selection of works and implementing the project under centrally sponsored schemes. This freedom should cater to local needs of the people without prejudice to the basic central guidelines.

We have a total of 39 lakh families registered for works under Mahatma

Gandhi NREGS. We want to provide employment to them by fully utilizing the central funds, thereby extending the benefit of wages to the weaker sections of the society. I think that inclusion of additional works under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for State is necessary for effective implementation of the schemes in the State. Ever since our Govt. assumed office, the State have been presenting proposals to Central Govt to include more works under the scheme to make it more production oriented.

Kerala has a peculiar situation. Of the total geographical area of 38.86 lakh hectares, fallow land and cultivable wasteland together constitute 2.7 lakh hectares, which is 7% of the total geographical area. This being the situation, depending on the works, which makes barren land cultivable, would not be sufficient enough for the 39 lakh of job seekers of Kerala to get job under the scheme. The scheme should not be one just to give employment alone, but it should be linked to production. We need to address the plight of the labourers working in traditional sectors, who earn meager income from their work in their respective sectors. A good number of workers in the traditional sectors belong to Below Poverty Line families.

With a view to increase production in the traditional sectors and to ensure more income for workers in these sectors the State government has proposed to include Dairying, Farming activities, Paddy cultivation, Coir, Khadi and Handloom work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. I am sure that inclusion of these sectors would increase the production in agriculture and allied activities. I hope the discussions and deliberations arranged here, would address the issues of the scheme being faced by the participant States. I am sure that this would help the Central government to make necessary changes in the guidelines for the effective implementation of the schemes in the different States of the country.

Thank you
Jai Hind.

and around the urban settlements. The dairy production apart from providing the much needed livelihood also has other social dimensions. They are:-

- Women empowerment - provide control over house hold income and expenditure
- Nutrition especially among the children and women of economically weaker sections
- Convert the opportunistic labor in household in to valuable employment, income and nutrition
- Self-sufficiency in food production and food security
- Disposable assets among weaker sections of the society
- Invaluable organic fertilizer for the enrichment of soil, soil fertility, moisture preservation, humus formation and eco preservation

Hence the intervention from the Government is absolutely essential to ensure that the dairying is continued and the opportunistic labour available among the rural



households is converted in to valuable food product, employment and income generation. Here comes the importance of social security schemes like MGNREGA.

It may be recalled that unlike the general agricultural activities, the dairying is predominantly a job of women and poorest of the poor in the community. Therefore inclusion of the dairying in MGNREGA is more justifiable from the point of views of employment and income generation, asset creation, women empowerment, food and social security. The labour contributed for cattle rearing would be like any other rural labour activity in the MGNREGA scheme. Therefore the dairy farming as a whole (not the labour part alone) may be considered as part of MGNREGA.

The dairy units, which are having more than two animals and the farmers who pour milk in a milk cooperative society, should be included in the scheme. The milk cooperative society can be identified as the

nodal agency to carry out such function. Any dairy farmer who is a member of a milk cooperative society who pours milk at the society can apply for employment. The mechanism for identification of beneficiaries, supervision, monitoring shall be further worked out if inclusion of dairying in MGNREGA Scheme is accepted.

Considering the importance of improving the milk production and socio-economic uplift of rural poor, especially women, the proposal to include dairying in MGNREGA scheme may be considered.

Agricultural Activities

Farming

Post harvest activities is highly expensive for the farmers. Because of this small and marginal farmers show lesser interest in repeated agriculture in their own land.

The proposal is to include Post harvest activities such as deweeding,

Till December last year we created 491lakh jobs and spent Rs.902.44 crores, this time in the corresponding month we could only generate 292 lakh days of work and spend 609 crores of rupees. This is only because of the recent changes in the schedule of the Act.

tilling, making pits, land preparation, etc. before sowing and planting as an approved item of works under the scheme, which promotes repeated farming.

Lease Farming by Self Help Groups

Small and marginal farmers who have other means of income, in the State show lesser interest in farming activities. The proposal is to entrust land to Self Help Groups on lease basis for farming and providing wages under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for their work on the land for agricultural activities. The sales proceeds of the agricultural produce would be given to the SHGs.

Paddy Cultivation

Rice is the staple food of

Kerala and cultivation of paddy is key to the agrarian economy of the State. The proposal of the State Government is to include paddy cultivation as an item of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA in the State so as to enable the paddy farmers to undertake post harvest activities such as land development, bunding deepening of side canals and land preparation. This would make paddy cultivation more economical in the State.

Coconut farming

Coconut is a perennial and traditional crop of Kerala. Requisite agricultural activities and manuring to increase the production is not being done by the coconut



farmers due to the high rise in the cost of manure and labour. Prevalence of root wilt disease, unproductive and low yielding palm add to worsen the grim situation.

The proposals of the State Government is to include coconut farming as an item of work under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS for the State which would enable the coconut farmers to undertake pit making for planting coconut sapling, bunding of coconut fields, coconut basin opening during monsoon and tilling around the palm during winter so as to ensure soil and water conservation in coconut farms, and thereby increased production.

Coir Yarn Production

The coconut used for domestic purposes and business purposes always leaves coconut husk as waste, which would be a source if properly collected and treated. The workers engaged in Coir production get only meager income from the sale proceeds of coir yarn they produce, even

though they have to fully involved in different activities in coir yarn production. If coir production (husk collection, retting, defibering, spinning and bundling) is included as an approved item under MGNREGA, and wages under the scheme for a certain quantity of Coir produced per day commensurate to the wages is given it would be a boon to the workers under Coir sector. The sales proceeds of coir yarn would be an additional income for the workers in this traditional sector.

Khadi and Village Industries

The workers under Khadi & Village Industries sector have to work from dawn to dusk in handloom sector for their subsistence income. The inclusion of Khadi work under MGNREGA and payment of wages for the above workers under the scheme for a certain quantum of finished goods they produce would be of great help to them. ■

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When Ammu met Sachin



It was on 4th December, 2014 and the venue was Cinnamon Hall of Hotel Crown Plaza, Kochi. Ammu, the Games mascot was trying to fix a puzzle - to locate the host districts on the Kerala State map. While she stood all confused, there came an unexpected visitor - Sachin Tendulkar, the Master Blaster. The ace cricketer who is also the Goodwill Ambassador of Kerala 2015, had no qualms in putting the script into action.

Sachin jogged to the stage and hugged Ammu. He then playfully joined with her in solving the puzzle and started helping her in spotting the seven districts where

the Games competitions are scheduled. Sachin gave Ammu a few clues to arrive at the right answers. For Kannur, the hint given was the legendary Volleyball player Jimmy George's native place. Kollam was connected with Cashew nuts, while elephants and fireworks helped Ammu zero in on Thrissur. Likewise, Sachin helped Ammu to complete the map puzzle.

A travelling drama has also been created with Ammu as the central character. It is aimed primarily at school children urging them to take to the sports fields also in addition to classrooms. The drama has been performed in 197 stages in schools and Institutes of technical



education as on 31st May 2014. Accompanied by wide media publicity, the Mascot rose to fame instantly across Kerala. Stage shows in rural and semi-urban localities have often been preceded by a public procession led by the Mascot (in its 3D image) and created a festive atmosphere, with increasingly excited participation and involvement of the general public and local media. The drama was an effective platform to sustain excitement about the Games in the run-up period. It is estimated that more than 3,00,000 people, mostly children, have witnessed the play so far. ■





**RUN
KERALA
RUN** 2015
January 20

Kerala ran

More than a third of the population of the state is estimated to have participated in the Run Kerala Run, the curtain raiser to the 35th National Games, held simultaneously in over 10,000 points across the state. All eyes were rooted to the front of the state secretariat with Sachin

Tendulkar, the goodwill ambassador of national games, as the chief guest. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and the State Ministers turned up in track suits while Tendulkar stood out in a red T-shirt with sunglasses. Minister for Sports Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala, Industries

Minister P K Kunhalikutty, Health Minister V S Sivakumar, National Games CEO Jacob Punnoos and Sports Council President Padmini Thomas were also present.

At 10.30 a.m. Kerala Governor P. Sathasivam read out a pledge in English and soon after raised the flag signalling the start of the run. Chief Minister

Oommen Chandy and Sachin Tendulkar led the leg of the mass run. People's Representatives, Film celebrities, political leaders, cultural activists, government employees, students and common public participated in the run, the extent of which ranged from 200 meters to one km. Theme song of the national games was

NATIONAL GAMES

into History

presented at all points before commencing the run.

Addressing a public meeting held at Central Stadium after the event, Chief Minister Oommen Chandy said, with this Kerala has written itself into the record books and this showed that nothing is impossible for the southern state to achieve. "If Kerala stands united as we did in

this event, there is nothing that Kerala cannot achieve. We should stand united in all our efforts," said the Chief Minister.

Sports Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan said this was a world record. More than a crore people took part in the run that took place in more than 10,000 locations all across the state.

Sachin Tendulkar began his speech by saying "Namaskaram." He urged the Keralaites to participate and making the National Games a grand success. "I am not at all surprised with this response from Kerala. Kerala has always given me lots of love and respect. This run is a pre-cursor to the National Games. I will be back shortly," said Tendulkar.

At Kochi, thousands of people took part in the main venue where cinestara Mohanlal read out the pledge. Likewise, in all other districts a similar run was conducted. The Kerala government gave an hour's break to its employees to take part in the run and so did all the schools so that students could participate. ■









An Eco-friendly Games Village, with all amenities will accommodate the athletes participating in the 35th National Games, at M e n a m k u l a m , Thiruvananthapuram. 365 housing units are built on a novel construction pattern. The units have been built utilising a pre-fabricated modular housing system, which is being introduced for the first time in the State. The project has been implemented by the Delhi-based company ACME CleanTech Solutions limited.

Each of the housing units has been built using the PUF

(Polyurethane Foam)-based Prefab Technology. This includes covering design, supply, transportation and erection at the site including internal services. These modular housing units are custom-designed. ACME is a leading manufacturer of these panels having an in-house manufacturing plant, quality testing labs and experience in executing large scale EPC projects. The panels used in the Village were sourced from their production unit in Rudrapur, Uttarakhand.

The panels used here are best suited to the tropical

Indian climate. These eco-friendly houses have the unique feature of adjusting to climatic changes. The technology is advantageous as the construction of the entire Village, set to house over 5,000 athletes and officials, was completed within a record six months.

The Village has been set up in a 28 acre plot provided by Small Industries Development Corporation Limited (SIDCO) on lease to the National Games Secretariat, the special vehicle created by the Government to oversee preparations of the Games. The total amount

Games



allotted for setting up this energy efficient Games Village is Rs 60 crore.

The power requirements at the Village have been arranged by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) at a cost of Rs 40 lakh. KSEB will supply 3000 kilowatt using 20 transformers installed inside the Village. Likewise, the Kerala Water Authority will be arranging water supply to the Village at a cost of Rs 66 lakh by laying new pipelines. The Village, built on the 'Green Games' concept, will be fully air-conditioned, the first time such a facility is being offered to athletes

participating in the National Games. Of the 365 dwelling units, 190 will be set apart to house men athletes while the rest would be earmarked for women. Each of the housing unit has an area of 63 sq.m., with three rooms and will have all basic amenities to house 10 athletes, a coach and a team official. Special villas have also been constructed to meet the housing needs of the Chef-de mission from the various participating States and Union Territories and important Guests.

The Village has a separate administrative block with a reception desk, a conference

hall, ATM counters a cafeteria, a work area for the media and shopping kiosks. The Village is aesthetically landscaped, with the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh. JNTBGRI has developed 12 vibrant themes for beautification, showcasing the spirit of traditional games, culture, natural resources and the beauty of Gods own Country.

The Village is well connected with roads within and ample lighting. A full-fledged gymnasium with all world-class equipment has

also been constructed for use of the athletes during the Games. In short, the Games Villages is a complete township with all amenities and activities over there will be supervised by a Mayor.

The Village will be dismantled after the Games, with the dwelling units disbursed to Government School, Colleges, Government Departments, Public Health Centers, Panchayaths, Corporations and, Sports Institutions, which would be able to reconstruct these units to meet their various housing needs. ■

Village





to history

The genesis of the National Games is in the Olympic movement, which gathered momentum in the country in the 1920s. Aimed at promoting Olympic Sports in the country, the National Games in India was envisaged as the Indian Olympic Games in its initial years. The culmination of this movement was the launching of the 9th edition of the



The Games before 1947

Indian Olympic Games at Lahore in undivided Punjab in 1924. The competitions were held every two years in a major city of the country ever since. From 1940, the Indian Olympic Games was held as National Games. This event comprises of various sports disciplines in which sportsmen from the different states of India participate against each other.

The city of Lucknow hosted the National Games in its first post-independence avatar. The duration and the regulations of the National Games are entirely within the jurisdiction of the Indian Olympic Association. Although the periodicity of National Games is two years it is not allowed to coincide with the years scheduled for the conduct of Olympic Games and Asian Games. 2015 welcomes the National Games to Kerala for the second time in its 35th edition. The first occasion was in 1987 when the 27th National Games was held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Alappuzha, Kochi, Thrissur and Kollam.

	<i>Place/State</i>	<i>Year</i>
Indian Olympic Games		
I	Lahore	1924
II	Lahore	1926
III	Lahore	1928
IV	Allahabad	1930
V	Madras	1932
VI	New Delhi	1934
VII	Lahore	1936
VIII	Calcutta	1938
National Games		
IX	Bombay	1940
X	Patiala	1942
XI	Lahore	1944
XII	Lahore	1946
XIII	Lucknow	1948
XIV	Madras	1952
XV	Jabalpur	1953
XVI	Delhi	1954
XVII	Patiala	1956
XVIII	Cuttack	1958
XIX	Delhi	1960
XX	Jabalpur	1962
XXI	Calcutta	1964
XXII	Bangalore	1966
XXIII	Madras	1968
XXIV	Cuttack	1970
XXV	Hyderabad	1979
XXVI	Delhi	1985
XXVII	Kerala	1987
XXVIII	Maharashtra	1994
XXIX	Karnataka	1997
XXX	Manipur	1999
XXXI	Punjab	2001
XXXII	Hyderabad	2002
XXXIII	Guwahati	2007
XXXIV	Ranchi	2011
The 36th Games will be hosted by Goa, and the 37th by Chhattisgarh.		





G V Raja

The Versatile Genius

The history of Kerala Sports is well connected to Lt. Col. P. R. Godavarma Raja often referred to as G.V. Raja. He was very instrumental in promoting sports in Kerala. He took special care in inspiring the youth into sports and was instrumental in founding the Kerala Sports Council. G. V. Raja practiced and promoted sports in Kerala. He was involved in sports promotion, tourism, the aviation industry, and establishing the necessary infrastructure for the promotion of all these varied fields. According to the "Kerala for you" web site

G. V. Raja established the All India Sports Council in 1954, the first of its kind in the country. He formed the Golf Club Association in Kerala. He introduced Keralites to mountaineering and surfing. He excelled in football, tennis, golf, cricket etc.

G V Raja was the founder President of the Kerala State Sports Council as well as Kerala Cricket Association, and patron of a large number of sports clubs and associations. G. V. Raja invited Wimbledon champion Bill Tilden to Kerala to play an exhibition match on 30th January 1938. Following this, he

founded the Trivandrum Tennis Club on 1st February 1938 at Shasthamangalam. G. V. Raja was the president of Kerala Cricket Association from 1950 to 1963. He became the first person from Kerala to become an office-holder of BCCI Board of Control for Cricket in India when he became its Vice President. He was the founder President of the Travancore Sports Council (re-named Kerala Sports Council) that was formed in 1954. G. V. Raja remained the President of the Council till his death. The list of other organizations that he started includes Trivandrum



Golf Club Committee, Veli Boat Club, Roller Skating Ring, SreePaadam Stadium and Trivandrum/Kerala Flying Club (re-named as Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology).

He served as the Officer Commandant of the Travancore University Labour Core and was also the first Physical Education Director of the university. In 1953 he conducted Thirukochi Swimming Competition. He formed the Aquatic Association and was the President of Lawn tennis Association. He was instrumental in organizing the Asian Cup qualifying round tournament,

involving Israel, Iran, Pakistan and India, at the Maharaja's College Grounds, Ernakulam in 1959 and had spearheaded a team of organizers in hosting the Santosh Trophy for the first time in Kerala in 1956.

The sports school in Thiruvananthapuram was named G.V. Raja Sports School in his honour. A sports stadium in Thiruvananthapuram is named after him. Kerala State Sports Council instituted the G.V. Raja award, awarded yearly for excellence in sport. The Kerala Tourism Department's award for lifetime achievement in



tourism is also named after him. G V Raja's birth anniversary, 13 October, is observed as "Kerala Sports Day". ■



Newly constructed and renovated venues



Greenfield Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

The newly built Greenfield Stadium at Karyavattom has already become the star among the venues. It is here the opening and closing ceremonies of the 35th National Games are scheduled on 31st January and 14th February, respectively.



University Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

The Stadium will be known as MILKHA SINGH PLAZA (in honour of the great sprinter Milkha Singh), during the Games.
Events: Athletics will be held here from 9th -13th February.



Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

The Stadium will be known as P. T. USHA PLAZA in honour of P T Usha, the legendary athlete during the games. It will be the practice stadium for the athletes coming for the Games. Offices of the National Games Secretariat and National Games Organizing Committee are also functioning in the Chandrasekharan Nair Stadium.



Squash Court, Thiruvananthapuram

Events: Squash matches of the Games are scheduled at this Stadium from 1st - 4th February.



Newly constructed and renovated venues



Jimmy George Indoor Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

Jimmy George Indoor Stadium, located at the Kerala Water Authority Complex, Vellayambalam.

Events: Gymnastic and Hand Ball are scheduled here from 1st - 6th February and 8th - 13th February respectively.



Agriculture College Indoor Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

Agriculture College Indoor Stadium at Vellayani is owned by the Kerala Agricultural University. During the Games the Stadium will be known as M B SURESH BABU PLAZA in honour of Olympian M B Suresh Babu.

Events: Netball and Taekwondo are scheduled here from 1st - 5th February and 10th -13th February respectively.



Tennis Complex, Thiruvananthapuram

During the Games the Complex will be known as RAMANATHAN KRISHNAN PLAZA in honour of the Arjuna Awardee Ramanathan Krishnan.

Events: Tennis matches will be conducted here from 1st - 8th February.



Shooting Range, Thiruvananthapuram

During the Games the Shooting Range will be known as Dr. KARNI SINGH PLAZA in honour of Dr Karni Singh, an ace marksman.

Events: Rifle and Pistol Shooting are scheduled here from 1st - 7th February.



Newly constructed and renovated venues



Sreepadam Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

During the Games the Stadium will be known as BALWINDER SINGH PLAZA in honour of Arjuna Awardee Balwinder Singh.

Events: Kho-Kho and Kabaddi matches are scheduled here from 1st-5th Feb and 9th-13th February respectively.



Aquatics Complex, Thiruvananthapuram

During the Games the Stadium will be known as MIHIR SEN PLAZA in honour of the legendary swimmer Padmashri Mihir Sen.

Events: Aquatic events are scheduled here from 1st -7th February.



LNCPE, Velodrome, Thiruvananthapuram

The velodrome at Lekshmbai National College for Physical Education (LNCPE) at Karyavattom is owned by the Sports Authority of India.

Events: Cycling are scheduled here from 5th -13th February.



LNCPE, Indoor Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram

The Indoor Stadium at LNCPE, Karyavattom is owned by SAI.

Events: Wushu events are scheduled here from 7th -13th February.



Newly constructed and renovated venues



New Hockey Stadium, Kollam

During the Games the Stadium will be known as DHYAN CHAND PLAZA in honour of the legend Dhyan Chand.

Events: Hockey matches are scheduled here from 1st -11th February.



Lal Bahadur Shastri Corporation Stadium, Kollam

Lal Bahadur Shastri Corporation Stadium is owned by the Kollam Corporation.

Events: Rugby Sevens matches are scheduled here from 11th - 13th February.



Vembanad Lake, Alappuzha

Events: Rowing, Canoeing and Kayaking are scheduled here from 2nd - 5th February (Rowing) and 10th - 13th February (Canoeing and Kayaking).



Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium, Ernakulam

During the Games the Stadium will be known as PRAKASH PADUKONE PLAZA in honour of Padmashri Prakash Padukone.

Events: Table Tennis and Shuttle Badminton matches are scheduled here from 1st - 5th February and 9th - 13th February respectively.



Newly constructed and renovated venues



CIAL Convention Centre, Ernakulam

During the Games this Centre will be known as KHUSHI RAM PLAZA in honour of Arjuna Awardee Khushi Ram.
Events: Fencing competitions are scheduled here from 9th -13th February.



CIAL Lawn Bowl Court, Ernakulam

The CIAL Golf Course is under the ownership of CIAL Golf and Country Club, Ernakulam.
Events: Lawn Bowl competitions are scheduled here from 1st - 9th February.



Munambam Beach, Ernakulam

Events: Yachting Competition is scheduled here from 1st - 5th February.



VKN Menon Indoor Stadium, Thrissur

During the Games this Stadium will be known as KARNAM MALLESWARI PLAZA in honour of Olympian Karnam Malleswari.

Events: Weightlifting and Judo competitions are scheduled here from 1st - 5th February and 10th - 13th February respectively.



Newly constructed and renovated venues



Thriprayar Indoor Stadium, Thrissur

During the Games this Stadium will be known as Capt. HAWA SINGH PLAZA in honour of Arjuna Awardee Capt. Hawa Singh.

Events: Boxing matches are scheduled here from 6th - 13th February.



Corporation Stadium, Thrissur

During the Games this Stadium will be known as CHUNI GOSWAMI PLAZA in honour of Arjuna Awardee Chuni Goswami.

Events: Women's Football matches are scheduled here from 1st - 10th February.



Kerala Police Academy, Thrissur

Kerala Police Academy at Ramavarmapuram is under the ownership of Kerala Police.
Events: Trap and Skeet shooting events are scheduled here from 1st - 8th February.



Medical College Ground, Kozhikode

During the Games this Stadium will be known as P K BANARJEE PLAZA in honour of former Indian Football Captain P K Banarjee.
Events: Men's Football matches are scheduled here from 1st - 9th February.



Newly constructed and renovated venues



Corporation Stadium, Kozhikode

During the Games this Stadium will be known as PETER THANGARAJ PLAZA in honour of Arjuna Awardee Peter Thangaraj.

Events: Men's football matches are scheduled here from 1st - 9th February.



VKK Menon Indoor Stadium, Kozhikode

During the Games this Stadium will be known as JIMMY GEORGE PLAZA in honour of the legendary Volleyball player Jimmy George.

Events: Volleyball matches are scheduled here from 9th - 13th February.



Indoor Stadium, Kannur

During the Games this Stadium will be known as KD JADHAV PLAZA in honour of the India's best wrestler K D Jadhav.

Events: Wrestling and Basketball events are scheduled here from 1st - 4th February and 9th - 13th February respectively.



IRC Shangumugham, Thiruvananthapuram

Newly renovated stadium.



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