

STANDING OUT A MILE • EASE OF DOING BUSINESS • KERALA TOPS IN EDUCATION

KERALA CALLING

₹ 12/-

2019 NOVEMBER 01



BEST GOVERNANCE
LEAST CORRUPT
EDUCATION HEALTH
HIGHEST LITERACY &
PER CAPITA INCOME
GREAT COMMUNAL HARMONY
BEST LAW & ORDER
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDICES
DIGITAL STATE
SAFEST, CLEANEST & ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY

No. 1

prd.kerala.gov.in

 / Kerala Calling

OUR STATE: THE LIGHT OVER THE NATION



The Government cares for the welfare of the differently-abled for their all-round growth. Pranav, a differently-abled person, takes a selfie with the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. He came to donate what he earned through TV shows to the CMDRF.

Photo Credits: G. Sankaranarayanan

THE GUIDING LIGHT OVER THE NATION

A massive transformation is in full swing across the State since the Pinarayi Vijayan Government assumed power in 2016. The people-friendly measures and the visionary missions, viz. Harithakeralam, Aardram, LIFE and Education Rejuvenation have immensely transformed the key areas that directly affect people's lives. We have emerged NO.1 nationally in many an important sector by adopting people-centric policies to the core. Yes, the winds of change have started blowing and a new wave of development is sweeping across Kerala swiftly.

The latest achievement, though there are many in the latest category, our State has been crowned with is the recognition in the field of public education. As per Niti Aayog indices, Kerala has emerged first among other states. The two strong arms of a nation are education and health. In Both, we are invincible!

The Education Rejuvenation Mission has revamped our educational sector to a great extent. Our government schools keep pace with time. Classrooms have become hi-tech, infrastructure is competent with international standards and learning and teaching is no longer a burden to the students and teachers! School, which had been in a moribund state once, have got a new lease of life.

Our November issue is dedicated to the achievements we have got in education sector. You can read the success story of some of the schools, across the State with verbatim statements from the students and teachers.

We have a lot to achieve in the long run. The Government together with the participation of people is committed to making our State No 1 in every sector.

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

08

Standing Out A Mile

16

Let Malayalam be
Encouraged in All Spheres
Pinarayi Vijayan

18

Ease of Doing Business
Initiatives in Kerala

20

Kerala Bank All Set to
Become a Reality
Kadakampally Surendran

23

Teaching The Honey-Sweet
Tongue Beyond The Seas
Darsana Manayathu /
P K Velayudhan

26

Innovative Steps Made
Kerala Top Performer
Prof. C Raveendranath /
Anchitha Anil Kumar

31

People Participated, Democratic,
Secular, Learner Centered &
Activity Based Education
Dr Ratheesh Kaliyadan

32

Cotton Hill Scaling Heights
Parvathy Vijayan R

34

Moulding The Right Models

36

Not Just a Story of Transformation
But a Wave of Revolution
C V Kavitha

38

Getting Transformed into centre
of excellence

39

Kerala's Top Performance in
NITI AAYOG Education Quality
Index
Dr A P Kuttykrishnan



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

VIEWS

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

ENQUIRIES

Editorial : 0471 251 8648
Subscription : 0471 251 7036

TO SUBSCRIBE

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

Responses may be sent to mail:

keralacalling@gmail.com

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

EDITORIAL MATERIALS

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

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

Total number of pages: 52 + Cover

43

Government Schools Becoming a Force to Reckon With:
A Pradeep Kumar MLA

44

Sky is the Limit for
Karaparambu School
Sojith Koduvally

46

The Kerala model ICT enabled
Public Education System.
K Anvar Sadath

50

Far Ahead in School Education
P K Jayaraj

53

Nehruvian Socialism In The
21St Century
Dr Jyoti Atwal

KERALA TOPS IN CHILD NUTRITION DIETS

Kerala scored top position in the survey conducted by National Comprehensive Nutrition. As per the survey reports, Kerala is far ahead of other states in ensuring nutrition for children under 2 years. In all states except Kerala, anaemia is a serious health problem among children aged five to ten. The findings are from a study conducted by UNICEF. This achievement is a result of the State Governments proper involvement in child welfare and protection. Kerala ranked number one in the National Survey Report on Education and Health recently.

**WATER METRO TO BE LAUNCHED IN KOCHI**

The State Government is implementing an integrated multi - model transport system to modernize the growing Kochi transportation system by making them environment-friendly.

Water Metro is a giant project worth rupees 747 Cr which has a length of 78km. In the primary stage, the project will have 38 stations in 15 waterways. KMRL is responsible for the construction of Water Metro. Boats are made by cochin shipyard. The project has received Environmental Coastal Protection Act approval.

**KERALA DOMINATES IN COURT INFRASTRUCTURE**

Kerala is in the forefront for providing basic infrastructure facilities in Judiciary. According to the survey conducted by 'Vidhi' centre for legal policy, it was reported that Kerala had better facilities. The survey was based on the facilities to access the court, the cleanliness, the manner in which the case were handled, the security system and the website quality.





OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH

Through the Operation Breakthrough, the District Administration of Ernakulam was able to clear the waterlogging in Kochi during the torrential rain last month. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan issued directions to the administration to initiate urgent and concerted measures under the project to prevent waterlogging in Kochi. Many departments such as the Police, the Fireforce, the revenue, the P.W.D., the Irrigation, the K.S.E.B. and the corporation participated in the mission. It took only four hours to clear off the waterlogging with the active participation of the people as well.

COCONICS - KERALA'S OWN LAPTOP

Kerala's own laptop brand, COCONICS, will have hit the market by January 2020. Manufactured by Keltron, Coconics has already been bestowed with praise from all quarters. The laptop will be launched in three models and in four different colours. Along with Keltron, Coconics is being made with the association of Intel, UST Global, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation and a startup company Acceleron. "Coconics which is being made by aiming international markets, is a perfect example of Make in India," Intel's India head Nivruti Rai said.



NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ANOTHER 13 GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

13 government hospitals in Kerala also recognised with National Quality Assurance Standard (N.Q.A.S.). Family Health centre, Poothadi at Wayanad(97%), Government Taluk Hospital, Thamarasseri in Kozhikkode(93.6%), Family Health Centre, Thillankeri at Kannur(93%), Family Health centre, Kathiroor, Kannur(93%), Family Health Centre, Payppara in Ernakulam(92%), Family Health Centre, Velliyanoor at Kottayam(92%), U.P.H.C., Kallunira in Kozhikkode(90.6%), Family Health centre, Kottappady in Ernakulam(90%), Family Health Centre, Mulleriya at Kasrgode(90%), U.P.H.C., Kovvode at Kannur(88.9%), Family Health centre, Edacherry in Kozhikkode(88%), Social Health Centre, Kumarakam at Kottayam(85%), Family Health Centre, Pandikkad, Malappuram(84%) are the government hospitals that received N.Q.A.S. honour. With this, Kerala has bagged the first 12 positions among the best PHCs in the country.

In total, 55 institutions in Kerala received N.Q.A.S. recognition. These recognitions show that Kerala's efforts to revamp the health sector through the Ardran Mission get national and international attention.

Standing Out A Mile

The Pinarayi Vijayan Government has changed Kerala's development scenario to a great extent. It has positively influenced the social, cultural and more importantly the business climate of Kerala.

Annual Progress Report every year

The LDF election Manifesto had given word to the people of Kerala that every year they would be provided an account of the extent to which the promises made during the time of elections have been kept. People have the right to know how many of the election promises have been implemented. The progress report upholds and justifies such a democratic viewpoint. And with this act, the state of Kerala, which has served as a model to the rest of India in several fields, has taken another step forward.



Captain Who Led Kerala During Its Worst Flood

Kerala which in itself is a model for many aspects has also become one by how it overcame the flood. The state was appreciated by the United Nations Organisations and the world countries. This survival was a result of the togetherness of the people of the state keeping aside all the differences.

“ People have the right to know how many of the election promises have been implemented. The progress report upholds and justifies such a democratic viewpoint. And with this act, the state of Kerala, which has served as a model to the rest of India in several fields, has taken another step forward.



KERALA RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME



The Government is not aiming to reconstruct the flood struck Kerala as it is, rather it is to be reconstructed in such a way considering the environmental specialisation of the state to withstand any further natural disasters. This is supposed to be done by accepting the knowledge and inculcating the experiences of the world countries.



The Government has put forward a rehabilitation system without any sort of red-tapism as part of which the Kerala Reconstruction Program and its system have been framed.



The reconstruction programs are planned to ensure better living condition for the people than that was prevalent in the pre-flood period. The post-flood reconstruction programs with consultation from global experts for the needs and resources for the process is a new experience for a country that has faced many disasters. One thing is evident from such activities in that it will take around 3 years for the complete reconstruction of all assets. The reconstruction is aimed to be done strongly and efficiently to prevent any further loss in the assets that are built.



Time-bound completion with a detailed action plan and an estimated time limit for the program is the main approach for the Kerala Reconstruction Program. The plan is designed in such a way to meet the needs of social welfare, post-disaster living conditions and so on in an eco-friendly manner. All these ideas developed through the interaction with experienced officials in different departments and those from outside who are experts in the fields. An approach by inculcating the experiences of people from in and out of the country for reconstruction is taken up for the program.

The adopted techniques are mainly concentrated in three major fields.



Institutional and financial level frameworks to be formed for reconstructing Kerala with the strength to withstand natural disasters.



To find out new financial sources for minimising the damages caused by disasters and to strengthen the IT sectors of various departments to accelerate their institutional and financial states.



Approaches and measures to survive and reduce the effects of disasters to be made an important matter of concern while developing and distributing all essential services.

KIIFB For Prosperity

When the Government assumed its office, Kerala had huge development goals with limited resources. The limit of foreign borrowing which was fixed by the Central Government was also not increased, which again proved to be a problem. It was in such a stage that the Government put forward the idea of resource collection through KIIFB. Projects worth rupees 50,000 crores are aimed to be executed through KIIFB within the 5 years. Projects worth rupees 42,363 crores have been approved by KIIFB within these 3 years itself. KIIFB has also approved 533 projects under different departments by now of which 238 projects worth rupees 9928 crores have been tendered and 193 projects costing around rupees 7893 crores have been started. High tech classroom program, which was a major program of the state, was also completed by digitalising 45,000 classrooms with the fund from KIIFB. The first stage of installing Dialysis units in Taluk hospitals for benefiting common people was also done through KIIFB. The projects for installing labs for cardiac problems including facilities for Angiogram and Angioplasty in district hospitals are also done through KIIFB and also the process of installing Solar panels in forest boundaries was completed using KIIFB funds.

76 projects costing rupees 2038 crores was approved in the public education sector of which 49 projects worth rupees 1376 crores are already tendered and started. Projects worth rupees 1614.12 crores was approved in health sector and rupees 963.33 crores worth projects are tendered and projects worth rupees 678.02 crores are under construction. 249 projects worth rupees 10,491 crores are approved in Public Work Department of which 111 projects worth rupees 3104 crores have started. Rupees 3252.54 crores has been allocated for 66 projects in the water authority and 23 of them amounting to rupees 1083.15 crores have moved to the initial stages of construction. KIIFB has thus become a solution to the long aroused developmental questions of the people of the state.

KIIFB carries out projects in all constituencies irrespective of ruling or opposition sides. There are also specialities for the fund collections of KIIFB. Masala Bonds have been issued to attract deposits to KIIFB which created great responses. Rupees 2150 crores was collected via Masala Bonds. The invitation was given to the Chief Minister for the release function of KIIFB Masala Bonds in London Stock Exchange also shows the faith that the international communities have in Kerala.



The CM addresses a gathering in the Netherlands.



The CM With the CEOs of Airlines



K-PHONE INTERNET FOR ALL

Kerala is stepping on a new stone in technology with the implementation of 'K Phone' a dream project which focusses on providing complete internet connection to all. Differing from other states, Kerala is the one which has declared internet as a right for everyone. This project aims to make internet facility a reality for all. The scheme aims to provide high-speed internet connection at free of cost to 20 lakh families in backward areas. The internet facility as part of 'K-phone' project will be available for others at a reduced rate also.



FIRM STEPS



Amendment was passed providing the right to sit for those working in shops while working.



Industry was amended to "Ease of Doing" business.



Employment for people including scheduled castes to temples as priests.



Free electricity for the victims of Endosulfan.



Reservation for backward section of the forward class in Devaswom boards.



Laws made for preventing pollution of water bodies.



Clinical establishment bill passed to ensure the quality of the health sector.



Internet was declared to be the right of each citizen.



Electric vehicle policy brought about for environmental protection.



Country's first solar boat launched which is fuel-efficient and less pollutive.



E-auto to be manufactured in Kerala itself.



Kerala's own computer, Coconics to be developed by Keltron.



Jen robotics was initiated for waste disposal in manholes.



Electric bus was introduced to Kerala's public transport.



Artificial intelligence to be used in the traffic department.



Water ambulance was launched which proved helpful for the people of Kuttanad.



FIRST IN MANY



Kerala stands first in the sustainable development goal index developed jointly by UNO and NITIAAYOG.



Kerala emerged first in Health and Public Education sectors as per Niti Aayog indices.



Kerala is positioned in the list of states of the country which are upfront in matters like poverty alleviation, hunger lessness, law and order, distribution of justice etc.



The State holds second position in the industry, innovations and infrastructure developments.



Kerala has also been selected by the public affairs index as the most child-friendly state.



Kerala holds second position in law and order and third in environment conservation.



Kerala police received the SKOCH Governance Award 2018.



Kerala became first in fields such as welfare and gender equality.



Kerala tops the list of states providing best infrastructure facilities and the state also became first in aspects like provision of support for human progress and women and child security.



The mobile application 'Traffic Guru' of the State police received the sixth edition of UAE bps Best 'M' Government Service Award.



Kerala received in 2018, the national award for the states and individuals who ably carried out the differentially abled policy in 2016, that was instituted by the social justice department of Central Government.



Kerala received the Information Security Leadership Achievements Asia-Pacific (ISLA Asia-Pacific) Award 2018.



The Cyberdome of Kerala police bagged the smart policing award for best cybersecurity initiated by FICKI (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry).



The Kayyoor Family Health Centre in India in 2019 and the Valapattanam Family Health Centre in Kannur district and the Valiyaparamba Family Health Centre in Kasargod district received NQAS accreditation with 97% marks.



Kerala became the state with the most achievements in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Program and also the first position in water conservation through NREGP and was also awarded third place in time-bound wage distribution for NREG workers.



Kerala received the Pradhanamanthri Suraksha Mathruthwa Abhiyan Award given to the state with the least maternal mortality rate.



The Chalakkudy Taluk Hospital and Noolpuzha Family Health Centre were selected as the best Government hospitals of the country in 2018.



The Cochin International Airport Limited was selected for the 'Champion Of Earth' prize, the highest environmental award of UNO. CIAL was selected for this award for implementing the innovative idea of the world's first complete solar airport.



The Responsible Tourism Mission received 10 awards including 3 awards of WTM (2 gold awards and 1 highly commended award) after this Government took the office.



Kerala is the state with the best Government of the country according to the study of the Bangalore based public affairs centre. It is for the third consecutive year that Kerala bags this achievement.



Kerala State Handicapped Persons Welfare Cooperation Limited was selected in the best state channelizing agency category of N.H.F.D.C.



Kerala also bagged the India Today award for Environment Conservation and Cleanliness.



NEEM G KERALA'S OWN ELECTRIC AUTO

NEEM G, the State's own electric auto, Kerala is on the streets. 10 autos were launched in the first phase. Kerala Automobiles Limited (KAL) which is under the Industries department, is the manufacturer of electric vehicles. KAL (Kerala Automobiles) has emerged the country's first state PSU to get the nod for commercial production of electric auto rickshaws.



Kannur International
Airport Limited (KIAL)



Cochin International
Airport Limited (CIAL)



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



Launched IT Policy 2017, which envisions establishing Kerala as a preferred IT & ITES hub, particularly in leveraging emerging technologies to contribute significantly to GDP & employment.

The IT Department of Kerala constituted a High Power IT Committee (HPIC), which recommended the setting up of modern IT architecture in Kerala.



The launch of Technocity along with the foundation stone for first Govt IT building was laid by Hon'ble President of India on 27th October 2017.

The construction of the first IT building of 2 lakh sqft in Technocity campus has started.



A major FDI investment of 2000 crores was signed by Technopark with Taurus Investments Holdings for Phase 3 for the construction of a walk to work Downtown Trivandrum project. The project with its IT & non IT built-up space will tantamount to 57 lakh sq.ft, which is going to be the largest single investment in IT space in Kerala until now.

Another major achievement was the incorporation of US-based MNC H&R Block, which is the world's leading taxation company, in Technopark for a built-up space of over 40,000 sq.ft. H&R Block is a global consumer tax services provider and global 1000 company, having prepared more than 720 million tax returns since 1955.



At Phase 4, an area of 100 acres is earmarked as Knowledge City for setting up 'Centre of Excellence' (CoE) in emerging technologies. 'CoE's would be focussing on emerging technologies like Cognitive analytics, Cybersecurity, Blockchain, e-Mobility, Fintech, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual /Augmented Reality, Machine Learning and Space science.

Another major move was the stepping in of Tech Mahindra at Technopark. Tech Mahindra Limited executed lease agreement for 200 seater IT SEZ facility at Technopark Phase 3 in July 2018 for 12,000 sq.ft built up office space.

Tech Mahindra



Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between NISSAN Motor Co. Ltd and Technopark in June 2018 for 'Nissan Digital Hub', which will be a research and development facility and will function as the nerve centre of the company's research in electric and automated vehicles.



**Vizhinjam International Sea Port:
Work is in progress at a faster pace.**

Technopark Phase 3,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



The Crisis Manager

The State confronted one of the biggest floods in its history in August last year. When massive floods hit Kerala in August last year, claiming nearly 500 lives, paralysing the state for weeks and delivering an unforeseen blow to its economy. During this period, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's ability in crisis management drew global attention. The perseverance and determination he portrayed during these worst times in the history of Kerala was unparalleled. During the floods, people marooned were evacuated, relief camps set up, people were compensated and were able to go back to their normal routine within weeks.



MISSIONS



Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi (NKKP) is the Government's unprecedented initiative being implemented through four innovative Missions covering six prioritized sectors of the State. The programme is intended to touch the lives and livelihoods of the common man.

Being an inclusive programme, the missions are being implemented for the benefit of the vulnerable sections of our society. The Government is committed to reaching out to them with basic socio-economic services.



Haritha Keralam, the first Mission seeks to create an environment friendly approach, focusing on organic farming, water conservation and waste management.



The dream of each landless and homeless family to have a safe and secure roof over their head will be realized through the **LIFE** Mission, which will ensure Livelihood, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment for all homeless in the state.



Focusing on the next generation, **Education Rejuvenation** Mission will take the State forward from universalisation of education to modernization of education, with smart classrooms, digital libraries, IT enabled learning and contemporary syllabus.



Among health indicators the State has already achieved successes on par with other developed countries. Now, the focus is on people friendly health delivery system by converting PHCs into Family Health Centres and Taluk-District hospitals into super speciality hospitals, which are the key objectives of the mission, **AARDRAM**.

Let Malayalam be Encouraged in All Spheres

This November, United Kerala became sixty-three years old. Before the state formation, Kerala was administratively fragmented into Travancore-Kochi and Malabar. This was despite the region having people speaking the same language. Kerala formally became a State and a United Kerala came into being on November 1, 1956. It was a dream come true moment for all Malayalees.

By **PINARAYI VIJAYAN**
(Chief Minister, Kerala)

The movement for a United (Aikya) Kerala gathered momentum with the attainment of independence. On 1 July 1949, following the national policy of integration, the States of Kochi and Travancore were merged into Travancore-Kochi State under a Rajpramukh. The next step towards United Kerala came with the reorganization of States on a linguistic basis. This was in the light of the report of the States Reorganization Commission. The State's reorganisation led to few additions and subtractions. Malabar district and the Kasaragod taluk of South Canara district were added to Kerala. The Tamil-speaking southern region of old Travancore was given to Tamilnadu. The pre-unification

Kerala was geographically continuous but administratively fragmented. There were a few differences yet, however the language and common outlook united the people in their imagination. In short, harmonies had neutralized the differences. It was a long cherished dream of Malayalees everywhere to get united administratively. Therefore, the official agreement on November 1, 1956 was an emotional as well.

As we have witnessed in the formation of our State, language can act as a great foundation. When that foundation is strained, the nation is strained. We should not take the language which unites us, our mother tongue for granted. A language is like a living being, and

to make it vibrant and healthy it should be used wherever it is possible and allowed to grow. To understand whether a language is lively, one need to ask a few questions. Could that language be the language of sciences and studies? Could that language be an administrative language? Could that language be a language of the court? In the case of Malayalam, our mother tongue, a classical language, these questions must be addressed not by citing the government orders, but based on the lived experiences of the people.

Malayalam is the official language of all departments and institutions in Kerala. About 97% of Keralaites' native tongue is Malayalam. As a policy, the



“ The development of the language and the development of the administrative language are complementary in any country. That is, the gradual development of a language as the administrative language is influenced by the study of that language and development.

government has decided that the administrative functions of Kerala should be in Malayalam. Socially, culturally and emotionally, Malayalam is the binding force of the people of Kerala. Therefore, the spread of Malayalam language in all spheres of Kerala, including learning and governance, should be made possible.

Kerala's first government, led by EMS was the first to make Malayalam the official language of the state. In 1957, they formed a committee headed by C. Achutha Menon to study whether the language of administration should be Malayalam. In 1958, based on the report submitted by this committee the process of making Malayalam the official language of Kerala began. The C. Achutha Menon Committee commented that “it is an indisputable fact that the people's rule for the people should be in the language of the people, no matter what the issue may be.”

Article 345 of the Indian constitution empowers State Legislatures to adopt ‘any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes’ of the concerned State. In order to strengthen the legal validity of making Malayalam the official language in 1968 Chief Minister EMS Nambudiripad introduced the Kerala Official Languages (Legislation) Bill in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. According to the Kerala Official Language Act, which came into force on January 10, 1969, the official languages of the State of Kerala are Malayalam and English.

In 2015, a notification was issued to all the Departments and Institutions of Kerala making Malayalam the administrative language. It has been decreed that English and minority languages can be used whenever it is deemed necessary. In other contexts, without exception, it should be Malayalam. Despite the directive that these provisions should be strictly enforced from May 1, 2017, some departments have noted that they do not comply. It is my belief that Malayalam should not be imposed as administrative language by the law but that it should happen by the people's volition. However, the government will not hesitate to take disciplinary action against those who do not adhere to the directive and use Malayalam as the administrative language.

The development of the language and the development of the administrative language are complementary in any country. That is, the gradual development of a language as the administrative language is influenced by the study of that language and development. The successive governments after the formation of Kerala state, have taken steps to improve the educational, literary and cultural spheres. However, there was not enough measures taken to ensure the learning of mother tongue by all children in Kerala. The Malayalam Language Learning Act was passed in 2017 to address this shortcoming.

The government has taken several steps to use Malayalam as the official language. The official language department has developed an online dictionary and a mobile app called “Bharanamalayalam”, which has compiled over 20,000 English words and provided their Malayalam equivalents. Officers are given administrative language training and Malayalam computing training. Moreover, the District Language Administrative Awareness Program is conducted by the District Council to inform the officials and the public about rules and regulations on administrative language.

The competitive examinations conducted by the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) for the selection of officers who use Malayalam in administration are mostly based on English language. This contradiction adversely affects the usage of Malayalam as administrative language. The KPSC appoints government officials to serve the common people. So those who come into the government system should be able to communicate well in Malayalam. Only then can justice be ensured to ordinary people who know only Malayalam. The government has therefore asked the KPSC to provide question papers in Malayalam, for the examinations conducted by them.

If the mother tongue of a majority of the people of Kerala is not used for administrative purposes, it is a violation of human rights. Therefore, every official has to give special attention to ensure that Malayalam is used in administration. Government is committed to strengthen our mother tongue, the foundation of our State's formation. The efforts are on full swing to impart the usage of the Malayalam in all spheres, including science and technology. [KC](#)

Ease of Doing Business Initiatives in Kerala

The business and industrial climate of Kerala saw conducive to the investors that they can invest with supreme confidence in the God's Own Country.

Government of Kerala (GoK) has been taking many earnest and proactive steps to improve the ease of doing business environment in the State. The State had been undertaken with specific emphasis on simplification of the existing Acts & Rules and introduction of Information Technology to make governance more efficient, effective, transparent and user-friendly. The main aim has been to identify specific areas for improvement in various aspects of doing business in the State.

The various initiatives undertaken as a part of the Ease of Doing Business

including publishing the omnibus Kerala Investment Promotion and Facilitation Act, 2018, amending the 7 Acts and 10 Rules, have ensured the creation of an enabling environment for establishing and running of enterprises in the State. The Government has ensured elimination of redundant regulations, simplification of clearance procedures, reduction in timelines for clearances, established Standard Operating Procedures, increased duration of clearances and establishing an Investment Promotion and Facilitation Cells(IPFC) across the State and many more investor friendly initiatives.

Government of Kerala also implemented a web-based application named Kerala Single Window Interface for Fast and Transparent Clearance (KSWIFT), which is a platform for all future transactions with the Government on the issue of granting licenses and approvals in a time bound manner. Presently, the services of the 16 Departments / Agencies are being made available in KSWIFT, wherein all the clearance/approvals can be submitted through a unified Common Application Form (CAF). This application will ensure Fast, Transparent and Time bound clearances and will reduce drastically the physical touch points.



With policies in place, the state government also identified priority sectors has also identified priority sectors viz., Petrochemical, Life science, Electronics, Food processing and Defence as the key drivers of growth for the years to come.

The Government has ensured setting up of dedicated industrial parks for each of the priority sectors enabling an all encompassed environment for industries in these sectors to start business. The Life Science Park with a total area of 75 acres in Thiruvananthapuram district, The Electronics Hardware Park with a total area of 100 acres in Ernakulam District, Defense Park with a total area of 60 acres in Palakkad District, Petrochemical Park with a total area of 481.79 acres in Ernakulam District and the two Mega Food parks are in Palakkad and Alapuzha districts with an extent of 147.42 Acres.

The industrial parks would be the most prestigious projects of the State Government, promoting manufacturing, assembling units and R&D centers. Also, the State Government have put in place schemes for subsidy, grants etc. for industries being set up in the State. The state has developed allottable industrial land of over 2000 acres.

Over and above the industrial advantag-

es Kerala is now well connected with 4 international airports at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode and Kannur and two International Container Transshipment Terminals at Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram. The Government has put the right foot forward in leveraging the key strengths of the State viz., first fully digital State, Biodiversity, Excellent law and order situation across the State, development of Core Sectors such as Tourism, IT/ITES, Plantations etc.

The State with a high Human Development Index has ensured specific focus on skill development initiatives for different industry domains. The initiatives to improve employability of workforce by the State Government has ensured that Kerala has achieved one among the top 5 ranks in the India Skills Report 2018.

Kerala is now transforming itself as an emerging destination for setting up enterprises and doing business. The State has become a center point for investors, with its advantages of abundant skilled labour, excellent industrial infrastructure, connectivity and industry friendly rules and regulations. The State has been able to implement reforms to satisfy the purposes of domains of digitization, delegation and disclosures. **KC**

As part of strengthening and expanding the KSWIFT, Government intends to carry out the second phase of KSWIFT which includes Renewal services; more features like Central Inspection System, land allotment, incentives and adding of new departments/Agencies.

Government of Kerala has also implemented an Invest Kerala Portal, which is a single window facilitator for investment promotion for prospective and aspiring investors. The Invest Kerala Portal is the common repository for land bank details, investor wizard, various services, schemes, lenders etc.



Kerala Bank

All Set to Become a Reality

By **KADAKAMPALLY SURENDRAN**
(Minister for Co-operation, Tourism and Dewaswom)

The three-tier, short-term agricultural credit scheme in Kerala is a federal system that involves the co-ordinated effort of the State Co-operative Bank, 14 District Co-operative Banks and more than 1600 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). This system in Kerala stands head and shoulders above its counterparts in all the other states in the country, and can hold its own against even the commercial banks in terms of strength and popular customer-base. The idea about merging the District Co-operative Banks with the State Co-operative Bank in order to create “Kerala Bank” came out of a desire to make it even more efficient and growth-oriented in whatever ways possible. The LDF had taken this political decision much before the 2016 Legislative Assembly elections, and informed the people about it by mentioning the proposed project in the election manifesto. The citizens of the state voted the LDF to power and, with their

ratification, the realization of the idea of “Kerala Bank” became an important item in the agenda of the government. The opinion that a two-tier agricultural credit scheme is the option best suited for a small state like Kerala took shape in the 1970s. In accordance with it, the Co-operative Sector Working Group recommendation during the fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79) was as follows: While the existing three-tier structure co-operative credit institutions may be continued in the larger states, it would be desirable to try a two-tier structure in smaller states. The Central Co-operative Banks which now form the middle tier could in such cases be amalgamated with the State Co-operative Banks and converted into its branches.

During the fifth Five-Year Plan period itself, the Working Group had recommended that states like Kerala, Haryana and Assam should implement the two-tier system. The Study Group,

appointed in 1972 by the Reserve Bank, too had stated its opinion that a two-tier system was desirable for Kerala. All of us are aware that during the tenure of the UPA government, the Committee headed by Sri Prakash Bakshi, Chairman, NABARD, had recommended the implementation of a two-tier structure, by avoiding the PACS. We however did not accept it because Kerala has never agreed to the elimination of democratic systems that work on the principle of direct public participation. Ensuring the protection and security of the PACS has always been one of the policies of the LDF. It is with such an intent that the Left Government is going ahead with the creation of Kerala Bank that will provide a long-term financial security cover to the state. The eighth Co-operative Congress held at Kannur in February 2018 discussed the issue of the formation of Kerala Bank, in the presence of more than 3000 prominent Co-operators, and not only accepted

it but underscored the Kerala government's co-operative policy regarding the establishment of Kerala Bank.

Extensive Preparations for the Realization of Kerala Bank

Within a few months of assuming office in May 2016, the Government of Kerala started taking decisions and implementing steps for establishing Kerala Bank. On 28 September 2016, it appointed a five-member Expert Committee, chaired by Sri M. S. Sreeram, Professor at IIM, Bengaluru, to make a detailed study and submit a report on the various aspects of the structural changes involved in the process. The report was submitted on 28 April 2017. After making a few amendments (as the state government could not agree to the recommendation that the number of branches as well as staff be decreased), the government accepted it on principle. Thereafter, a Task Force headed by Sri V. R. Ravindranath, who had retired as Chief General Manager of NABARD, was created in order to take the required measures on the recommendations. A project plan for the merger of the State and District Co-operative Banks at the practical level was prepared, and submitted to NABARD and the Reserve Bank, through the State Chief Secretary, on 2 September 2017 for ratification. It was subjected to scrutiny at various levels, and the explanations submitted by the government on various queries were examined. Finally, the Reserve Bank granted its official sanction on 3 October 2018, against 19 conditions, for the conversion of the tree-tier agricultural credit system into a two-tier one, and the merger of District Co-operative Banks into the State Co-operative Bank. All the conditions were fulfilled, and an application was submitted through NABARD to the Reserve Bank before 31 March 2019. Now the government is in receipt of the final sanction for the merger. Fulfilling the conditions laid down by the Reserve Bank within a short span of time was itself no mean task.

Why the Opposition protests

Ever since this government announced its decision regarding the formation of Kerala Bank, and started taking measures to implement it, the Opposition has been raising childish objections. The Opposition Leader went on to



say that he would go to any lengths to prevent it, and even wrote a letter to the Reserve Bank Governor to the same effect. Many fake letters appeared and false cases were framed. But with an iron resolve, the government was able to overcome all these obstacles. Despite official ratification from the Reserve Bank, our opponents are not willing to back down. However, the full sanction for the formation of Kerala Bank is a fitting reply to those who headed the smear campaign. We are able to make Kerala Bank a reality because we went according to protocol in a sincere and transparent manner. Kerala Bank will be a milestone in the financial growth of the state.

Today, Kerala Bank is serving as a model for the entire country. Representatives of the Congress-led government of Punjab came to our state, and on returning to their land they have stated that they would follow our template. The Punjab government has since decided to merge 20 of their District Co-operative Banks with the State Co-operative Bank. The BJP-led Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh has commissioned a Professor of IIM, Lucknow, to submit a Study Report for merging 50 of the state's District Co-operative Banks with the State Co-operative Bank. In Maharashtra, a committee chaired by former NABARD Chairman Sri Yashwant

Thorat has been constituted. Plans for similar mergers are afoot in Jharkhand and Chattisgarh. In TRS-ruled Telangana, a lot of serious thought is going on about converting the short-term credit facility into a two-tier system. Thus, while this trend of following the Kerala path has caught on all over the country – in states ruled by different, small and big political parties – the protest mounted by the UDF is nothing short of political pauperism.

Lower Interest Rates on Loans

Kerala Bank will make it possible for us to give more agricultural loans. That is because the unification will lend greater financial muscle to Kerala Bank, and thus help it receive renewed loans from NABARD. With the level of the District Co-operative Bank eliminated, there are better chances of lowering the interest rate on agricultural loans extended to farmers from the existing level of 7%. There will be a similar impact on non-agricultural loans as well.

Non-resident Keralites' Investment in Kerala Bank

The total amount sent every year to Kerala by our brothers and sisters working overseas comes to the tune of Rs 1.5 lakh crores. But none of this NRI investment flows into our State or Dis-

A photograph showing a person's hands using a tablet computer. The person is wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt. They are holding a white card with a blue design, possibly a bank card or a document, over the tablet screen. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a wooden table and some lights.

WILL BECOME A FAVOURITE AMONG YOUTH

trict Co-operative Banks. The reason is that currently these banks are unable to fulfil the financial parameters laid down by the Reserve Bank for receiving NRI funds. With the merger and unification done, it will be possible to fulfil the conditions, and this will attract huge NRI deposits to Kerala Bank. By utilizing these funds in our land, we will be able to make a substantial leap forward in the field of development.

No Hidden Fees in Kerala Bank

Private, new-gen as well as nationalized banks squeeze their customers in different ways. Over the last few years, they have sucked thousands of crores of rupees from people by way of service charges and fines. Recently we read news reports about how last year alone SBI, the largest bank in the public sector, extracted Rs 1772 crores from their customers because they did not have minimum balance in their accounts. Kerala Bank will be able to put an end to this extortion at least in our land.

Kerala Bank will become a favourite among Youth

Only if our co-operative banking sector embraces the latest technological developments will we be able to attract our young clients to this field. Currently

only 23 % of the customers of the co-operative banks are below 50 years of age. In their present condition, the co-operative banks of today are unable to provide the technological amenities that the youth demand. But Kerala Bank, which will emerge from the unification of the co-operative banks, can arrange such facilities with ease. Besides, Kerala Bank will have the “brand value” that the youth look for. Doubtlessly, this change will usher in a competitive atmosphere that will infuse professionalism among the employees, make modern banking products as well as services available, and attract investments from foreign countries.


Transparency in Kerala Bank

The government has decided that when Kerala Bank comes into being, its ownership and voting rights will vest with the PACS and the Urban Co-operative Banks. But it will continue to extend all the loan facilities, as they exist at present, to non-credit organizations. The principle underlying this attitude is that agricultural credit-banking activities should be maintained in their purest forms. This has been the Left ideology all along.

When Kerala Bank becomes a real-

“ Directorate of General Education supplied grade-specific children’s literature comprising of books in languages, science, social science and general studies to all elementary schools in the state.

ity, the greatest beneficiaries will be the PACS and its members. What we foresee is that through them, Kerala Bank will be able to offer technologically-advanced services to the ordinary rural population as well. By extending such benefits and possibilities to the people, Kerala Bank will be fulfilling its role of paving the way for a permanent and comprehensive development of the state. When our dream of having our own bank becomes a reality, our state will be able to stand tall on the foundation of financial security. This will bring into existence Kerala’s own co-operative bank that will provide services to the people in the quickest manner, without exploiting them. prd.kerala.gov.in/publication/keralacalling



Darsana Manayathu with her dear students at the University of Texas, Austin, USA.

Teaching The Honey-Sweet Tongue Beyond The Seas

Darsana was born and raised in the village of Kumbazha in Pathanamthitta in south Kerala. At one point of time, she almost gave up studies when her lack of proficiency in English became a roadblock. But soon the will to regain control of her life prevailed, and she eventually became a Professor at the prestigious University of Texas at Austin, USA. This is a saga of her unusual level of persistence, enterprising spirit and pure grit.

DARSANA MANAYATHU/ P K VELAYUDHAN

Darsana secured high First Class marks in her 10th standard but faced humiliating failure in her 12th where she had chosen the Science stream. In fact, in one of the mid-term exam papers she got just nine marks! Her teacher mocked her and talked about displaying her answer sheets in the staff room.

Inability to understand what is taught when English is used as the means of communication is a problem common to all Malayalam-medium school educated students hailing from villages. Darsana, a victim of similar circumstances, soon grew tired of education. But she went on to earn M. Phil. and Ph. D. degrees in Malayalam, and became Dr Darsana Manayathu, a Malayalam Professor at the University of Texas at Austin, USA. Let us listen to that victory saga straight from the horse's mouth.

Dr Darsana, let us start from your life in Kerala. Where is your native place? Would you recount your childhood for us?

I was born in the village of Kumbazha in Pathanamthitta district. Now Kumbazha has become a small town. Both my parents were school teachers. I studied in Government schools. Along with my parents' job-related transfers, I also had to switch schools.

After garnering excellent results in my SSLC exams I opted for the Science stream for my 11th and 12th. But the subjects were impossible to master. In the mid-term exams, I got only nine marks for Chemistry. The teacher's severe ridicule hurt me a lot. Despite putting in great effort I could acquire only Third Class marks.

How did Malayalam language become so dear to you?

My father was a Malayalam teacher. He used to read scores of books and narrate many stories to us. It was through those stories that I started to love the language. When I joined for my Degree course I took Malayalam as my elective subject. All my relatives, other than my parents, opposed that decision. They asked me why I was taking up a subject that offered no job opportunities.

I joined for B.A. Malayalam in Catholice College, Pathanamthitta. There were three English papers in B.A. and I failed in all. I experienced a lot of anxiety in those days. Ultimately, I cleared English by taking supplementary exams in the final year. I joined for B.Ed. in Elanthoor afterwards. With that I started focusing seriously on academics.

When did you start pursuing language studies in earnest?

It was after I joined University College, Thiruvananthapuram for my M.A. The world



Long Horn Malayali Students Association team

of books that the Central Library and the University Library opened up for me taught me that the world was not a small place at all. I was able to read extensively, within and outside the syllabus, simultaneously. It was while pursuing M.A. that I understood what M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes were. I was also able to get my M.Phil. degree from University College.

based on the novels, Theekkadal Kadanju Thirumadhuram (by C. Radhakrishnan, founded on Ezhuthachan's life), Guru (by K. Surendran, on Narayana Guru) and Daivaguruvinte Ozhivukalam (by P. Mohanan, on Kunchan Nambiar). Prof. M. G. Sasibhooshan was my guide.

How did you find your calling – teaching Malayalam to foreigners?

During the period of my research work, I collaborated with Malayalam Mission's Namukkum Padikkam Malayalam [We Also Can Learn Malayalam] project and I should say that it was a turning point. It was my first opportunity in training foreigners to speak Malayalam. Students of Dr Madhavan Unnithan, who was a professor then at the University of Texas, attended this session as part of their study abroad programme, along with German scholars and several students of other nationalities as well. My work as Co-ordinator and Instructor for this programme during those days was a service, done without receiving any payment. My appointment as Regional Language Trainer to non-Malayali officer recruits at Accountant General's office was also a memorable experience.

When did you get the opportunity to join the University of Texas?

I submitted my resume upon seeing an advertisement announcing teaching opportunities in Texas. A week after getting my Ph.D. certificate, I got the call for interview. It was at Chennai. Dr Martha Ann Selby, the Head of the Department, took my interview. Exactly a month later, I got my appointment letter.

“The College of Liberal Arts and The University of Texas at Austin are proud to be the home of a unique and robust program in the Malayalam language and Kerala studies. For more than forty years, this program has supported students in their academic research, professional development, and self-discovery”.

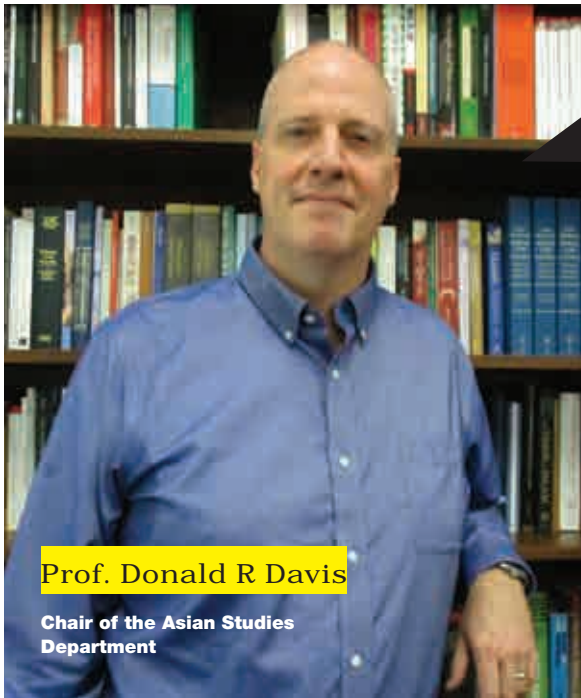
What was your Ph. D. research topic? Who was your guide?

My thesis was on history and creative freedom in Malayalam novels. It was a study



Ann Huff Stevens

Dean of College of Liberal Arts, University of Texas at Austin



“I have watched our Malayalam program grow on campus from the time I was a student here until I became the Department Chair. Initially, the program had a largely academic focus. Now, the program helps student learn Malayalam to communicate in many areas. We now have three main aims in our Malayalam programme—academic, professional, and personal. When I was a Malayalam student at UT-Austin in 1992, the programme was centred on academics. Now our Malayalam program has a broad scope. We facilitate a wide range of interests: research, employment, and personal discovery. We are so glad and proud to say that our university is the only university in the United States with such a vibrant Malayalam programme. And, it is a great honour and show of support for us that the Government of Kerala is noticing us. Studying Malayalam has made me a better person. So, I look forward to working with the Government of Kerala and its universities to share my experience with others. I foresee several possibilities for future collaboration. First, student and faculty exchange. For example, if the Government wanted to send a research student or a faculty for a short term, that person could teach in our Malayalam programme. Second, student from UT-Austin could go to Kerala for a summer academic programme, an internship, or NGO work, and the Government could help us establish those connections. In these ways, our programme can grow. We look forward to any opportunities for cultural exchange with the Government of Kerala.”

“ Malayalam study programmes have been on offer here for the past 44 years. In the year I joined, there were nine students taking this course and in my second year, there were six. In Kerala, tutors just had to teach Malayalam. Here, preparing syllabi, holding examinations and grading students’ performance, all fall under our responsibility.

Would you with us share the memories of your first day in Texas?

I reached here [the US] in August 2014. It felt like stepping into an entirely new planet. It was not possible to be sure-footed. Food, climate, language, environment, everything was a problem.

Dr Donald R. Davis, a Professor at the university back then, extended welcome by speaking to me in Malayalam. There were no bounds to the joy it gave me. Now he is the Department Chair. Till date he has spoken to me only in Malayalam.

What is the teaching methodology followed at the University of Texas?

Malayalam study programmes have been on offer here for the past 44 years. In the year I joined, there were nine students taking this course and in my second year, there were six. In Kerala, tutors just had to teach Malayalam. Here, preparing syllabi, holding examinations and grading students’ performance, all fall under our responsibility. Dr Davis helped me a lot with conducting the Malayalam programme.


In his view, students should not only learn the language, but know how to use it as well. For that, language-related cultural activities must also be organized. So we introduced the students to Onam celebrations and other festivities of Kerala. We conducted different

seminars. All our students’ accomplishments started appearing in newspapers and online media. We shared these news items with several Malayali associations in America. I feel proud in being able to increase the number of students, taking the forty-odd-year-old Malayalam programme, from nine to 32 in just five years. It was achieved with the solid support extended by Dr Davis, the Chair of the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas. I was nominated twice for the Texas Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Awards.

Are you working with Malayalam Mission’s programmes in America?

Malayalam Mission offers weekly Malayalam sessions in Dallas. I have conducted a workshop for their teachers. I have come to understand that they get good support from Malayalis in America.

Do you have any future plans to arrange programmes for Texas-based Malayalam language students in coordination with the Government of Kerala?

Cultural exchange programmes can be conducted if a connection is established with the State Government in the future. As a part of this, short-term exchange visits can be arranged for the students which will be beneficial to the Malayalam students in the state. There is a plan to submit such a proposal to the Government. 



Innovative Steps Made Kerala Top Performer

In the education sector, Kerala has emerged as the top-performer as per Niti Aayog Indices. Education and Health are the two arms of a progressive nation. In both, Kerala has bagged top performer. Thus, Kerala has proved, beyond doubt, that it has every right to be a model for other states to follow.

PROF. C RAVEENDRANATH/ANCHITHA ANIL KUMAR

On this joyous occasion, the Education Minister of Kerala, Prof. C Raveendranath speaks to *Kerala Calling* on the facts and factors that made Kerala No.1 in the education sector. His industriousness and vision in revamping the education sector of Kerala has already yielded many a result.

The efforts made by the Government are now recognized at the national level and are therefore much more appreciable. What were the prime factors, in your view, that helped the State secure such a top position?

Kerala today occupies a remarkable

position in terms of several indicators of social and human development. It is the expansion of general education that has set a quality mark in Kerala State. Because of the proper reforms made in the education sector we were able to bring about a paradigm shift. Kerala has successfully reached the Millennium Development Goals set for education. It is a well-known fact that Kerala was the first state to achieve universal literacy. With effective restructuring of academic and infrastructure facilities, our Government schools underwent a sea change. We can see that the dropout rates are very low in schools. Another feature of Kerala's educational system is that it developed mainly through

institutions that are owned or aided by the Government. Today the education sector is in the arms of private groups. Instead of that, we have to make it more accessible to the public. 'Pothu Vidya-abyasa Samrakshana Yajnam' aims to bring every student to the forefront of education. Democratic centralization of education tries to focus on every student to improve their quality in education. That itself was a smart move in securing top position in the education index. As an added advantage, the high-tech facilities provided by the Government kept Kerala in a high position. Because of these significant and innovative steps, Kerala proudly bagged a prominent position in NITI Aayog survey index.



GET-UP (Girls Empowerment Training)

It is an innovative programme aimed at the comprehensive development of girl children in Upper Primary, Secondary and Higher Secondary schools. As a part of this programme girls, clubs will be established in every school. The entire programme is scheduled to be done in a research mode. These clubs can organize focused group discussions, debates, poster competitions, thematic plays, workshops, etc., to identify gaps in school activities concerning gender, and make recommendations on how to fill these gaps. The Club can organize the school's annual function on the theme of gender equality and women's empowerment and encourage students to sign up and express their support for gender justice and equality. It can organize exposure visits to various public service institutions at the village, block, district and city levels (public health centres, hospitals, post offices, banks, police stations, block offices) to facilitate the acquisition of information about gender issues as they affect diverse populations.



Knowing the pulse of classrooms. Education Minister Prof. C. Raveendranath is interacting with students.

Providing elementary education for girls and bringing them in the public sphere is always a challenge for some of the states in India. But our state Kerala is bringing the girls students from the margins to the centre. The survey has given importance to the criterion of 'girl-friendly educational infrastructure' in schools. We are already in forefront in imparting this. How do you see this?

Universalizing elementary education for girls is not a major issue in the State. Kerala's educational scenario shows that the State has successfully tackled first-generation problems like illiteracy, low enrolment of girls in schools, etc. Our education system runs on the principle of inclusivism. This is one kind of basic system which not only functions for providing basic education but also includes every student from every section of society. A system that brings students from different strata of society maintains diversity. So much so that everyone is automatically included in the education system. Because of that, there is no need to highlight the special care given to girls students as they are also included in the 'all-inclusive' education system. Apart from this, special interest has given to child-focused education. With the adoption of people-friendly

steps and democratization, opportunities for the girl students have become a part of the system. Together with that, various steps have taken to resolve the issues related to social and gender gaps in society. We also plan to initiate several measures that will impart confidence, give a sense of security, and ensure physical and mental health along with quality education to girl children.

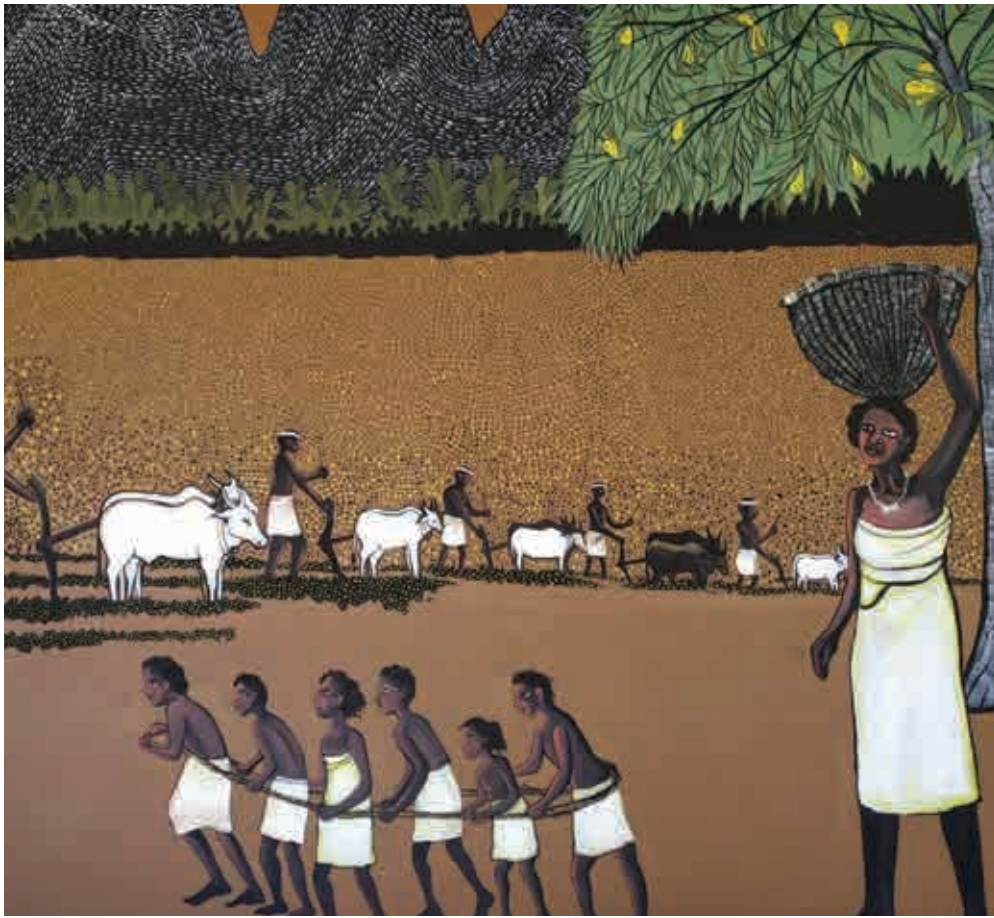
Even though the State has proved its excellence in infrastructure, equality and other basic factors, don't we need to increase facilities in primary schools in tribal areas, and conduct them in a better way?

The Government has come up with many innovative projects, and special focus has been given to the primary education in the tribal areas. There is a scheme called 'selime kaale' by SSA which educates tribal students in their language. Only by these innovative ways can we bring these students towards the path of public education. By making them comfortable in their language, it will be quite easy to teach them other subjects. What makes the education sector of Kerala different from other states is that all these come under the idea of democratic classroom concept. We have to understand that tribal students also

come under 'all-inclusive education' system as they are part of our society.

What is your vision of the cooperation of the public in enhancing the Public education Rejuvenating Mission in a much better way?

The schools must be more people-oriented. With a joint effort of PTA, LSGD and school alumni we can bring far-reaching changes in our school systems. The public along with Government has the responsibility to protect the schools. By extending their hand in the construction of buildings, parks and by planting trees they can join the schools to promote better education for the future generations. By joining hands, we can harmoniously make a fruitful academic year. Drastic changes have been made in the syllabus with a vision to bring sweeping changes that will be in tandem with the modern outlook of academic era. Other than learning the lessons by heart, we have to encourage reasoning capacity among children. Let us spread the wings of thought and identify the true potential of each student. They have to walk towards life with the glow of A plus. The growth of students will ensure the future growth of society also. With all these in the mind, the Kerala psyche is in the cusp of a change. **KC**





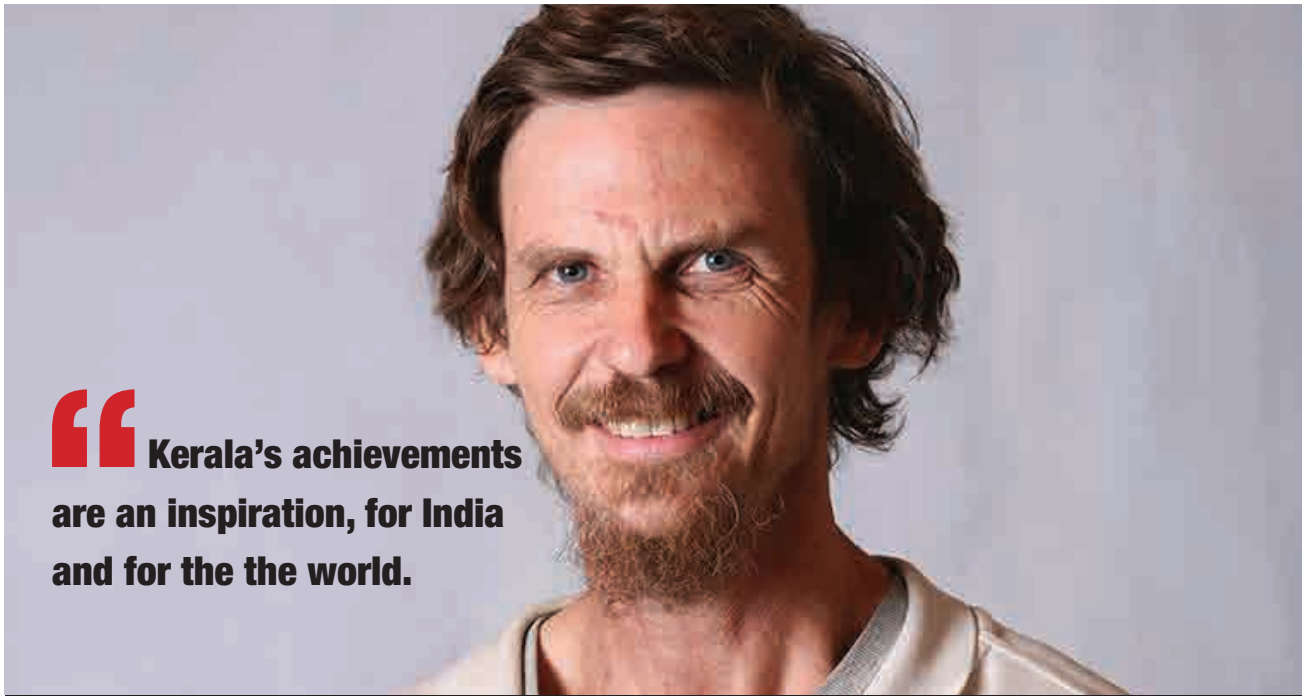
Selimae Kaala- Tribal Wall Art

Samagra Shiksha Kerala has implemented a project in schools “Selimae Kaala”(period of prosperity) focussing on tribal culture of Attapaadi of Palakkad district. The major highlights of the tribal culture of this region include living in groups, gender equality, sustainable environment, simple life etc. Selimae kaala denotes these.

As tribal language doesn't have a written script, the rich tradition and culture are becoming unknown to the new generation. Like other languages, tribal languages also has got riddles and proverbs. The great literature that is on the way of diminishing its quality needs to be protected. In view of this, Samagra Shiksha Kerala ,shows interest in including the songs and stories of the tribals. The document is prepared by the guidance of teachers from three different tribal groups who visited different tribal hamlets and getting information from older people as well.

Child-friendly school is a part of the basic concept of education. It was in this situation that Samagra Shiksha, Kerala has decided to inscribe the tribal art on the walls of Agali Govt.L.P. School. As part of activities on strengthening public school system, school premises are used to make attractive; but being exposed to a culture and tradition of tribals, Samagra Shiksha expects schools in Attapadi to represent the core of its culture as well.

The wall consists of the arts of three tribal groups in Attapadi viz, Irula, Muduga, Kurumba. The art depicts the traditions followed by tribal people right from birth to death. We can understand the specialties of the life of tribal people through art. These pictures depict their lifestyle, attitude towards environment, sustainable living style, gender equality, concern towards fellow beings, etc.



“ Kerala’s achievements are an inspiration, for India and for the the world.

Jean Drèze Indian economist

The more we learn about Kerala’s unique development experience, the more we realise that its foundation lies in a history of mass education, going back to the 19th century. Both government and private non-profit institutions have played an important role in this history. It is the early spread of mass education that has enabled Kerala to make rapid strides towards better health, higher wages, social equity and participatory democracy. Kerala’s achievements are an inspiration, for India and for the the world.



Gopal Guru Political Scientist & Editor, Economic & Political Weekly (EPW)

“The Government has undertaken many important initiatives that are aimed at modernizing traditional industries and technology. The government of Kerala, in the union of India, has become an unavoidable reference point for comprehensive progress”

People Participated, Democratic, Secular, Learner Centered & Activity Based Education

By DR RATHEESH KALIYADAN (Education Expert, Pothuvidyabhyasa Samarakshana Yajnam)

The unique model architecture of contemporary Kerala education ecosystem reflects three core values viz. people participation, modernization and humanity. Pothuvidyabhyasa Samarakshana Yajnam (Public Education Rejuvenation Mission) constituted to erect such architecture to assure quality education for all, satisfying equality and equity questions to transform Kerala society as inclusive and marginalization free. Three years' experience of Pothuvidyabhyasa Samarakshana Yajnam embodies a long march which put an end to 25 years history of tremendous trend of fallen enrolment ratio in public schools i.e. Government and Government aided schools. If the enrolment ratio acts as an indicator for quality education, Kerala society recently realized that better educational opportunities and avenues are being provided by public education system. That's why students left private uneconomic schools and joined hands with public education institutions.

Report reports

Almost all national reports indicate higher performance by Kerala team consisting students, teachers, parents, local community, old students and local self-governments. Best example is NITI Ayog's State Education Quality Index report 2019 comprises Performance Grade Index and National Achievement Survey. According to this report, Kerala scores 82.02 scores which mark the first rank in both governance and academic performances. Though the report ranks Kerala as No.1, it reminds Kerala model of education designers to contribute more on equity, equality and qualitative academic action for more perfection. Comparative performance analysis of post SEQI indicates better results in almost all public examinations including SSLC, USS and LSS. It does not mean that Kerala is fully furnished satisfactorily with zen percentage achievement. We have a long way

to forward. It's on the basis of this thought. Pothuvidyabhyasa Samarakshana Yajnam play key role in transformative education to design and develop a unique model of education.

People Participatory education

Triggering social vigil through social auditing and accountability is one of the ways to calling attention of the local community to the design part of academic, administrative and facilitative interventions. When corporatized educational thoughts and practices that propose and promote Public Private Partnership in education get prime attention among policy makers and governments, Kerala tries to pull an alternative of Public Public Partnership. The first 'public' stands for government's contribution and the second 'public' is people participation in assuring quality education. The people participation mode is one of the unique characteristics of contemporary Kerala education. Both partnerships tied up to ensure adequate infrastructure, modernization and delivery of quality education through academic performances embedded with constitutional values and feels.

On infra development side, government directly contributes crores through KIIFB and plan funds. People's contribution along

“Learner centered and activity based class room practices are designed and motivated through developing Academic Master Plans and Action Plans in each school where local community voiced their apprehensions and dreams.

with Corporate Social Responsibility funds and Member of Parliament, Member of Legislative Assembly and Local Self Governments funds are added on. The school development plan is designed and designed locally considering the actual needs of the school community and futuristic fusions. The modernization part ensures techno-friendly class rooms by providing hardware and software solutions to gather relevant information from all sides of the universe.

The joint efforts of infra and techno-friendly environment generate quality benchmarks for class room praxis. Learner centered and activity based class room practices are designed and motivated through developing Academic Master Plans and Action Plans in each school where local community voiced their apprehensions and dreams. Key notions of Campus as a text, biodiversity parks, talent lab etc enlighten teaching learning process to fix strategies for a process oriented and transformative pedagogic interventions. The model is a blend of people participation, modernization and humanity. The same ethos propagated in the hash tag of Pothuvidyabhyasa Samarakshana Yajnam: # People Participated, Democratic, Secular, Learner Centered and Activity Based Education. [KC](#)

COTTON HILL G.H.S. GOLDEN JUBILEE MEMORIAL

Cotton Hill Scaling Heights

Being the largest Girls' school, Cotton Hill Government Higher Secondary School for Girls has become a model for other states to follow.

By PARVATHY VIJAYAN R
(Information Assistant, Thiruvananthapuram)

Thiruvananthapuram is always known for its schools and good quality education. And the Cotton Hill Girls Higher Secondary School, Asia's biggest girls' school, is a feather in the capital city's cap. Close to 4,000 students from Class V to Class XII are studying at the school spread across 9 acres of land. In the past 4 years, the school witnessed a myriad of development activities to improve its infrastructure and other facilities for the benefit of students and teachers.

As part of the Kerala Government's General Education Protection Mission, the construction of a 3-storey building at a cost of Rs 19 crore is progressing at the school. Another Rs 3 crore had been set aside to develop a new playground. All classrooms of high school and

higher secondary have turned hi-tech. Moreover, there are special libraries for both high school and higher secondary divisions at the school. As many as 4,350 books are available at the higher secondary library alone, says school principal Preetha. This large collection of books will only help students in their studies, she adds.

The marked changes that were ushered in following the implementation of the General Education Protection Mission have resulted in more students enrolling at the school, says school headmistress Jayasree. A division had to be increased in Class V in the last academic year and this shows that more students want to study at the school, notes the headmistress.

"As part of the General Education Protection Mission, a 3-storey building is being constructed at the cost of Rs 19 crore. The number of students has increased remarkably due to better facilities after the General Education Protection Mission came into being. One division had been added to Class V in the last academic year."



Rajasree
Headmistress



Preetha
Principal

“All classrooms in high school and higher secondary had been made hi-tech. There are separate libraries for high school and higher secondary. The higher secondary library itself has around 4,350 books.”

“With the introduction of smart classrooms, the workload of teachers has decreased. Now, teachers are able to train the students effectively in their area of study.”

The teachers’ work load has decreased with the advent of smart class rooms. The smart class rooms have helped in analyzing each student’s needs and delivering accordingly, says teacher and staff secretary Preethi Nair. Apart from excelling in studies, the students of Cotton Hill Girls Higher Secondary School have proved their mettle in art and sport fests too.

Various clubs such as Eco Club, Gandhidarshan Club and Music Club are very active in the school. The SCP, NSS and NCC also have a strong presence on the school campus.

With smart classrooms coming into vogue, it is easy to understand difficult lessons in science and mathematics, says Aabha, a Plus Two student of the school. Aabha, who has been a student of this school from Class V, adds that her academic record has only improved after cutting-edge technology in teaching was introduced in the school.

Many schemes are underway in the school to instill social responsibility and compassion towards fellow beings among students. The best example of such a scheme is the ‘One day One Rupee’ programme of the SCP to give a helping hand to destitute children. Apart from this, the students were instrumental in delivering 500 kg of rice to old-age homes and orphanages through the ‘A Handful of Rice’ programme.

Upholding the lofty principles of protecting Mother Nature, the students were able to make the campus plastic free, says Vinu Kumar Nair, a teacher.

“With smart classrooms coming into vogue, it is easy to understand difficult lessons in science and mathematics, says Aabha, a Plus Two student of the school. Aabha, who has been a student of this school from Class V, adds that her academic record has only improved after cutting-edge technology in teaching was introduced in the school.”



Neetha Nair
Teacher and Staff Secretary

The pupils’ effort to establish a Miyawaki model urban forest on the school campus stresses their responsibility towards environment. A blog, ‘Cotton Hill Diaries’, is being managed by the School Literary Club. The students’ literary contributions and reports on school programmes are posted in the blog. ‘Know your Teacher’ section, in which students interview their teachers, of the blog is worth mentioning. These interactions will create a strong bond between students and teachers.

“The school and teachers were able to make remarkable progress in the development of students, both in terms of their studies and conduct.”



R Pradeep
SMC Chairman

The School Management Committee (SMC) is playing a pivotal role in the development of school. Two classrooms of the UP division were made hi-tech with the help of SMC. The committee has also recruited security personnel and school drivers. SMC chairman R Pradeep says that the school and teachers were able to make remarkable strides in improving the quality of education and students’ conduct.

The school provides breakfast and mid-day meal for its students. Special training is being imparted to students who are weak in studies with the able support of City Corporation. The corporation also provides snacks to these students. **KC**



Moulding The Right Models

Periyar, Chaliyar and Neyyar rivers are Kerala's own pride but these rivers can be found in Thiruvananthapuram district too. Wondering how? Just step into the 130-year-old campus of Model Boys Higher Secondary School. The classrooms of this prestigious school are named after these rivers as the school campus showcases the culture of the state.

Around 1,500 students are studying from Class V to Class XII in this school. Apart from English and Malayalam mediums, students are also taught in Tamil. The quality of teaching is only increasing as time passes by in this age-old school. All classrooms from Upper Primary to High School Higher Secondary are smart classrooms, says headmaster Suresh Babu with pride. The classrooms had been made hi-tech as part of the General Education Protection Mission. As the school had set high standards in teaching, two divisions were added to the UP section in the last academic year and the Kerala

Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) has earmarked Rs 1 crore for a new school building.

The school has an exhaustive library with more than 15,000 books. The school's alumni include some prominent personalities from all walks of life and they were instrumental in establishing a science lab in the UP section. As many as 22 clubs, apart from SCP and NSS, are active on the campus. Besides, an effective waste management system is in place, as part of the efforts to protect environment, whereby the garbage is segregated for processing, says principal Shaji.

“ The quality of teaching is only increasing as time passes by in this age-old school. All classrooms from Upper Primary to High School Higher Secondary are smart classrooms , says headmaster Suresh Babu with pride.



Suresh Babu
Headmaster

“All classrooms from Upper Primary to Higher Secondary are hi-tech. As the school facilities were spruced up, more students are opting to study at the school and two new divisions were added to the UP section in the last academic year. The school’s distinguished alumni had been instrumental in pushing the development of school. The alumni extended a helping hand in establishing a science lab in the UP section of the school.”

“Apart from SPC and NSS, 22 clubs have a strong presence. The school has a system to segregate waste as part of its endeavor to protect nature. The teachers and government are also promoting art and sports among students.”

The school got the nod to modernize assembly hall and put in place courts for volleyball and basketball using city corporation’s funds. These developments reflect the support given by the teachers and government in promoting art and sports among students. The school also has facilities to provide cricket training through Kerala Cricket Association. The school is also giving training to students who are interested in karate and skating. The accolades received by the students are a testimony to the fact that they are equally good in studies and other extracurricular activities.

The quality of the school is increasing with each passing year, says teacher Shyamkumar. After the General Education Protection Mission came into being, the Model School is becoming a model to other schools in terms of development.

A Legal Literacy Club under the aegis of NITI Aayog is also functioning on the school campus in a bid to spread legal awareness among students.

The students are of the opinion that the positive changes in school’s infrastruc-



Shaji
Principal

“The positive changes in school’s facilities have immensely helped in our studies. The exhaustive school library also helps students in their studies.”

ture will definitely translate into better academic performance.

The current edition of the school magazine, which taps the creative talent of the pupils, has been selected as the best magazine rolled out from a school in the state.

Mid-day meal is being served with the help of the state government and fruits are also being distributed among the students, says the headmaster.

These public schools scaled new heights in the past four years riding on the immense importance given by the state government to education. And this is the very reason why Kerala tops NITI Aayog’s School Education Quality Index. [KC](#)



Students



Old School Building

Not Just a Story of Transformation But a Wave of Revolution

The changes that have been happening in the entire state is also reflected in the Vazhakkulam Government Higher Secondary School in Ernakulam. The school has got a new lease of life under the Public Education Rejuvenation Mission.

By CV KAVITHA
(Information Assistant, Ernakulam)

Even a drizzle could make things difficult for the teachers and students of Vazhakkulam Government Higher Secondary School. The deafening noise of pitter-patter rain drops on the asbestos-roof indicated it was break time for the students. Come summer, the picture was not at all sunny. Children used to turn their books into custom-made fans to cool themselves from the sweltering heat under the burning asbestos sheets. That was the scene when Alphaia came to join class 3 in the Vazhakkulam school some years ago.

She is now in Class 10. Ask her about the school and Alphaia would say: 'Our school is simply fantastic'. Monsoon showers are no longer break hours for the children and teachers, but a beautiful experience to watch them behind the window. There are a good number of fans to keep the classes alive during summer. High-tech class rooms and modern toilet facilities for students have also given a facelift to the school. Vazhakkulam school's is not an isolated story of transformation, but a wave of revolution that has swept across the entire government schools in the state

in the past two years thanks to public education rejuvenation mission of the state government.

As part of the government's new initiative to rejuvenate the public education sector, the school received a fund of Rs 5 crore through KIIFB. The financial aid has not just improved the physical environment, but also elevated the educational standards of the school. The dilapidated buildings with tiled and asbestos roofings were replaced by new double-storeyed buildings. The UP and high school sections were shifted to the



Pathuma
Senior Teacher

The growing number of enrolments of students to the changes in the teaching practices adopted as part of the government's rejuvenation mission of the public education sector.

ing. Students who are poor in Malayalam language are picked by conducting a pre-test and are given special training to master the language under the title 'Malayala Thilakam'. The school has also implemented the 'Little Kites' programme of the government that was initiated in association with IT@School in moulding hi-tech schools. It has smart classrooms equipped with projectors and laptops. The students have already made their mark at work experience fairs and science fairs, apart from the activities of Red Cross. The

new facility. Preparations are on to shift the office-room, washroom, kitchen etc to the new building. The improved learning environment helped the school earn respect and appreciation in the minds of the public, prompting many parents to enroll their wards in the school. For the first time in 12 years the school saw an increase of 200 students in the last two years.

Pathumma, a senior teacher of the school, attributes the growing number of enrolments of students to the changes in the teaching practices adopted as part of the government's rejuvenation mission of the public education sector. Vazhakkulam Government Higher Secondary School is one of the schools which has successfully implemented 'Hello English' project that is meant to train weak students get good command over English language. The UP students are introduced to an interesting and informative class that deals with the subject through specially prepared modules with focus on thinking, reading, writing and drawing skills. The classes have brought positive changes in the children in terms of leadership quality and spoken English, say the teachers. Specially trained teachers have been appointed to give communicative English lessons to the students.

The school has identified those students who fare badly in studies and has been giving them specialized coaching under the government programme called 'Sradhha', besides giving them train-

Monsoon showers are no longer break hours for the children and teachers, but a beautiful experience to watch them behind the window. There are a good number of fans to keep the classes alive during summer. High-tech class rooms and modern toilet facilities for students have also given a facelift to the school.




Alpha
Student

“ The UP students are introduced to an interesting and informative class that deals with the subject through specially prepared modules with focus on thinking, reading, writing and drawing skills.

students of the schools receive training in yoga and abacus.

Since the past two years a majority of the government/aided schools have made rapid strides in the path of excellence. The number of students in all class divisions of Vazhakkulam school has gone up in two years with a current strength of 519 students in high school category and 240 in higher secondary section. Another hallmark of the school, which houses a fairly large number of children from economically weaker section, is that children in all classes are given noon-meal.

The new building is almost ready and what remains is only the finishing touches in some parts. 15 schools in the district received Rs 5 crore for the renovation work, while 8 schools were sanctioned Rs 3 crore, and 22 schools were allotted Rs 1 crore from the plan fund, said public education protection mission district coordinator George Bastin.

Alpha and her friends are happy like never before. For, never did they have in their wildest dreams that their school would undergo a sea change and that they would sit in the new classroom before passing out from Class X. There used to be a time when the school with a rich history of 114 years had as many as 1000 students doing their schooling at a time. Though the glorious period waned over the period and shattered the confidence of the school, the recent measures adopted by the government have become a support system for the school that is gearing up to bounce back with renewed vigour. 



Old School Building

Getting Transformed into Centre of Excellence

The students of Kunnukara JBS have a vague memory of the unsound conditions of their school in the past. Today the school stands testimony to the sincere and fruitful efforts of the government to transform government schools as centres of excellence as part of its mission to protect public education system.

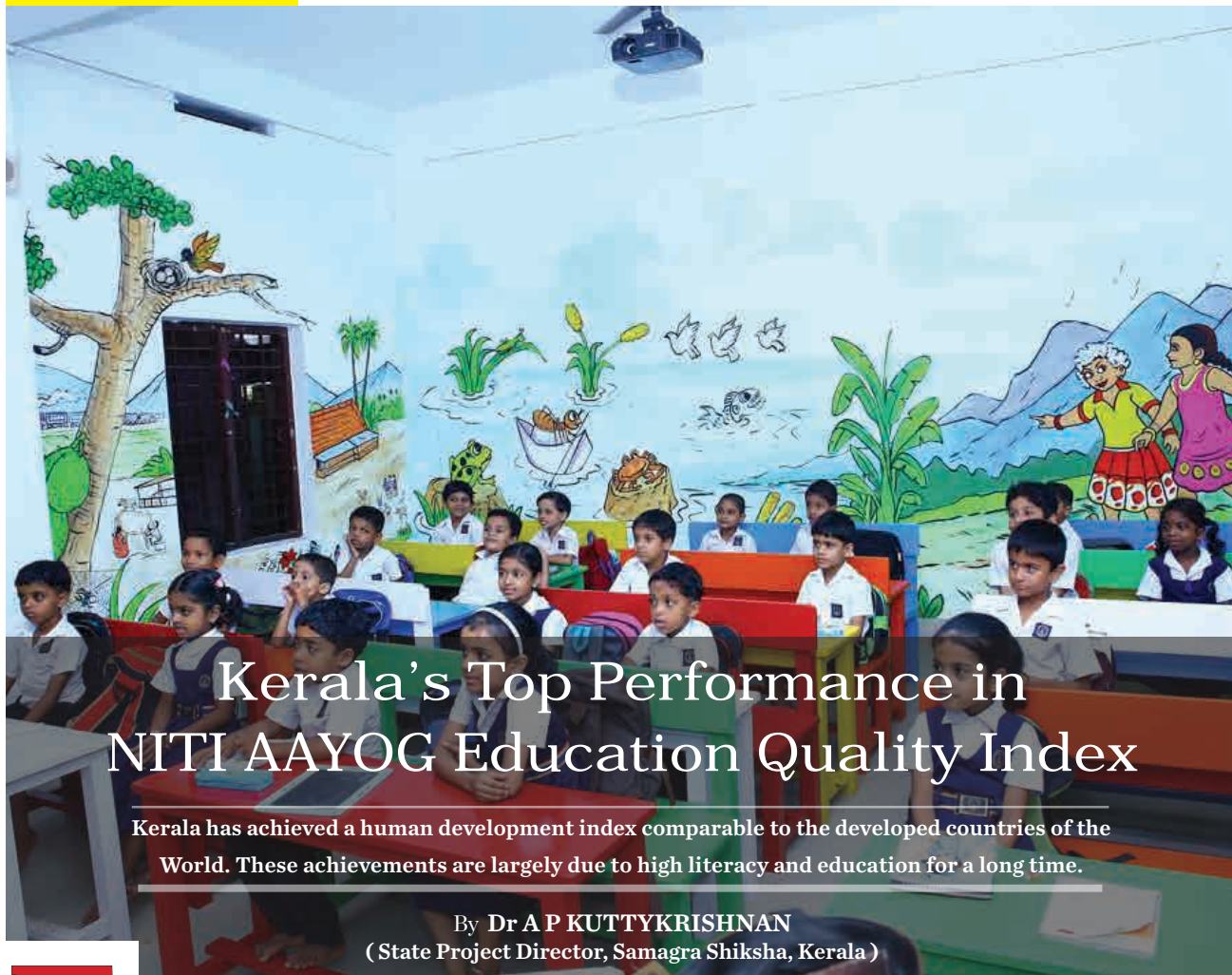
Close to 500 students try to concentrate in their daily lessons in an old creepy tiled structure. The teachers and children had come to terms with the unsound condition of the school. Their joy knew no bounds when the government decided to lend a helping hand to improve the condition of Kunnukara JBS. Today the school stands testimony to the sincere and fruitful efforts of the government to transform government schools as centres of excellence as part of its mission to protect public education system. The tiled dingy old building would pave way for hi-tech and

colourful classrooms. The construction of the new building has been completed.

The 114-year-old school functioned in an old building. The state government, as part of the public education rejuvenation mission, has granted Rs 3 crore for the development of Kunnukara JBS. A 3-storeyed building with 14 classrooms laden with tiled floors was constructed using the fund. It has modern toilets for girls on all the floors, while the boys' washroom is constructed on the ground floor.

As many as 474 students are enrolled at the Kunnukara JBS, making it one

of the LP schools in the district with maximum strength. The school has taken up varied programmes such as 'book cradle', to enhance the reading habits in children. The school racked up a good number of books through a 'Book on Birthday' project. The school is now ready with a big library with a sizeable collection of books. Special programmes to improve language education such as 'Malayala Thilakam' have immensely contributed in instilling confidence among children in a big way, says school headmistress K V Suraja. The teachers and students of the school are gearing to celebrate the official launch of the event. **KC**



Kerala's Top Performance in NITI AAYOG Education Quality Index

Kerala has achieved a human development index comparable to the developed countries of the World. These achievements are largely due to high literacy and education for a long time.

By **Dr A P KUTTYKRISHNAN**
(State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Kerala)

Ever since the present government came to power, its focus has been on enhancing the quality of services in education sector, among others. As part of the Nava Kerala Mission an overall quality based school education developmental programme "Public Education Protection Mission" has been launched by the government and its focus has been on raising the quality of services in the education sector, among other things. The programmes under the mission comprise action plans for the development in infrastructural, academic and social fields of the school education sector. Through various programmes for supporting public educational institutions across the state, the mission brought together teachers, parents, student alumni, people's representatives on a single platform and developed a people's campaign mode activities.

The achievement due to these activities has been recognised by several institutions like MHRD, NITI AAYOG etc.

The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI AAYOG), a policy think tank of government of India, has recently released a report "The Success of Our Schools-School Education Quality Index" to evaluate the performance of states and UTs in the school education sector. The School Education Quality Index (SEQI), with reference year 2016-17, has been developed by the NITI AAYOG to provide insights and data-based feedback on the success of school education across the States and Union Territories of India. Developed through a collaborative process including key stakeholders MHRD and World Bank, the index consists critical indicators that assess the delivery of quality education of the country.

As many as 30 indicators have been used in computing SEQI and these indicators are classified under two categories, namely, (i) Outcomes (ii) Governance Processes aiding Outcomes. First category of Outcome is further divided into four domains, namely, (a) Learn-

ing outcomes (b) Access outcomes (c) Infrastructure outcomes and (d) Equity outcomes. The second category, governance Processes aiding Outcomes, includes the support system necessary for learning to take place like training, availability of teachers, attendance of both teachers and students, administrative adequacy etc. The States and UTs have been categorised into three groups - Large States, Small States and UTs by the NITI AAYOG to facilitate like-to-like comparison. The rankings present incredible insights on the status of school education across States/UTs and their relative progress over time. The report highlighted that amid challenges of improving learning outcomes, educational access and infrastructure are continuing for states and UTs and require more focus and investments in the field of public education.

According to the report, Kerala recorded impressive performance by securing 82.17 per cent score and secured the top position. Rajasthan and Karnataka are



in the top second and third position in the overall performance rankings while Uttar Pradesh remains at the bottom position with 36.4 per cent in overall performance among 20 large states. Among eight smaller states, Manipur, Tripura and Goa bagged the top-three positions, respectively, followed by Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. Of the seven UTs, Chandigarh came at the top position, followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Puducherry, Daman and Diu, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

The report once again highlights the quality of Kerala's education system and how the state continues to maintain it. The two main issues related to school education in all over India are the first generation issues like school accessibility and continuing education (Retention). But we have overcome the issues years back with the meaningful support of the society and that is positively reflected in the score of SEQI. As per the report, the state scores 100 per cent when it comes to the transition of students from primary to secondary classes and data shows that Kerala tops, by securing 95.4 per cent, in Inclusive education. Kerala has ensured equity in schools and children from all categories irrespective of their social and economic background are included in the system. The proximity of the schools in tribal areas, coastal areas, and other rural areas helped the state to achieve an inclusive educational system.

The report considered the results of National Achievement survey -2017 in order to assess the performance in the category of learning outcomes. Kerala has done fairly well in terms of learning outcomes as compared to other states and UTs, however, the state needs to improve the performance of students in various disciplines like Language, Social Science, and Mathematics etc according to NAS score. Unlike many other states, there is not much difference in the performance level of students of (i) urban and rural areas (ii) Boys and Girls (iii) general category and SC/ST students etc.

Infrastructure outcomes include computer assisted learning facility, computer lab, reading rooms and the percentage of schools covered under vocational education. Though the state is far advanced in using technology for enhancing learning at secondary level, according the SEQI report, we have to initiate an action plan for providing computer assisted learning facility in all primary schools of the state in order to score maximum in this category. As the government has already decided to implement the CAL in primary schools, it is expected that in coming years fairly good score will achieve by the state in this regard.

Under the Public Education Protection Mission, the government started actions on comprehensive educational reforms, including upgrading government schools into internation-

al standards during the first phase. The reforms do not merely focus on improving infrastructural facilities, but also the teaching and learning process, aligning these to present day needs by introducing Information and Communication Technology (ICT)-enabled learning and smart classrooms. As part of the reforms, it is ensured that all the students in Kerala acquire the knowledge and skills on a par with their peers in other parts of the world. In view of this we designed several novel learning activities for school children with a view to addressing learning gaps which are identified in National Achievement Survey of previous year. Focussing on this agenda, several programmes like "Malayalathilakkam", "Hello English", "Sureeli Hindi" has been implemented by the general education department under the Learning Enhancement Programme of Samagra Shiksha Kerala. These activities improved the language learning capacity of students and they have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and communication skills in at least three languages. The NAS report of previous year had raised concerns that primary students across the country were not achieving the basic learning outcomes and skills in Mathematics before reaching higher classes. Against this backdrop, in schools of Kerala, we implemented the programme "Ganitha Vijayam" for primary students that firms up mathematical concepts.

A special focus has also been given to implementing educational programmes like "Ooru Vidyakendra", "Pradesika Prathibha Kendra", "Shelter -Padhana veedu" focussing on activities to elevate the academic standards and reducing drop out among students of marginalised sectors especially tribal students. The aim of these activities is to make Kerala the first state to let all the students complete their school education. As a result of all these measures, for the first time in the last 25 years, government and aided schools in Kerala saw a year-on-year increase in number of students enrolled. All these combined efforts of ensuring holistic development of school education can be cited as the reasons for acquiring top position by Kerala in SEQI survey. It is also important to note that all the changes for the revamp have been carried out with a democratic spirit combining humaneness and modernity. **KG**



A Tale of Incredible Success

Government Vocational Higher Secondary School for Girls, Nadakkavu

The winds of change have blown in ... the children have been transformed ...
and new awards have come their way ...

By DRISYAMOL O K
(Information Assistant, Kozhikode)

Walking past the majestic gate, you step into a path covered by an arched trellis over which creepers have been trained. Gardens, virtually laden with multi-coloured flowers, have been set on either side aesthetically. The front courtyard is paved with road metal. And, there is no litter in sight! “Is it possible for a government school to pull off an image-makeover like this?” You may ask yourself incredulously. Nadakkavu Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School will compel you to admit, “It is!” Infrastructural development has brought about a sea-change in the academic atmosphere of the school, and helped the institution reach new goals.

Sometime back, with the number of students dipping, and the educational

standards plummeting, the school was on a downward spiral. But today it has only stories of successes to relate. In a span of 11 years, it has risen from an ordinary government school to academic institution worthy of emulation in the whole of our country. This year, the school earned the second place among the best run government schools in India, and won the state government award for the best PTA [Parent-Teacher Association].

The PRISM Project initiated by A. Pradeep Kumar MLA was what turned the fortunes of Nadakkavu Government Girls’ Higher Secondary School. Renovation work began in 2008. Soon thereafter, in the academic year 2012-13, the Faizal and Shabana Foundation

made a whopping 16-crore rupee investment for expansion activities. This triggered a series of changes that were integrated into the existing system in a phased manner – in the form of training programmes, new uniforms and so on – all of which upscaled the functioning of the school and brought corresponding improvements in exam results as well. The offices and classrooms in the old buildings were renovated. New structures were built to accommodate the Higher Secondary and VHS sections. A new canteen, a synthetic football ground, and a basketball court were constructed. LCD projectors were fitted in every classroom. Laptop facilities, labs, a library and an Atal Tinkering Lab were set up. The school authorities are now engaged in conflating three

rooms in order to create a huge library. The students follow the waste disposal protocol very meticulously.

Such an enviable level of success was possible due to several factors. The synergy of human resources of the entire region helped in a big way. Infrastructural development, systematic functioning of the school as well as training programmes on the one hand and the co-ordinated interventions of parents and teachers on the other contributed towards ensuring academic excellence in this government school. Its achievements have even become a model for the General Education Protection

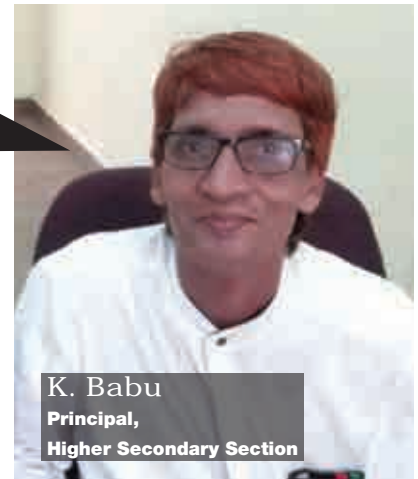
Promoting Regional Schools to International Standard through Multiple Interventions (PRISM) Project. The project aims at developing institutions by making available potential intellectual, financial and technical resources as well as support from both the government and non-governmental agencies. It receives a lot of assistance from various agencies.



Nadakkavu School is committed to grooming all its students to be in sync with the prevailing environment of women's empowerment, and helping them grow into good citizens who can prove their mettle in front of the world, and march forward in all walks of life with sanguine hope, great courage and indomitable will power. The USP of the school is that it is able to inspire self-confidence in the students at the level of their behaviour, uniform, language and manner of speech.

The institution has even devised a special programme called "School Tour" which gives newly admitted students an opportunity to know more about their school before classes begin, and school authorities a chance to get introduced to their new wards.

Nadakkavu School was selected as the second best performer in India in 2019 by EducationWorld India School Ranking, the world's biggest school survey. The award was given after considering parameters like teachers' skill, efficiency, sports education, basic amenities, management standard, social service and so on. Sterling achievements of the school in the areas of infrastructural development, academic standard and social intervention were what earned for it the award for the best PTA in the state Nadakkavu School has become a model for the General Education Protection Mission of the Government of Kerala.





Government Schools Becoming a Force to Reckon With: A Pradeep Kumar MLA

Bucking the trend, more students prefer government schools to private schools as the public schools are providing quality education to pupils. We will be able to mould a smart future generation only by ensuring superlative education at the primary level. What we need for the development of IT and HR is basis education.

During my days as a student politician, I threw my weight behind the need to protect and rejuvenate public education. Now as an MLA, I strongly back that motto and I am able to make those principles more practical and realistic. To elevate government schools to international level is part of this vision. Earlier, the schools with better facilities were out of the reach of common man. Today, things have changed. The educational system, classrooms, laboratories and other infrastructure facilities have witnessed a sea change.

People choose government educational institutions for professional courses and higher studies, but when it comes to primary education they opt for aided


and unaided schools and become a victim of marketing of education.

The government schools have the best teachers but some lack confidence. But today all teachers are brimming with confidence riding on better infrastructure and adequate space for academic strategies. We had put in place new technologies to strengthen the pillars of academics after certain flaws were detected in the education system. We were successfully able to tap the reasoning, intellectual and financial aids successfully. And the idea of multiple intervention augured well to get a favourable outcome in the academic field. The combo of beauty and strength along with technical innovations was instrumental in creating a fruitful academic atmosphere. (With the compilation of beauty and strength along with technical innovations a fruitful academic atmosphere became a reality.) This is not a unique or novel intervention but I just utilized the circumstances in a better way.

As far as Nadakkavu school is concerned, special teams are always there

to support the students. A special physical education team coaches hockey team, faculties from IIM train the teachers and many eminent personalities from walks of life have come forward with great commitment to guide the students.

The aim of PRISM project is to make better facilities accessible to common people. A school should not only create studious students but it should also tap their creative skills. We can revitalize the upcoming generations by providing better academic atmosphere along with a beautiful vision.

We are planning to make similar interventions across the state. Every government school should follow the same model to widen the space of public education. Our aim is to equip the students to compete against any student by providing all the basic physical and organizational structures. By ensuring good food and quality education along with hi tech facilities, the government schools have achieved the prime goals set for providing universal education. 

Sky is the Limit for Karaparambu School

The Karaparambu Higher Secondary School is a storehouse of bitter stories of a poignant past. Set up in 1879 as an LP School, the institute was on the verge of closure 12 years ago with the school strength dripping to just 90 students. Surprisingly, today the school has virtually touched the skies with classrooms from V to XII packed with 700 students.

By **SOJITH KODUVALLY**
(Information Assistant, Kozhikode)

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the fully renovated school to the state in March 2019. The school was developed under the PRISM project through the initiative of Kozhikode North MLA A. Pradeep Kumar. The fully renovated school can boast of smart classrooms, laboratories, large dining hall, multi-purpose hall, basket ball court, reception lounge, beautiful landscaping, amphitheatre, compound wall, security room and open stage. The first nature-friendly school in the state has an exhaustive rain water harvesting system whereby 50,000 litres of rain water can be stored, rest rooms for mothers etc.

Karaparambu Government Higher Secondary School offers far better academic and infrastructure facilities to the students than any of its counterparts in the private sector. The eco-friendly school meets all its power requirements through solar energy. It generates 32 KW solar power. Architect Vijesh Shaijal spearheaded the reconstruction of the school which was done at a cost of Rs 12 crore under the PRISM project. Karaparambu school is a reflection of the long distance the state's education system traversed from an inefficient past to a glorious present.



Shadiya Banu
Headmistress

A school fares well only when its academic activities and infrastructure facilities are well balanced; a reason why Karaparambu school has scripted success. The authorities of Karaparambu school are able to devote full focus to the academic of the school students as the infrastructure of the institution is outstanding. I am happy to say that we are able to mould outstanding students with the launch of the PRISM project. Our Malayalam medium school has launched an 'E for English' programme to make the students at ease with English language. Besides, all high schools classrooms have been made hi-tech.

When I came to the school last year its library was all but a sack stuffed with books on the verandah of an age-old building. Today an open shelf library sporting over 15,000 books neatly arrayed in the racks is the hallmark of the school. It is mandatory for all the students to read the books in the library at least thrice a month. Books are lent to parents on all Tuesdays to inculcate reading habits in parents as well. Our policy is that seeds of transformation should take root at homes. A class library has been set up at all classrooms whereby each student will have read a minimum of 30 books a month.



A Rema
Principal

I came here from a different school. Now I am proud to say that I am a student of Karaparambu school. Besides, I tell other children in my neighbourhood to join my school. The teachers here give equal importance to academics and extra-curricular activities. They bring expert teachers from outside to give us an in-depth lecture on specialized topics. We surpass other schools in terms of amenities, such as a library with an exhaustive collection of books.

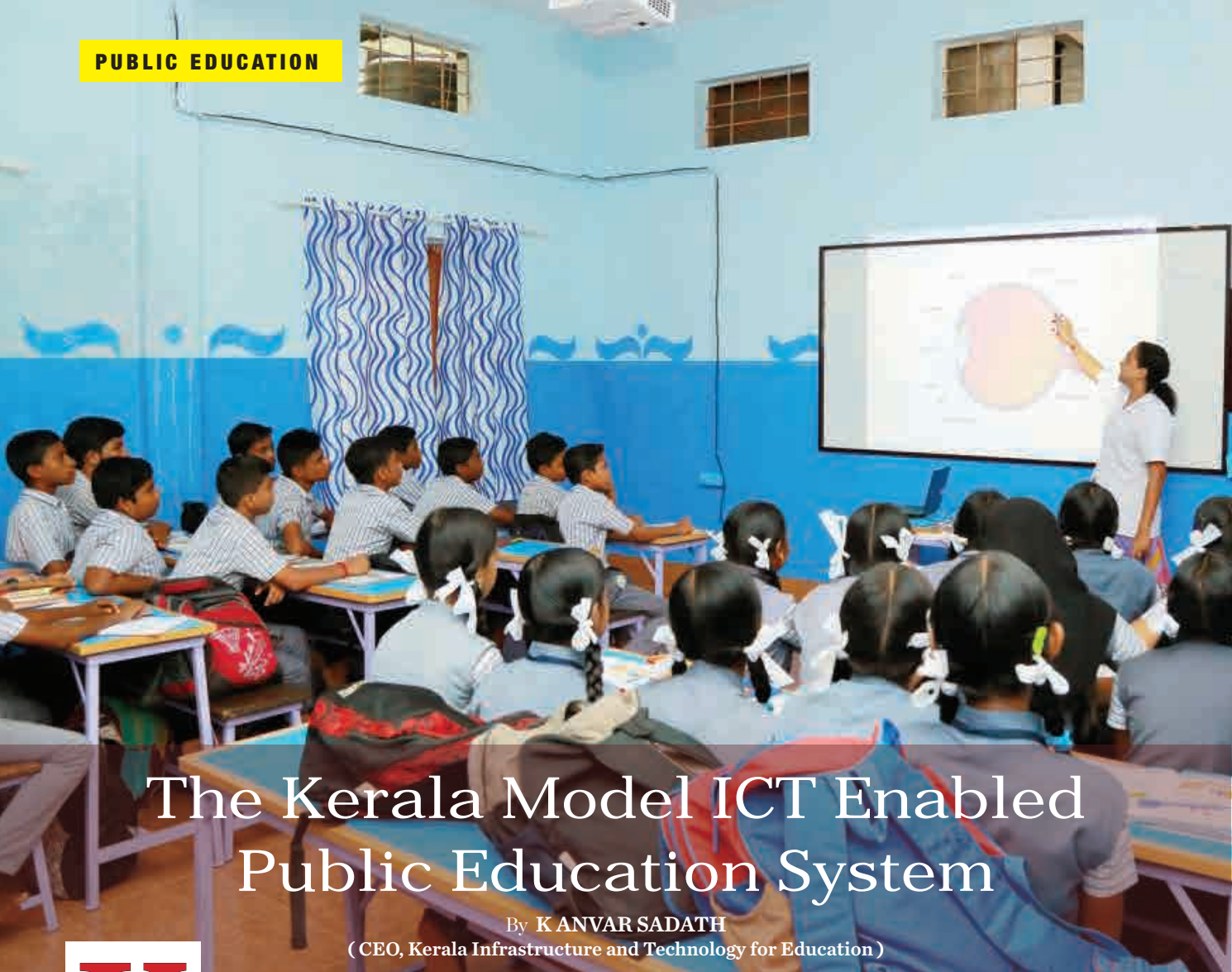
Karaparambu school, today, stands as a picture of most modern classrooms, excellent infrastructure and outstanding students. The school never had a rosy past as its classrooms wore a shoddy look and the pass percentage was dismal. The public education protection mission of the government and PRISM project played a pivotal role in ushering in progressive changes in the school along with unstinted support of teachers, PTA and the local people. Kerala can only surge ahead in the education sector if similar positive reforms are incorporated into the entire schools of the state.



Ayisha Kensal Ishq
Student



Sheena K
HSA Malayalam -
Library in-charge



The Kerala Model ICT Enabled Public Education System

By K ANVAR SADATH

(CEO, Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education)

Kerala, popularly known as Gods Own Country, is ranked as one of the most literate states in the country. Besides topping in the NITI Aayog's school education quality ranking this year, education has always been a top priority for the State. Over the years, there have been significant contributions made for the progress of education, resulting in significant achievements in social development and standard of life. The State has always given the priority to education and literacy, where the schools are considered to be the nucleus of social development. Good education arouses the aspirations of the people and the main aim is always to improve the quality of the education provided.

In order to improve the academic excellence and physical infrastructure facilities in schools, the Government launched the Public Education Rejuvenation Mission (Pothu Vidyabhyasa Sa-

marakshana Yagmam) and also formed a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) viz KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education) by transforming erstwhile IT@School Project, to anchor the effective use of Information Communication Technologies in education sector. Using technology as per the pedagogical requirements was inevitable to create such an eco-system.

Ensuring the availability of necessary ICT infrastructure in schools is a crucial element when it comes to ICT enabled educational system. During the early 2000s, very few schools in the State had computers and there was no uniform pattern of IT education. The State Education Department successfully deployed laptops, projectors and other ICT pieces of equipment to over 4071 schools during 2007-12, by utilizing the Centrally sponsored ICT@School scheme. By capitalizing this experience, the Rs.493.50 Cr Hi-Tech school

project was implemented through KITE during 2017-19, through which over 45000 classrooms of Std 8 to 12 in 4752 secondary schools were made Hi-Tech. The pieces of equipment deployed to schools include 59772 Laptops, 43525 Multimedia Projectors, 41789 Mounting Kits, 42739 USB Speakers, 4714 DSLR Cameras, 4545 LED TVs and 4720 Full HD Webcams. These pieces of equipment were procured and deployed to schools through a transparent, meticulous process which included the tendering through the eTender portal of the State Government. As a second phase, in 2019-20, the Hi-Tech Lab Project is being implemented in over 9941 Primary schools by which over 55000 Laptops and 23000 Projectors are being provided to be used in Labs and Classrooms as per the requirement. A Govt appointed Technical Committee comprising of senior technical experts from State and Central departments oversee each step of procurement. Every



“ The backbone of ICT education in Kerala are the school teachers. As part of Capacity Building for teachers, various IT and ICT related pieces of training are provided to the State school teachers from time to time, making them experts in using ICT tools in their classrooms. The teachers in the State must complete 45 hours of computer course to clear their probation.


equipment deployed to schools carries a 5-year comprehensive warranty and stringent service conditions that the supplier has to adhere to. A dedicated Call centre facility and Web portal for complaint redressal is also established. To fuel the ICT based learning, every school is provided with high-speed Broadband Internet connectivity. Strict usage norms and monitoring mechanisms are also in place for ensuring safe and secure browsing in the school environment.

As the mere deployment of ICT pieces of equipment to schools alone would not suffice ICT enabled learning process and it is essential to make available appropriate educational resources for students and teachers. For supplementing a proper Content Development

and dissemination process, a Resource Portal viz SAMAGRA was developed (www.samagra.kite.kerala.gov.in) and deployed as a one-stop source for ICT enabled contents to be used in schools. The unique portal was developed with the academic support of SCERT (State Council for Educational Research and Training). Samagra functions as a repository of digital resources of all subjects from Class 1 to 12 and has 31031 Digital resources till date, which consists of 5482 Videos, 776 Audios, 8271 Images, 6476 Interactive and many more. Teachers contribute various learning resources such as videos, images, interactive like PDB, ggb, swf, gif and the students can access these contents without any restriction. The resources are arranged in such a way that which can be accessed by subject-chapter-top-



VICTERS educational channel with technical assistance from ISRO, using the then EDUSAT technology. Various E-learning programmes such as Teacher Empowerment programmes, Interactive Classrooms for Students, Video Conferences for different department etc are carried out through this system. The channel is now aired 24/7 and has over 15 hours of fresh contents every week, produced by its in-house teams. Programmes of educational value, general awareness programmes and content on general interest make the channel the most sought one by students, parents, teachers and the general public. The channel is now available throughout the State through local cable, Receive Only Terminals and also via Live through internet at www.victers.kite.kerala.gov.in in enabling the students, teachers and general public to watch the channel 'LIVE' through internet from any part of the world. Most contents aired through the channel is also made available in YouTube for offline viewing <https://www.youtube.com/itsvicters>. A Mobile App "KITE VICTERS" is also available in Google Playstore which can be downloaded free of cost.

Kerala is way ahead of other states, in terms of ICT enabled the school education system and it owes its success to the valiant efforts by the State Education Department in charting out path-breaking strategies and roadmaps. Ever since IT was made a compulsory subject in Secondary classes in 2003-04, the tone was set for the revolution in the educational system. Today as part of the Rs.493.50 Cr Hi-Tech school project and the Rs.292 Cr Hi-Tech Lab project, most of the schools in the state stand equipped with the latest ICT gadgets by using which the trained teachers can transact their classes with ease. For the first time, students are exposed to the last trends in ICT enabled education in all subjects and the academic standards of school students are improving remarkably as evidenced by the studies conducted by various agencies and also through the increased enrolment numbers in Government schools. As many as 29 lakh students in the Secondary section and 16 lakh students in Primary section stands benefited through these innovative projects. Going forward, the teachers and students would further enhance the teaching and learning process with self-sustainable and self-evolving technologies. 

ic filtering. Samagra also enables offline access to contents in addition to facilitating the creation of lesson plans and unit plans for teachers, which otherwise would have to be done manually in the conventional system. The portal has over 5.50 Lakh Unit Plans and 8.89 Micro Plans as on date. ICT textbooks for all classes has also been developed (Kalipetti for Primary, e@Vidya for Upper Primary). To facilitate a restriction-free usage, editing and sharing of educational contents across all masses, a Linux based Operating System Ubuntu was also developed and is being used in all schools. The Operating System is pre-loaded with numerous educational applications for all classes, which otherwise would easily cost over Rs.1.50 lakhs per machine. Every content developed and deployed is FOSS based (Free and Open Source Software), thus providing a license-free, share-to all contents without any cost.

The backbone of ICT education in Kerala are the school teachers. As part of Capacity Building for teachers, various IT and ICT related training are provided to the State school teachers from time to time, making them experts in using ICT tools in their classrooms. The teachers in the State must complete 45 hours of computer course to clear their

probation. In December 2018, the State Government accorded sanction for KOOL (KITE's Online Open Learning) programme, a MOOC model online training platform for teachers to take training courses of their choice, without losing any academic days, specifically for teachers to clear their probation. Till date over 5500 teachers stand trained through KOOL. www.kool.kite.kerala.gov.in In 2018-19, the Little KITES IT Clubs concept was materialized, to support the ICT initiatives undertaken in school level. As on date, Little KITES IT Clubs have been established in 2060 schools featuring over 1 lakh student members, making it the largest ICT network of students in India. An average of 20-40 students are selected to be Little KITES members through an aptitude test. Through this initiative which is made on a Student Police Cadets model, students were given intense training in 5 areas such as Animation, Cyber Safety, Malayalam Computing, Hardware and Electronics. In addition to these topics, trainings in Development of Mobile Apps, IoT, 3D Modelling, Programming, Robotics, E-Commerce, E-Governance, Video Documentation, Web TV etc have also been provided to the students.

Moving ahead with time, the State Government had established the



What Kerala is achieving will make every Malayali today proud, and if we keep at it, we will have paved the way for generations to come.



MANU S. PILLAI
Indian Writer in English

“To those of us who know Kerala and its extraordinary history, it is no surprise that the state has achieved yet another milestone in the field of education. It is a sector that has a fascinating story, ranging from the asan pallikoodams of yore and missionary institutions, down to proactive state investment in primary schooling through the 19th and 20th centuries. After independence, successive governments have continued the tradition of focussing on education, and in recent years this has received a special boost, not just in terms of the quality of education being provided by the state, but also in the context of the physical infrastructure of schools and the kind of technology to which students now have access. For me, at a personal level, the education sector in Kerala is something of immense interest—it was out of a regular government-run school that my father, the son of an impoverished and illiterate farmer, passed out, and while he went on to obtain very many advanced degrees later, his sense of gratitude to his teachers in his state-aided primary school and government high school was enormous. It was these institutions that encouraged him, and it was his subsequent success that created the foundations upon which my own aspirations today rest. The fact that the state continues to focus on providing good education to its children, combined with other larger policy decisions such as making access to the internet a right for every Kerala citizen, indicate that our collective future will be bright; that millions of students can truly dream big, and scale great heights.”

Far Ahead in School Education

Government of Kerala has introduced comprehensive reforms in school education to ensure that its students are prepared for a changing world, equipped with knowledge, skills and values, which will help them compete with fellow students from around the world. The reforms of the State in school education yielded excellent results as Kerala topped in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) and School Education Quality Index (PGI) published by MHRD and NITI Ayog recently.

By P K JAYARAJ

The main objective Kerala's school education reform is to ensure that all boys and girls get completely free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. Government of Kerala is committed to ensuring that every child in the State must have the academic qualifications of the standards to take on the students from any school in the world.

Focus on Early Reading and Numeracy

Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP) has been in the State since 2010-

11. LEP is planned for all the classes of elementary and secondary stages. The activities planned under LEP provide additional support in making learning more engaging, enjoyable and more effective in the classrooms. One of the basic thrusts of LEP is in promoting foundational literacy and numeracy skills of students in classes 1 and 2. The overarching goal of 'Early Reading and Numeracy' programme is to implement a balanced instructional model of an early literacy and numeracy programme, materials, student and teacher-support activities in class 1 and 2. This programme also aims at ensuring the successful transition of students

from pre-school to elementary school stage. 'Joyful Reading' programme and 'Gaming in Maths' have enhanced the reading comprehension, communication skills, numeracy and problem-solving skills of students classes in 1 and 2. To address the gaps in the achievement of students in mathematics as identified by the National Achievement Survey (NAS)-2017, Samagra Shiksha, Kerala launched Ganithavijayam as a pioneer project during 2017-18. The programme evaluation revealed the positive impact of the project in the achievement of students in mathematics at the elementary stage. As part of the project, Mathematics Labs'

were set up in elementary schools to enable the students to apply conceptual understanding about qualities, numbers, numerals, operations, spatial relationships, patterns and problems involving mathematics in daily life. These labs were set up in schools with the participation of local experts and the community. Training was given to teachers to equip them for integrating Ganithavijayam activities as part of the teaching-learning processes of mathematics.

Focus on proficiency in languages

One of the major thrusts of the General Education Mission was on making students of Kerala proficient and fluent in three languages, mother tongue, English and Hindi. Samagra Shiksha, Kerala introduced the project 'Malayalathilakkam' during 2016-17 at elementary and secondary stages in the succeeding two academic years. The programme evaluation of Malayalathilakkam revealed a progressive increase in the achievement of students in mother tongue in reading, writing, communication skills and performance. Another flagship project of Samagra Shiksha was 'Hello English'. The Hello English training module and processes are designed to impart interesting and engaging learning strategies that go beyond the textbook and immerse the students in the language, thereby making them proficient in English. The 'Hello English' made use of a variety of strategies and activities such as language games, picture interaction, hot seating, reporting, listening to narration, TPR, role-playing, echo reading, retelling a story, miming an event, story theatre, visualization, choreography, book designing, monologues, improvisation, Reader's Theatre etc for engaging the learners and promoting joyful learning of English.

Hello English programme was also conducted for students at secondary and higher secondary stages. Samagra Shiksha has implemented the project for enhancing the English language proficiency of Higher Secondary and Vocational Higher Secondary students in selected schools. The result of the programme was quite encouraging. Students in all the selected higher secondary schools were able to achieve better scores in Higher Secondary public examinations. The state also im-

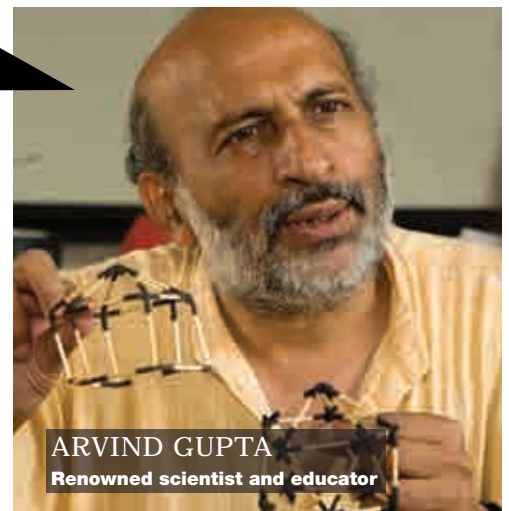
“ Hello English programme was also conducted for students at secondary and higher secondary stages. Samagra Shiksha has implemented the project for enhancing the English language proficiency of Higher Secondary and Vocational Higher Secondary students in selected schools. The result of the programme was quite encouraging. Students in all the selected higher secondary schools were able to achieve better scores in Higher Secondary public examinations.



JAYATI GHOSH
Development Economist,
Chairperson Of CESP at the JNU

“It is really heartening and inspiring to see the strides Kerala has made in revamping and improving public education. The improvement in government schools has been reflected in increasing enrolment as parents and students voluntarily choose this option and it is now so apparent that it is even recognised by the central government’s index of quality and achievement. This is wonderful news for equity and social justice, as it enables students of diverse backgrounds to get access to quality education. It is also a sign that the state is investing in the future. Citizens across the country are watching this with appreciation and even some envy.”

“For years Kerala has been the top state in the country in terms of Human Development Index. It has well run primary health care centers, good schools in the village schools and a progressive pro-people’s government.”



ARVIND GUPTA
Renowned scientist and educator

Equity Outcomes

Kerala has not confined its scope of quality as one of the interventions but has attempted to bring all interventions such as access, quality, equity, inclusion, infrastructure and governance process under the umbrella of quality education. As per the Performance Grading Index (PGI) and School Education Quality Index (SEI) released by MHRD recently, Kerala topped the list of states in Overall Performance in almost all the indicators with a total evaluation point of 82.17%. SEI and PGI data shows that Kerala tops in inclusive education, irrespective of gender or caste, and the score is a whopping 95.4%, with an increase of 2% from the previous year. The State scored 100% in the transition of students from primary to upper primary and then to the secondary classes. The State also tops in Governance Processes Aiding Outcomes category with a score of 79%.

The LDF government's policies and reforms initiated as part of General Education Rejuvenation Mission are instrumental in gaining excellent results in School Education Quality index for Kerala. Parents and the community have also responded positively to the comprehensive reforms in school education by the LDF government. In 2018, three years after the introduction of General Education Rejuvenation Mission, the enrolment of students in government and Aided schools rose by over five lakh. Parents are discontinuing their ward's education in unaided CBSE schools and getting them admitted to public schools. We cannot be complacent with the 82.17% score in SEI, because there are a few gaps in achieving 100% in the national indicators such as access, quality, equity, infrastructure and governance process. It is our responsibility to move our reforms further and bridge all the gaps in the national indicators and achieve higher standards in school education.

“ Directorate of General Education supplied grade-specific children's literature comprising of books in languages, science, social science and general studies to all elementary schools in the state.

plemented another flagship programme titled Sureeli Hindi. The project was implemented to provide opportunities for students to practice communicating in Hindi fluently through authentic activities like role play, skit, dramatisation and choreography. The programme evaluation revealed that the linguistic and communicative competencies of students in Hindi were considerably enhanced through this programme.

The Spring of Reading

Enhancing the reading skills of students is one of the major areas of thrust of the comprehensive educational reforms in the State. Children who fail to read in the early grades fall further behind each school year because reading ability is progressively used as a tool for acquiring other types of knowledge. As part of The Spring of Reading, the Directorate of General Education and Samagra Shiksha, have taken measures to strengthen school and class libraries. Directorate of General Education supplied grade-specific children's literature comprising of books in languages, science, social science and general studies to all elementary schools in the state. Samagra Shiksha prepared and supplied Reading Cards in Malayalam, English and Hindi to all elementary schools in Kerala. The reading cards are based on different themes and topics related to the units in the Malayalam, English and Hindi course books prescribed for classes 1 to 7. Teachers can introduce the reading cards that are relevant to the themes in a particular unit in the coursebook. These reading cards are used in the schools for promoting the voluntary pleasure reading of students. [KC](https://prd.kerala.gov.in/publication/keralacalling)





Nehruvian Socialism In The 21st Century

Nehru shaped independent India largely through the socialist ideas which had sedimented in him throughout the struggle for freedom.

By **Dr JYOTI ATWAL**
(Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences,
JNU, New Delhi)

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is well-known for his declaration of having become a Socialist, beginning with the Lahore Congress session of 1929. In 1929 he also supported the Congress' demand for Purna swaraj (complete independence) from Britain. He announced he was deeply influenced by Socialism and Communism. He developed a long intellectual cum philosophical dialogue with these ideas during 1929-1947. Although India had achieved its independence from Britain through building

a peaceful mass resistance backed by constitutionalist approach, Nehru shaped independent India largely through the socialist ideas which had sedimented in him throughout the struggle for freedom.

By 1950s Nehru was perceived in the international circles as a revolutionary. The Sunday Independent of Ireland addressed him as a revolutionary and one of the 'key men' in the world. 'He (Nehru) is pushing his country towards Socialism, but demands that the means

be democratic' (SI, 8th July 1956). Nehru's long article called 'Whither India' published in 1933, reflected on various significant aspects of capitalism, socialism, social equity, nation, imperialism and freedom. He confidently answered the question "Whither India? : Surely to the great human goal of social and economic equality, to the ending of all exploitation of nation by nation and class by class, to national freedom within the framework of an international co-operative socialist world federation". He also added that the



true civic ideal is the socialist ideal, the communist ideal. Complex inter-linkages between class, nation, secularism and internationalism became the key areas of his politico - philosophical engagement.


To Nehru, passionate nationalism could not be left vaguely defined. The objectives had to be spelt out. The usual accompaniments of growing nationalist activism involved – idealism, a mysticism, a feeling an exaltation, a belief in the mission of one's country and something of the nature of religious revivalism. This he claimed was a middle-class phenomenon. The dual base of the Congress – consisting of both bourgeois and peasantry, was however well known to Nehru. A nationalist movement had to be certain as to whose freedom it was striving for? Nehru pointed out that India belonged to varied sections of the Indian society - the feudal princes of India, the big and small zamindars, professional classes, agriculturalists, industrialists, bankers, lower middle class and the workers. Internationally speaking, after 1917, Communists and

Socialist thinkers were showing confidence in socialism, particularly due to what Nehru termed as implicit science and logic. In 1930s American technocrats (a group of engineers) had caused a stir; in England, the social credit theories of Major Douglas recommended that the whole production of the nation will be evenly distributed to the whole population (a kind of dividends for all). For Nehru, there was general acceptance of revolutionary theories amongst the intellectuals, economists and engineers. Socialism was therefore not advocated by wild agitators; it was for Nehru - a philosophy of national development. He was often uncomfortable with Gandhi's methodology of addressing the problem of poverty and poor classes. Gandhi asked for charitable funds for the poor saying he wanted funds for daridranarayan (Lord of the Poor or God that resides in the poor). For Nehru, this seemed to be a glorification of poverty (Autobiography. p203). This indicated acceptance of unequal systems which produced the rich and poor.

The government was a means to an end – the end being human well-being, human growth, the ending of poverty and disease and suffering and the opportunity for everyone to live the 'good life', physically and mentally. Freedom was essential to achieve these objectives – national freedom so far as the nation was concerned; personal freedom so far as the individual was concerned. He believed that restriction and inhibition arrested growth and development. British rule had brought in the interest of the foreign capital which clashed with the home capital; the foreign services with the home services.

Nehru was critical of the growth of colonial capitalism in India. India had become a prime producer of raw material to feed the factories of England. India had also become the consumer of these factory goods. Imperialism was an unavoidable consequence of capitalism. England had finished off her agriculture and the wealth was consolidated in few hands. However, England was able to compensate its working-class by welfare schemes. Nehru writes that 'a general prosperity in England took the edge off working-class discontent' in England. India went through passive industrialisation which put an extra burden on the land. It had resulted in the Econo - political crisis.

While capitalism had created imperialism, and imperialism had recreated capitalism – the necessary quest according to Nehru was to end the basic inequalities of the capitalist system and to replace capitalism by a more scientific system.

Compared to the early years, by 1936 his socialist model was being constantly challenged by Congress members and other politically prominent Indian leaders like G.D Birla, Walchand Hirachand and Purushottam Das. Nehru's revolutionary road to freedom was not popular despite his huge efforts to develop a mass movement. However, he was able to attach his socialist approach to the larger cause of Indian independence. He fine-tuned his socialist approach during his long and dynamic tenure as Prime Minister of India 1947-1964 (until his death). His varied and intense writings on subjects of national and international significance – make him one of the most intellectual modernisers of India. 



Documenting the **P**resent the **P**ast and the **F**uture
of Kerala



KERALA CALLING

The authentic
kerala

Annual subscription Rs. 120/-
send money order to
The Director,
I PRD, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram-1
or remit the amount at
District Information Offices at Civil Stations



Information Public - Relations Department
Government of Kerala

Kerala Calling RNI 35991/1980

Postal Registraton: KL/TV(N)/104/2018-20

WPP No. : KL/TV(N)/WPP/148/2018-20

Date of Publication : 01. 11. 2019 Price: ₹ 12



Picturesque & Iconic

The Government Secretariat, centre of administration of the State, celebrates its 150th anniversary in an elegant and unique style.

Photo Credits: R. Prasanth