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4 YEARS & AGAINST ALL ODDS...

Four years of people-oriented governance is no mean achievement, especially when it comes at a time where natural calamities to pandemics took unprecedented peal on the State. In fact, troubled – times brought forth the best out of the People’s Government.

For many, promises are hard to abide by. But this government has taken every step in the right direction, at the right time, with righteous motives and accomplished everything offered to the people in a fool-proof manner. Every project was designed and done with a people-friendly determination. It is not the magnitude but the pragmatism that mattered in all projects. Time-bound completion of initiatives is the ample proof to the dependability of the Government.

Bringing in the smile back to the downtrodden through the betterment and timely distribution of social-welfare pensions amid prevailing economic struggle marks the commitment of the Government ably led by the Chief Minister – Pinarayi Vijayan. Every member of the cabinet wholeheartedly supported the CM to keep promises given to the people.

All the missions – Life (For providing homes for all deserved), Pothu Vidyabhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam (For rejuvenating the education system), Haritha Keralam (For rejuvenating agriculture, nature – conservation etc.) and Aardram (Health - welfare and up-gradation of the medical system) – completed their task with unparalleled perfection. To name any particular area concerning excellence becomes the toughest task since an all-encompassing development model is happening here, unhindered.

Kerala has been facing persistent catastrophes like flood, cyclone and pandemics. Ockhi brought about manageable damage but what followed was the huge backlash from the floods that occurred in back to back years. Then came Nipah, but we gained skill from the pandemic on restricting the spread which helped in the management of the ongoing Corona Virus threat.

We are not completely immune to the new threat – COVID 19 - but we have the confidence to challenge any threat, for the simple reason – we trust our Government. It is everyone’s responsibility to stand firm behind the government in this time of crisis – regardless of all differences. We will emerge from the ashes like a Phoenix.

The readers of Kerala Calling will find the June edition worth reading, just like our previous ones. All are welcome to share the happiness of successful governance, the optimism to overcome the pandemic and a handful of articles from different walks of life.

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



KERALA CALLING JUNE 2020

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'NAVA KERALAM' BEYOND THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE

PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Chief Minister of Kerala

The Kerala Government completed four years of serving people on May 25th, in the midst of our struggle against Covid-19 pandemic, one of the biggest challenges humanity has faced in recent history. On this fourth anniversary, each Keralite can be proud of our government, because of how we are facing unprecedented challenges and the determination with which we are pursuing the creation of a resilient, sustainable and thriving 'Nava Kerala'.

During the last four years, we have prioritized the implementation of infrastructure projects, along with attracting new investments and the creation of

employment opportunities. We have ensured social security and empowered public, traditional and cooperative sectors. Complementing the vision put forward in the election manifesto, we have administered four path breaking missions as well. Along with all this, we took up the inevitable task of disaster prevention and mitigation too.

In India, the first Covid-19 case was reported in our state. Covid-19 hit us while we were going ahead with the Rebuild Kerala Initiative so as to realise a resilient Kerala in the midst of repeated disasters. Our experiences in dealing with them have helped us in effectively tackling Covid-19. Given the high density of population, the number of expatriate Keralites, and the large number of guest workers living here, our risk factor was quite high. Yet, to a large extent, we were able to



protect the State and its people.

The Government and the people together intervened cautiously and comprehensively. Kerala's unique interventions amidst this pandemic include a stimulus package of Rs 20,000 crores, the provision of food through the community kitchens, free medical treatment and the rapid setting up of dedicated Covid-19 hospitals, increased testing, contact tracing and strict implementation of quarantine, among others. All sections of the community, including health workers, local self government institutions, police, fire fighters, various government departments, residents' associations, public sector enterprises, NGOs, volunteers and so on, are engaged in this fight which continues even now.

Through the Aardram Mission, which was part of

our Nava Kerala Action Plan, we have improved our healthcare facilities across all tiers, from the Primary Health Centres at the lowest level to the Medical Colleges at the highest level, and made even super speciality services easily accessible. As a result, Kerala bettered its health indices during these four years. It is the continuation of such efforts that Kerala has been able to emerge as a global frontrunner in the fight against Covid-19. When even the most developed countries faltered, Kerala's public health system and society together handled the situation rather efficiently.

Apart from Aardram Mission, three more Missions are being implemented under the Nava Kerala Action Plan. Under the Life Mission, 2, 19,154 houses have been completed. As a result, now more than one million people are living in safe and secure houses. Through



the Pothu Vidyabhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam, 45,000 classrooms in public schools have become hi-tech. More than 1,000 public schools have become Centres of Excellence. As a result, more than 500,000 students additionally enrolled in public schools last year. The Haritha Keralam Mission helped us to regain Kerala's greenery, revive its water bodies and rejuvenate our agriculture. 390 km long rivers and 36,000 km stretch of rivulets and irrigation canals have been revived. Soon we will be able to achieve self-sufficiency in terms of vegetable production, which has increased by 30,000 tonnes in the last 4 years.

We are equipping the state to face any crisis. In the face of economic hardship we are generating resources through unique means such as KIIFB. While our goal was to implement projects to the tune of Rs 50,000 crore outside the state budget over a period of 5 years, we have already approved projects worth Rs 54,000 crores, in fewer than 4 years. As part of the fundraising mechanism outside the budget, we have raised Rs 2,150 crore through Masala Bonds listed in the London Stock Exchange. Through KIIFB we have been able to create a fivefold increase in the value of development works, carried out during the tenure of a Government.

In the last four years, Kerala has acquired the distinction of realising mega projects that were ruled out as impossible to be implemented. One of those is the GAIL Pipeline. The commissioning of the Kochi-Edamon power transmission line has provided a significant boost for the power sector. The hill highway is 1,251 kilometres long and the coastal highway is 650 kilometres long, works of both are progressing without delays. Work on the Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram Semi-High Speed

Railway is in progress. National Highway Development, National Waterway Improvement and Kochi Metro Extension are some of the other noteworthy projects on this list. Kerala has also scaled enviable heights during this period by topping the NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Index, Health Index, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure Index, and School Education Quality Index, thus becoming 'Number One'.

Covid-19 has weakened the world economy itself. Experts say that the situation would be tougher than the recession of the 1930s. The Food Agriculture Organization forecasts food shortages and the International Labour Organization predicts severe unemployment. This is the challenge which lies ahead of us. To tackle that we have initiated two projects 'Subhiksha Keralam' and 'Vyavasaya Bhadratha'. 'Subhiksha Keralam' aims at ensuring the food security of our State. It will be implemented within a year at a cost of Rs 3860 crore. The Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries sectors will receive an infusion of Rs 1449, Rs 118, Rs 215 and Rs 2078 crores respectively over the next one year. 25,000 hectares of fallow land will be cultivated as part of this project. The project aims to create employment through agriculture, attract young and returning expatriates to agricultural activities and increase the income of farmers.

It is estimated that due to Covid-19, Kerala's economy will suffer a total loss of Rs 1 lakh crore. Out of this, the industry sector will lose Rs 15,000 crore and the trade sector will lose Rs 17,000 crore. While 26,200 jobs have been lost in the IT sector, indirect job losses amount to around 80,000. Tackling this situation is not easy.



The 'Vyavasaya Bhadratha' scheme is formulated as a comprehensive plan for that purpose. As a part of this, Rs 3,434 crore will be provided to small and medium enterprises by way of additional capital infusion and interest subvention. Special attention is being given to the enterprises owned by members of the disadvantaged sections as well. We have also implemented a string of relief measures and provided various incentives - including rent waivers - to the IT firms which are based in the State run IT Parks.

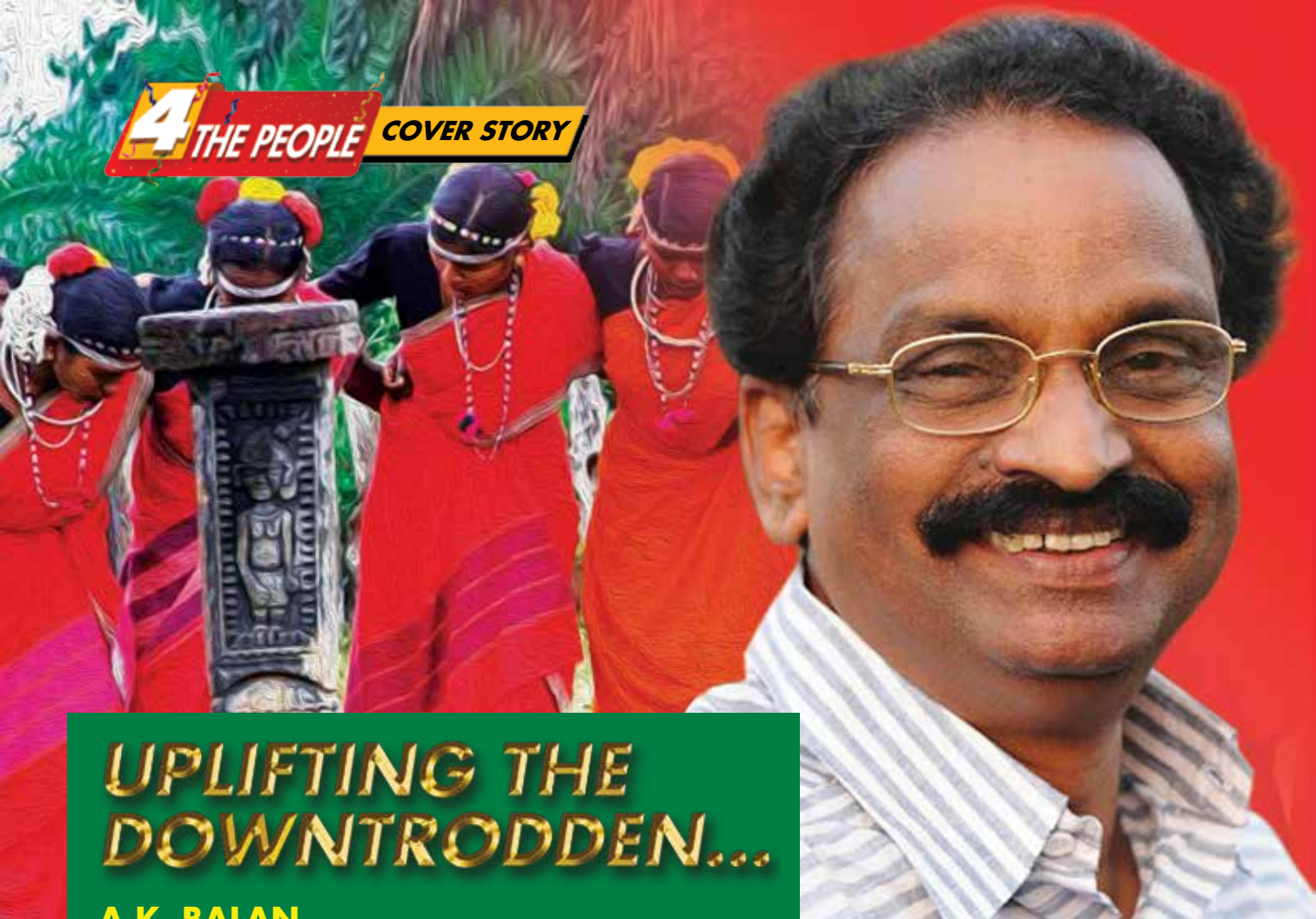
According to the Economic Review of 2019, Kerala recorded its highest economic growth in the year 2018-19, under this Government. Kerala's growth rate increased from 7.3% to 7.5%. And, with Kerala's handling of Covid-19 attracting global attention, investors look up to Kerala as a safe destination for investments. Certain decisions have been taken so that new entrepreneurs and investments can be attracted by the State. Major business licenses and permits will be issued within seven business days. We aim to make a leap in the industrial and commercial sector by realizing multi-modal logistics centres and value-added initiatives in agriculture. Various estimates have shown that the country's growth rate will be greatly reduced in the upcoming days. At this point, our goal is to simultaneously saving lives and livelihoods.

The Non - Resident Keralites who live in different parts of the world are also grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic. Our pravasi community has made significant contributions to the progress of the state. They have always supported Kerala, especially during the times of crisis. Now, many of them are in financial hardships and

some have even lost their lives. It is our responsibility to ensure their safe return to Kerala and to provide them with proper health care services. We are committed to the same. We are also putting in place special schemes for the rehabilitation of returning migrants as well.

The Covid-19 pandemic demands that we devise well thought out strategies to cope with the changed realities, without putting a stop to our economic activities and social life. Kerala was able to meticulously conduct public exams for lakhs of students, without a single one of them falling ill. It is a testament to how we are emerging on top of this changed world. We have even gone a step further by ensuring the continuity of schooling for students from pre-primary to 12th standard, by introducing televised and online classes. We have bridged the digital divide in such a way that even the 2.6 lakh students, out of the total 43 lakh students, who were found to be without adequate facilities to attend such classes when the trial run began, are now able to attend classes. Such a feat is unheard of anywhere in the world. UNICEF is here to observe and record its implementation.

At the completion of every year in office, we have been bringing out a Progress Report, which evaluates our performance on the basis of the promises made in the election manifesto. We have gone beyond what we have promised and raised the benchmark for governments around the world. As we enter this fifth year, we are reaffirming our determination and commitment for the creation of a 'Nava Keralam', where Kerala remains 'Number One'. ■



UPLIFTING THE DOWNTRODDEN...

A.K. BALAN

Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Law, Culture and Parliamentary Affairs

One of the most important criteria to evaluate a Government is its commitment to the socially and financially backward classes of the society.

What the government has done so far to fulfill promises is something more than worth mentioning, as it exemplifies the quality of governance. Study Room for Scheduled Caste students is a scheme worth special mention. Out of 16000 study rooms sanctioned, 9316 have already been completed. The target is 25,000.

The works of 226 Ambedkar colonies of Scheduled Caste have been sanctioned. The works in 155 scheduled tribe hamlets have also been completed.

The assistance from the Minister's distress Relief Fund has been enhanced from Rs.50000/- to Rs. 2 lakhs. The benefit for marriage and inter caste marriage has been enhanced from 50,000 to Rs 75,000. Lump sum grant stipend and pocket money were enhanced by 50 percent.

4265 landless tribal families have been provided with 3663.374 acres of

land. Action is being taken to provide land to the remaining 9039 landless families.

The income limit for the non-creamy layer among other backward classes in Kerala has been raised from Rs. 6 lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs. Within a period of four years Rs. 1026 crores has been given as loan to 105176 beneficiaries.

Fellowship of Rs. 15000/- is given to 1000 artists having recognized qualifications in various art forms. Cultural complexes at a cost of Rs. 50 crore each are coming up in every district in the name of the leaders of Kerala renaissance.

A project named Rural Art Hub has been established for the livelihood of rural cultural workers and craftsmen.

In order to help practitioners of law, the financial assistance from Advocate Welfare Fund has been raised to ten

lakh rupees from five lakh rupees.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Scheduled Caste

Development Department

- 40412 houses sanctioned under various schemes; 29546 completed. Housing plots were given to 16406 landless families.
- Job fair provided placement for 5449 young men and women in various industries.
- Treatment grant of 137.45 cr. was distributed to 76344 patients. Financial Assistance to the families which lose its only earning member has been raised from Rs.50,000/- to Rs.2,00,000/-.

Scheduled Tribe

Development Department

- Qualified youth from Tribal Communities were appointed as 'Mentors' in Lower Primary Schools. 267 teachers have already been appointed.
- 2745 educated youths were employed under various government- programmes.
- 3663.374 acres of land was distributed to 4265 landless tribal families.
- 92.42 crore was provided as treatment grant to 104000 persons.
- Traditional handicrafts and Forest Products of SC/ST entrepreneurs have been sold at 'Gadika' Festivals.
- The unique insurance scheme called 'Valsalya Nidhi' and 'Gothra Valsalya Nidhi' have so far secured the life, health and education of 5645 Scheduled Caste and 1077 Scheduled Tribe girl children respectively.

Culture Department

- Malayalam Mission opened new chapters in 32 countries and 20 Indian states to accelerate the learning of Malayalam outside Kerala.
- The head quarters of Chalachitra Academy was built in Kazhakoottam.
- A memorial for the renowned Karnataka musician Sri. M.D. Ramanathan was inaugurated in Kannambra.
- The price money of J.C. Daniel award was raised to Rs.5,00,000/- and the Ammannoor award

reintroduced.

- Pension from Samskarika Kshemanidhi Board was raised from Rs.1000/- to Rs. 3000/- and the Pension from Culture Department was raised from Rs.750/- to Rs. 1000/-.
- A new social media portal called 'Sarga Sakalyam' has been initiated to present the live performances by renowned artistes.

Backward Classes

Development Department

- The Government cleared all the pending arrears of educational concession of OBC/SEBC/OEC worth 189 crores at the beginning of 2016-17. In addition, a whopping amount of Rs. 1162.56 crore was also spent in the succeeding years.
- An amount of Rs. 88, 64,370/- was provided to 93 persons suffering from sickle cell anemia.

Kerala State Backward Classes

Development Corporation

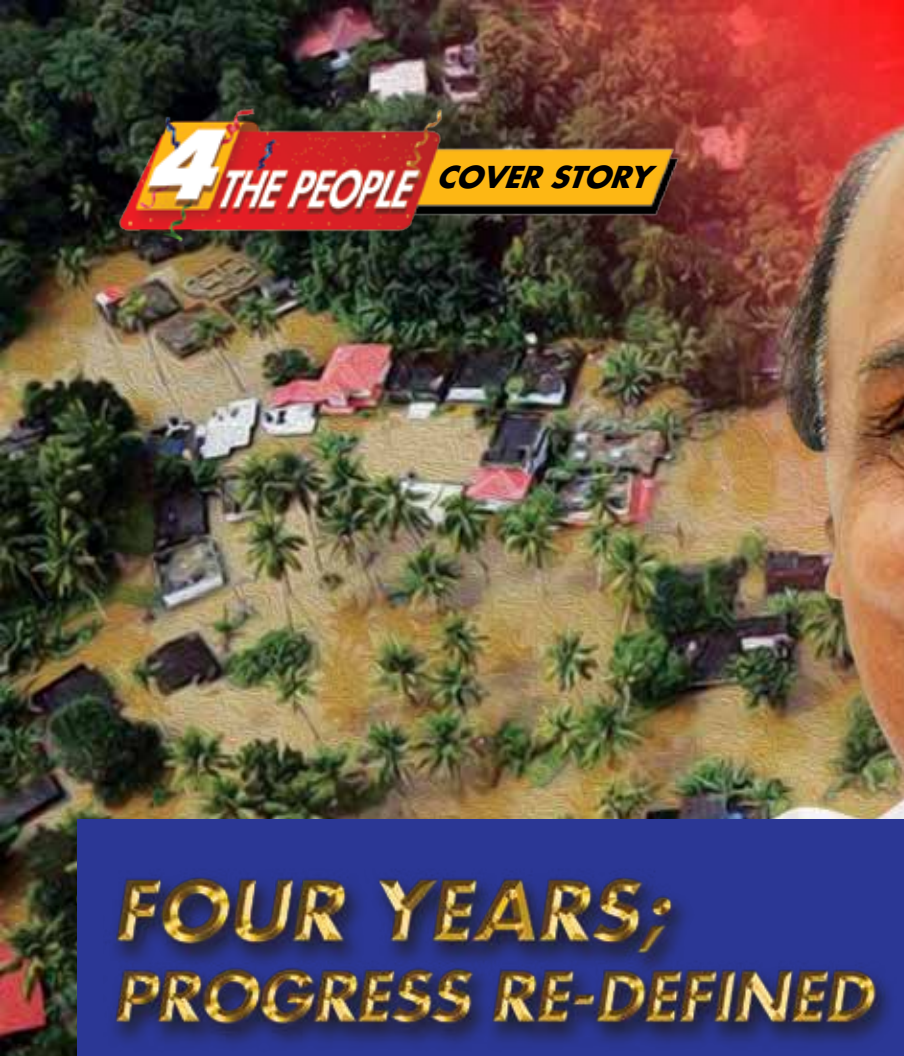
- A new self employment scheme namely "Re-turn" was initiated for expatriates in collaboration with Norka Roots. Till now 24 crores was disbursed to 456 expatriates under this scheme.
- Professionals belonging to OBC's are given loan up to Rs. 20 Lakhs for setting up start ups. Rs. 3.82 crores was disbursed to 128 professionals.
- Under the new scheme 'Ente Veedu', 36.99 crores was disbursed to 740 houseless persons at a modest interest rate of 7.5-8.00%
- Within 4 years, Rs. 1725 crores was disbursed as loan to 177448 beneficiaries which accounts for 46% of total loan disbursed since the corporation was set up in 1995.

Law Department

- The share of court fee to the Advocates welfare fund was raised from 35% to 70%
- A provision for giving stipend to Junior Advocates for the first 3 years has been introduced.

Parliamentary Department

- The institute for parliamentary affairs conducted inter- collegiate and inter school model parliament competitions. The winners will get a chance to visit the parliament. ■



FOUR YEARS; PROGRESS RE-DEFINED

E. CHANDRASEKHARAN
Minister for Revenue and Housing

In the year when this government took office, the public opinion was that government-run schools were not profitable; many of them were closed or had been recommended to shut down. Today, state-wide public educational institutions have risen to international standards. This was done through multiple initiatives that safeguarded public education. Millions of students now attend public schools each year.

Four years of governance have brought about massive improvements in the public health sector and this is testament to the warmth and compassion that has been the cornerstone of this government's endeavours. Even in this era of COVID-19, the entire world is speaking of the capacity and leadership demonstrated by our health system.

The implementation of the Food Security Act has transformed the food supply sector to public satisfaction, as seen today. Dairy farmers have been empowered economically and technologically through government-initiated initiatives.

The Department of Revenue was able to evade large scale encroachments. The Rice Protection Act has been further updated with additional attention provided to the intensification of paddy protection. The services and certificates provided by the Village Offices have been moved online.

The dream of a home for all the homeless in the state has almost reached completion. The fisheries sector today is marching towards prosperity with the special consideration of the government. In the case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes, the government has written a new chapter in welfare activities.

Employment opportunities in traditional employment sectors have been rejuvenated. The IT sector has attracted global attention. Large investments were made in the industry

and the PSUs have yielded good profits. Disaster management systems have been improved in light of experience. All humanitarian aid was provided to the victims.

Land Deeds

- 143,000 documents have been issued in the course of four years with 35000 additional distributed this year.

Land Enroachment

- Special vigilance squads were formed to protect government land at district level and a State Level Monitoring Cell under the Joint Commissioner was created.
- Land that had been illegally occupied was evacuated.

Tribunals

- 14 Devaswom Tribunals have been constituted. The tribunals were restructured according to the number of cases and their requirements.

Paddy field protection

- The Paddy Watershed Protection Act (2008) has been upgraded to modern standards and strengthened. Measures to rejuvenate and prevent paddy fields from going fallow have been added.
- Large sections of filled fields have been restored.

Plantation land

- Proceedings in cases relating to plantations have been expedited and appropriate action taken.

Unused land

- Steps were taken to preserve and acquire such land in a fair and legal manner. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, property will be utilized for projects like 'Prosperous Kerala.'

Eradication of Corruption

- Strict action has been taken against corruption.
- 60 officers were suspended, 200 corrective proceedings...

Land for places of worship and cultural institutions has been arranged and paid for.



Digitization of land records has been completed ***Unique Taper***

- A new registration system has been created in order to clarify land ownership information in The State and Aadhar issues, in connection with the abolition of Benami property

The disaster mitigation system in Kerala has been raised to a world-class system and its capabilities were demonstrated during the Ockhi cyclone and floods of 2018-19



HIGHER GOALS, COMPETENT INITIATIVES

Dr. K.T. JALEEL

Minister for Higher Education and Minority Welfare

Higher Education sector is mounting new altitudes these days.

Three Government Arts & Science Colleges and five Aided Arts & Science Colleges have been started. There has been an increase of 15000 seats at UG / PG levels in the academic year 2019-20. New generation engineering courses in artificial intelligence, robotics and design engineering have been sanctioned at selected engineering colleges in the State. Two new Polytechnic Colleges are opened. Students who have passed Plus Two are allowed admission to polytechnic colleges for the first time through Lateral Entry. Seat reservations are provided for the third genders in admissions to Government / Aided Arts & Science Colleges.

562 teaching appointments and 436 non-teaching appointments in Government Arts & Science colleges were done through the Public Service Commission. Created new posts for the appointment of 374 teachers & 27 non-teaching staff in Government Arts & Science colleges, 30 posts in aided arts & science colleges and 497 teachers in government engineering and polytechnic colleges. Govt. was in no hesitation to appoint 2198 Assistants & 825 Computer Assistants in

Universities and 93 Library Assistants in Commons Pool Library category through the Public Service commission.

Now the Kerala State Library Council has given affiliation to 877 libraries afresh. Balavedi is started in 2000 libraries and Women's forum in 500 libraries. Building grants were approved to 60 libraries. Two new Taluk Libraries have been started. Funds were allocated for setting up of 44 libraries in the Tribal region. The Gurusangamam project, which transforms libraries into day homes for senior citizens, has been initiated. Smart e-reading room was set up in rural libraries. This govt. allowed an increase of 60% in book grant for libraries and 140% in monthly allowance for librarians.

We established nine international skill training complexes, called Community Skill Parks, under ASAP.

Various schemes have been devised and implemented to promote research activities in Universities. With yet another view of enhancing interdisciplinary research of international standards, the Convergence Academia Complex has been made a reality in Mahatma Gandhi University at a total cost of Rs 34.42 crores.

Entrance exams for professional courses other than engineering are now being conducted online. A Professional Student Summit was organized at CUSAT. Students Leaders Conclave was organised to provide the young minds an opportunity to interact and exchange their ideas with the Chief Minister for the New Kerala Initiative. Needy and meritorious students were awarded with Higher Education Scholarships worth Rs 33.5 crore by the Higher Education Council. Their Erudite program created an opportunity for students to interact with 116 people, including 3 Nobel Prize winners, one Abel Prize winner and one Booker Prize winner.

Various students' organisations like the NCC and the NSS were instrumental in tackling the two flood situations which affected the State. In order to overcome the obstacles created by Covid-19 in higher education, universities and colleges have taken steps to provide online classes for students. With the help of ASAP, a centralized platform has been created to deliver classes of talented teachers online.

- ▶ **Three Government Arts & Science Colleges and five Aided Arts & Science Colleges have been started.**
- ▶ **There has been an increase of 15000 seats at UG / PG levels in the academic year 2019-20**
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- ▶ **2198 Assistants & 825 Computer Assistants in Universities and 93 Library Assistants in Commons Pool Library category**
- ▶ **Education and skills training to over 2 Lakh students through 1118 partner institutions**
- ▶ **Constituted Madrasa teacher's Kshemanidhi Board**

Headquarters at Kozhikkode

- ▶ **New block constructed exclusively for women at Hajji house spending Rs. 6 crore**
- ▶ **3038 houses had been completed under Imbichi Bava Housing project**
- ▶ **Annual scholarship of Rs. 10 000 for 7871 minority students studying in private sector ITI s.**

NEWS SCAN

E - SANJEEVANI



E-sanjeevani - the citizen- friendly tele-medicine facility, is the first online outpatient initiative in the country. The telemedicine 'O.P.' operates from 8 A.M to 8 P.M. Through this, the patient can register, avail token, and consult doctors. In the Initial phase, the service of 32 government doctors including seven medical officers of the Arogyakeralam project will be available.

Health minister K.K.Shailaja Teacher launched the tele-medicine consultation platform. The platform is developed by C-dac (Mohali). E-sanjeevani facilitates upright health - facility and treatment from home, which acts as a means for the patient to avoid hospital visits during this time of corona-spread.



INNOVATIVE INDUSTRY & ENVIOUS TRACK RECORD

E P JAYARAJAN

Minister for Industries, Sports and Youth Affairs

With a long line of achievements to its credit, the LDF government has successfully stepped into its fifth year of administration. Landmark changes brought out in the field of development through a well-chalked out planning and willpower shaped Kerala into an investment-friendly state.

According to the Economic Review Report in the last three years, the Gross Domestic Product of Kerala was recorded at 7.2 percent as against the national average of 6.9 percent. The report specifically points to the big progress in the industrial sector as the reason that propelled Kerala's GDP ahead of the national average.

34 ventures were started in the small-scale industries sector through KSIDC which provided employment to 2,373 people. Loans worth Rs 445.2 crore were given to 59 industries. A total of 109 Start Ups were given aid of Rs 22.83 crore from SEED fund. The limit of the loan amount being given by KSDP has been raised from Rs 35 crore to Rs 100 crore. KINFRA, through its various ventures, was able to provide direct employment to 7197 persons and indirect jobs to over 4,000 persons in 4 years. An investment to the

tune of Rs 471 crore was facilitated through KINFRA and 288.39 acres of land was made available to open 264 Start-Ups.

Land was allotted in Kinfra parks to start 84 companies in 2019-20 alone. 42 public sector institutions under the Industries Department did a record business of Rs. 3443 crores in 2018-19 fiscal.

Kerala's sports sector also witnessed new heights in the past four years. For the first time in the history of the state 195 sports persons were given appointments at a stretch in the government sector, taking the total postings in the sports quota to 440, so far.

The construction of 26 stadiums began for which Rs. 700 crore was earmarked. Twelve of the 25 stadiums which were built during the time of National Games were renovated with

more facilities.

The government also spends Rs. 25,000 each for the coaching of athlete P U Chitra and long jumper M. Sreesankar. Houses are being built for Santhosh Trophy player K. P. Rahul and national junior football player Aryasree at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh and Rs. 10 lakh respectively. The government also built a house for the lone Olympic medalist from Kerala and hockey legend Manuel Fredericks in Kannur at a cost of Rs 42 lakh. 'Operation Olympia' was launched to provide coaching of international standards to select sportspersons in 11 items through Sports Council. The Sports Department took over the control of G V Raja Sports School and Kannur Sports Division and carried out various development works here to the tune of Rs 6.4 crores. Work to the tune of Rs 25 crore is currently underway.

14 industrial parks, including land and other infrastructural facilities to set up various industries, are being set up across the state.

- ▶ **97 percent of GAIL pipeline project completed**
- ▶ **New law formulated to start micro, small and medium enterprises without prior permission. Three years given to obtain a license after the industry is launched.**
- ▶ **Free handloom school uniform scheme provided 116 lakh meters of handloom fabric to 14 lakh students in four years free of cost. Besides, it gave opportunities to 5,600 weavers and allied sectors.**
- ▶ **In the textile sector, 4 spinning mills have started exporting yarn to foreign countries.**
- ▶ **Construction of 43 sports complexes began.**
- ▶ **Special projects 'Kickoff', 'Splash', 'Hoops', 'Sprint' started to impart free coaching to children from a very young age in football, swimming, basketball, and athletics respectively.**
- ▶ **Tennis, shooting academies launched.**
- ▶ **Beach games, Marathon to be held annually for the promotion of sports.**
- ▶ **Fitness centers set up in 8 centers in the state.**
- ▶ **Youth Welfare Board has formed 'Kerala Voluntary Youth Action Force' by lining up youngsters.**

NEWS SCAN

THE VIRTUAL BELL



Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated First Bell- the online platform, the first of its kind initiative for school students. The Kerala state General Education Department organises virtual lessons for classes 1 to 12.

The lessons that follow the State syllabus is being aired through KITE VICTERS, the education channel. The sessions are scheduled from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm from Monday to Friday. The duration of classes varies from 30 minutes to two hours. The class - teachers are deputed to monitor and to hold discussions with students regularly. The channel (KITE VICTERS) is now available on almost all cable networks and direct to home platforms as well.

Re-telecast of each class is made available and the sessions can be viewed on social media as well. The virtual classes, practically ensure that students never miss their classes owing to covid19 - enforced restrictions.



BANKING ON INNOVATION

KADAKAMPALLY SURENDRAN

Minister for Co-operation, Tourism and Devaswoms

The government when stepping to its fifth year is moving ahead through the path of progress by fulfilling most of the promises and tackling all obstacles with equanimity. The achievements gained by Co-operation, Tourism and Devaswom departments are more than worth mentioning.

The birth of Kerala Bank endeavours to enhance the existing business of Rs.1 crore to Rs. 3 crores within a period of three years. Through the Care Home scheme, the construction of more than 2000 homes was completed and handed over to those who lost their homes in the flood.

As per the dealings till 31-12-2019, co-operative banks have given a loan worth Rs. 713.92 crores to 85661 members under this category

Muttathe Mulla is a scheme organized by the Co-operative sector to save the agricultural sector from the exploitative clutches of the threat, blade scheme. Through this scheme, Rs.484.72 crores have been distributed as loan via Kudumbashree units. Co-operative Department has undertaken the mission of planting five lakh saplings for the conservation of the environment since 2017. Till February 2020, Rs. 5604.28 crores were collected through various co-operative societies and given to Social

Security Pension Consortium for distribution. The functioning of Consumer Fed is creating continuous profit.

The last four years have seen a sudden leap in the number of international as well as foreign tourists. The state has received Rs.46000 crores in the year 2019 alone in the tourism sector. 15,518 units of Responsible Tourism Mission have been formulated in the state and 78000 people were given a job in the top-300 tourism projects as per the infrastructure facility development scheme of the tourism department are in progress in various districts of the state.

■ **Champions Boat League aka CBL that began with Nehru Trophy Boat race of Punnamadakayal on 31 August 2019 culminated with President's trophy boat race at Kollam.**

- The Government has been triumphant in materializing the renovation of Mittai Theruvu and bestowing to the people a heritage street, a dream of the public that has been pending for three decades.
- The schemes worth Rs.60 crores have been initiated in the famous tourism centres of Thiruvananthapuram.
- A scheme worth Rs. 10 crores for the conservation of Kanakakkunnu Palace
- Rs. 18 crores have been granted by the State Tourism Department for a Convention centre at

Chempazhanthy, the birthplace of Sree Narayana Guru.

- The construction of a new guest house with 56 rooms at Guruvayur worth Rs. 24 crores have begun.
- A scheme of Rs. 10 crores to provide train service facility for the tourists to roam around Veli tourist village has been concluded.
- The construction activities of sound and light show scheme by investing Rs. 5 crores to make Thenmala eco-tourism attractive have been concluded.

NEWS SCAN



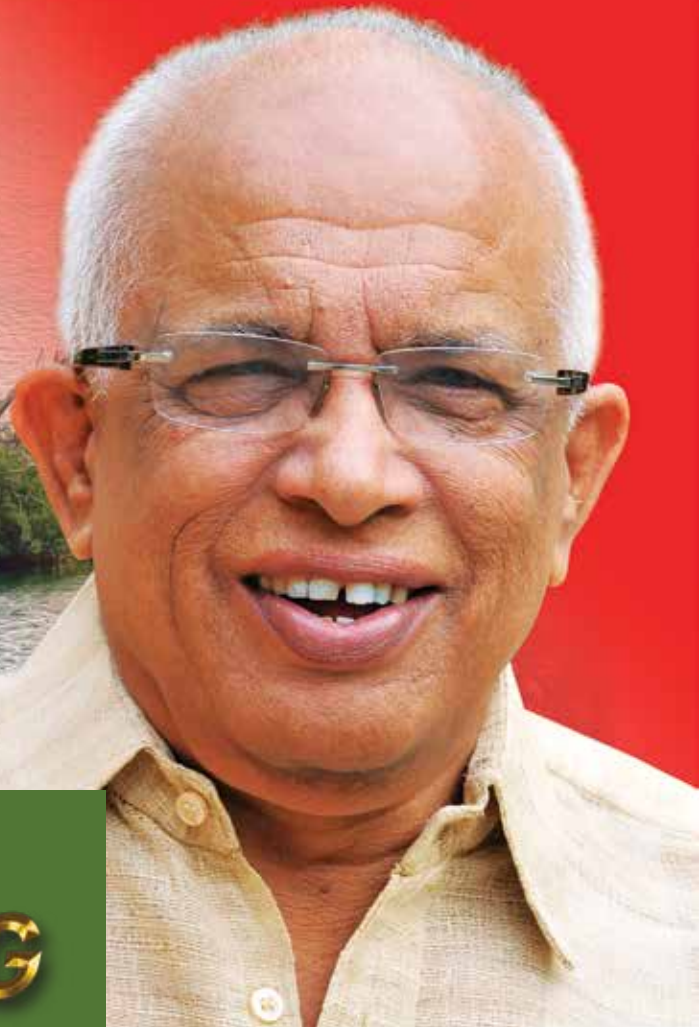
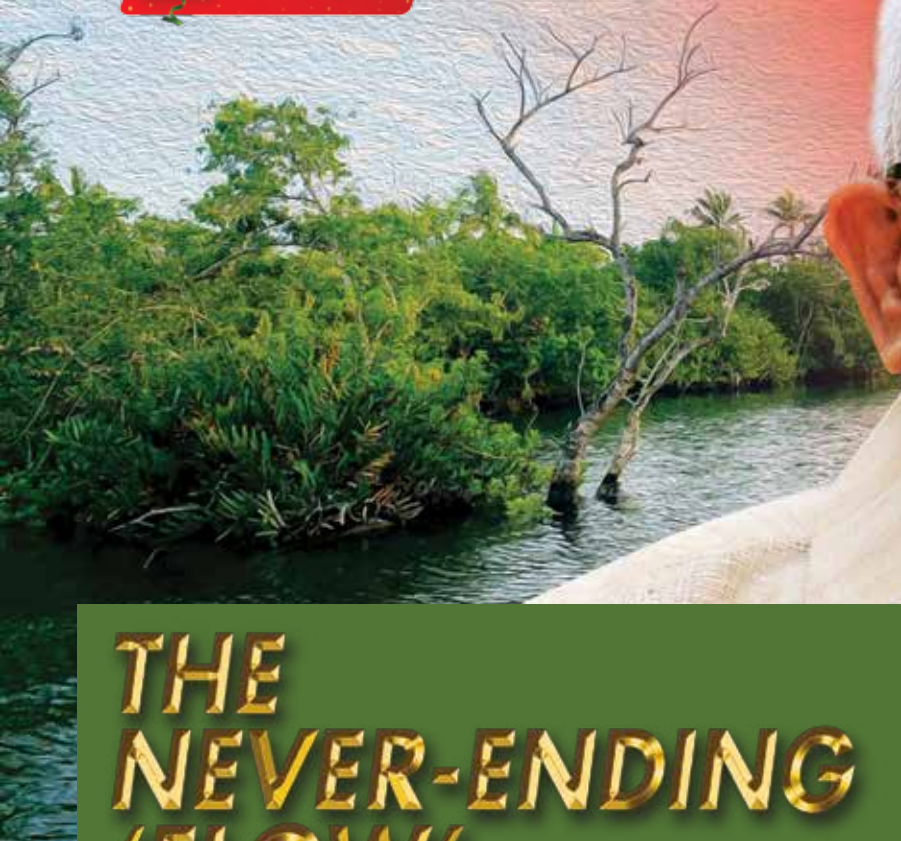
THE GoK CONNECT...

The State Government of Kerala launched the mobile application – ‘Gok direct’ recently to communicate developments regarding Covid -19 outbreak to the public. This App now functions as a helpful tool to disseminate facts and news connected with the pandemic and more.

This has become useful to those who are under quarantine, travellers, public and persons who returned to Kerala abroad. Information and Public Relations Department is the instigator behind this app which also provides general notices/ announcements given by the State Government to the public. Text message alert facility is an added advantage of this App.

For the time being Gok is available only on Android-featuring mobiles. Android users can install the app from Google play store. QR code facility is also available. While opening the application four options - general awareness, awareness for travellers, quarantine protocol, instructions for visitors appear on - screen. Notices and instructions from the Government can be accessed by clicking on related options. Live news is provided by the health department.

The App is a joint initiative by Q Copy under the supervision of Kerala start-up mission and Information - public relations Department. The highlight of this application is that text message alert can be send to the base model phones even without internet facility.



THE NEVER-ENDING 'FLOW'

K. KRISHNANKUTTY
Minister for Water Resources

The four bygone years have moulded a pivotal imprint in the history of Water Resources department. The Department has succeeded in bagging record for providing drinking water pipe connection. Water Authority along with Jananidhi was able to deliver 8.82 lakhs connection during this period.

Irrigation schemes to enable more aid to agriculture and the creation of new schemes with the help of farmers were materialized. This paved the way for the enhancement of area suitable for irrigation facility to 10,000 hectares in the total land where cultivation has begun. The activities of the Irrigation Department were upgraded with the assistance of modern machines. The water tax has not been enhanced since the last four years.

- ▶ Drinking water connection for 10 lakh families by this year.
- ▶ Water Authority and Irrigation departments have rendered service to the people without any deferment in the time of corona lockdown.
- ▶ Executive engineers were granted Rs. 30 lakhs each for implementing

emergency actions for flood resistance.

- ▶ As a part of 'Mazhavella Sambarana Bhoojala Pariposhanam' programme, rainwater harvesters with a capacity of 10,000 L were constructed and distributed to 1000 families of 10-gram panchayats. 840 government schools were given rainwater harvesters with the capacity of 10,000L.
- ▶ Muvattupuzha irrigation project has turned out to be a reality after three and a half decades.

- A new sewerage circle has started functioning under the State Water Authority to tackle the sewerage issues of the state.
- A community micro-irrigation project worth Rs. 3.1cr has begun functioning at Karadippara, Palakkad to enhance the crops.

- It has been successful in commissioning Muvattupuzha



irrigation project. The project completed in Rs. 945 crores enable irrigation facilities to 35, 619 hectares of land from Ernakulam, Kottayam and Idukki districts.

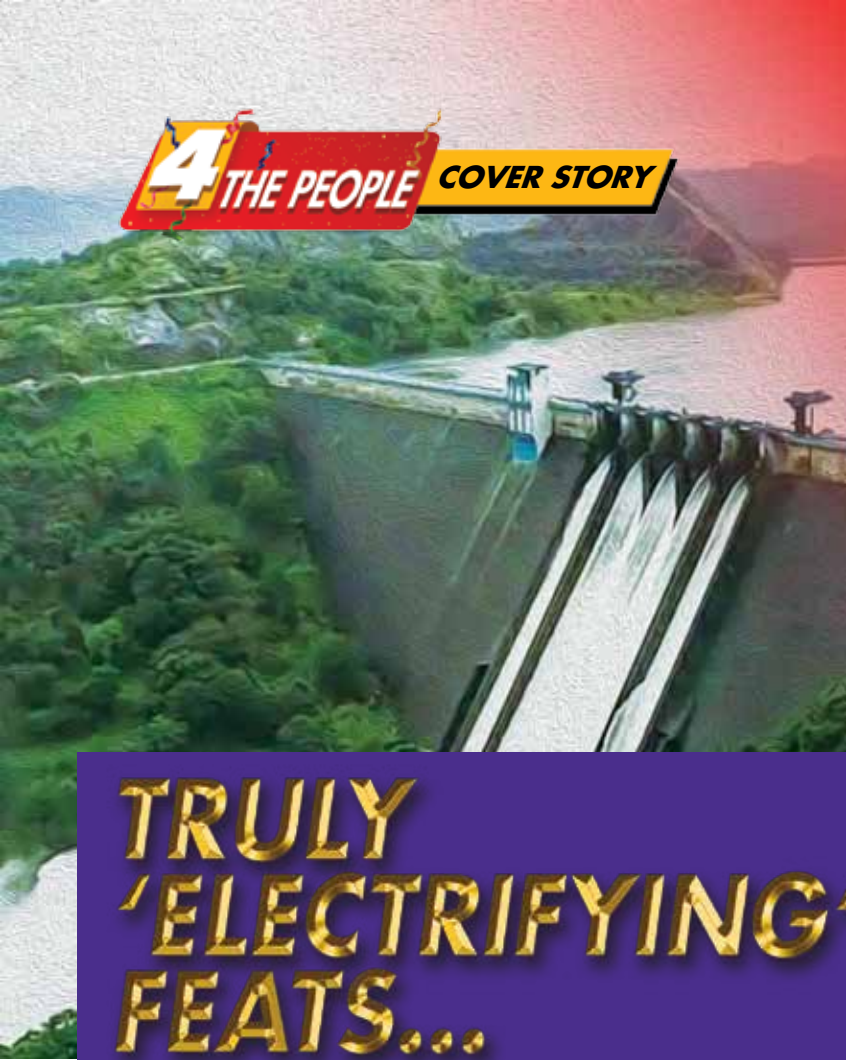
- The steps to construct a network of check dams and regulators based on the scientific study of converting rivers into reservoirs are in progress
- All executive engineers were granted Rs. 30 lakhs in advance to take necessary action in the unperturbed flow of water through canals during the monsoon.
- Rs. 537 crores have been sanctioned from the disaster management fund for resolving the damages and destructions happened in the flood. The activities for Rs.500 crores have been in progress in various phases.
- The Water Authority for the first time has arranged the helpline number- 1916 working 24 × 7
- Innovation hub aiming for the timely innovation of the functioning of Water Authority and implementing international methods has been formulated for the first time. It has become operational.
- One of the focal achievements attained by the Water Resources Department during this tenure was the materialization of low-level canal water flow of Idamalayar irrigation project that has been pending for the last twelve years. ■

KERALA AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD

MANU S. PILLAI



There is something refreshing about the proactive quality of Kerala's fight against Covid-19, which inspires in the citizen a sense of trust and confidence in the authorities. More importantly, the state has kept alive ideas of democratic accountability and scrutiny, and its institutions are working robustly. The Chief Minister's regular press conferences have kept channels of communication open, while the press, the opposition, and civil society are preserving their democratic turf. This is always a healthy sign for any democracy—particularly so when in other places, the pandemic is used to stifle dissent, to brush aside liberties, and to promote partisan interests. Kerala, in this broader context, is an example to India and to the world at large. It has earned its praise, and the faith of its people.



TRULY 'ELECTRIFYING' FEATS...

M. M. MANI
Minister for Electricity

Kerala becomes the first totally electrified state by providing supply to all domestic consumers. The whole project costs rupees 175 Crs. More than 15 lakhs new connections were given till date and the status continue to be maintained.

Extra compensatory package of 256 Cr declared by the state Government led to restart the work of abandoned 400 KV Thirunelveli- Edaman-Kochi-Madakathara Transmission line and constant follow up actions till the last minute resulted in the completion in september 2019. The total project expenditure cost comes to 1200 Cr. An increase of 500 MW in the import capacity of the state is ensured and the improvements in the quality of voltage are the important benefits of this Project. The inter-state Pugalur - Madakathara 2000 MW line will be completed soon with the help of modern technology. The project cost is 3769 Crs. Also an agreement for another project, construction of Uduppi-Kasargode 400KV link project, has been signed.

Even in the event of severe drought we could avoid Power Cuts and

load shedding in the state. Even in Summer during 2019, when the energy consumption reached the all time record of 88.34 million units and the maximum demand reached 4316 MW we could manage without imposing any restrictions.

The first state to reduce distribution loss to 9.07% - March 2019.

Kerala became the first state in the country to attain such a remarkable feat. Even if, the combined Transmission and distribution losses are taken together it is only 12.47%.

Record in Green Energy internal capacity addition

Since 2016, 221 MW of green energy has been added to the installed capacity of the State.

In transmission network, 53 new substations- May 2016-January 2020.

53 new substations and 1000 km of Transmission line have been completed.

In distribution network, 9000 new transformers and 22000 km of line

The flagship project Dyuthi- 2021 costs 4036 Cr. As part of the project, the nation's first GIS based participatory mapping was completed.

Agreement for the K-phone project signed-September 2019

In order to provide Internet access all over Kerala, a master project named K-phone has been introduced.

131 charging stations for electric vehicles

With a view to provide eco-friendly transportation in the State, a comprehensive scheme for the promotion of electric vehicles and establishing charging stations is being carried out.

Public Adalats in all districts

Public Adalats were introduced in all districts in which a total of 17432 petitions were received; 15912 of those were already rectified.

Social Auditing

Social Auditing facilities were introduced in Section offices in consultation with public representatives.

Introduction of SCADA

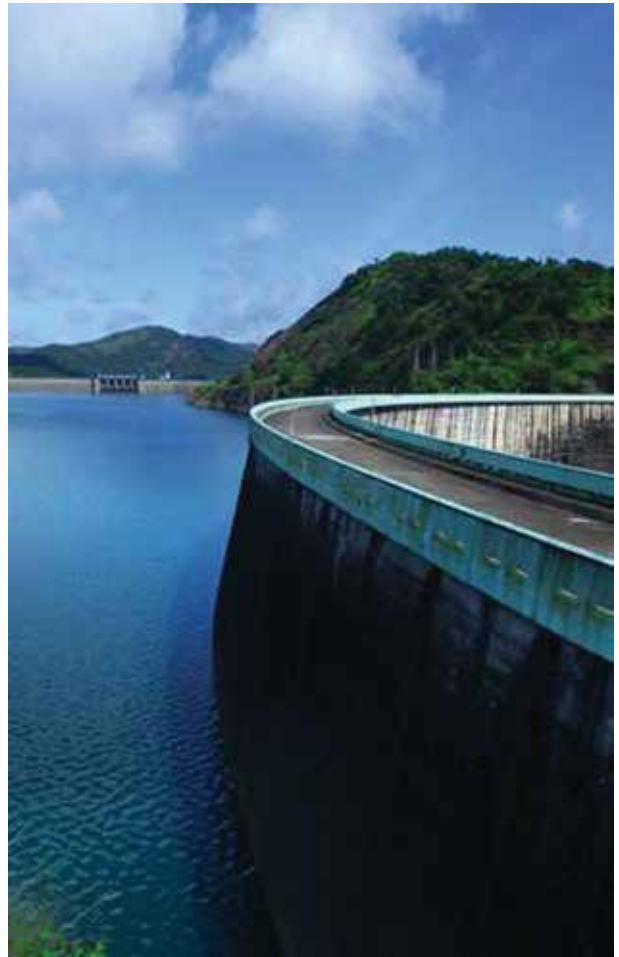
The most modern technology based on I.T - SCADA was introduced in Electricity distribution networks in a fully automatic platform to identify the faults instantaneously so that isolate it and rectify in an efficient manner.

Everything on-line

All consumer services were made easy with the introduction of IT based online services with easy procedures.

Disaster management and supply restoration system

A mission project bearing the title 'Mission Reconnect' was introduced during floods, to restore the electric



connections in no time.

Emergency action plan

Kerala was the first state to get approval from the Central Government for the emergency action plan for the water control in dams.

Peelikod- The first 'filament free' Panchayat in India

The Filament - Free Kerala Initiative was introduced to avoid Filament bulbs and tubes all over Kerala and thereby making an energy efficient state.

Awards and recognitions

Kerala received the National Energy conservation Award consecutively for 3 years.

Rooftop solar project

The proposed rooftop solar project 'Soura' aims to produce 1000 MW targeting on domestic as well as commercial consumers. ■



THE PERFECT 'CATCH'

J. MERCYKUTTY AMMA

Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry

CCOVID could not mar the spirit of fisherfolk, as they continued to toil hard to earn their daily bread. Despite the inevitable restrictions fishing activity went on sans complaints. The Legislative Assembly published Kerala Fish Auction, Marketing, and Quality Control Bill to ensure rights for the sale of fish caught from the sea first for the fishermen and to ensure that they get reasonable rates through the fish sale. To ensure a good state of fish wealth, timely amendments have been introduced in the Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation (KMFR) Act. Three-tier Fisheries Management Councils are functioning in State, District and the level of Fisheries Villages for participatory maintenance and control of resources. As a result of this, fish production from the sea has increased from 4.88 lakh metric tonnes in 2016-17 to 6.09 lakh metric tonnes in 2019-20. As part of preventing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, the government has prevented auction of fish and implemented its sale by fixing reasonable rates.

Harbour Management Society was begun in 19 harbours of the State for the proper conduct and monitoring of fishing harbours. It is the responsibility of Harbour Management Society to monitor works related to the development of basic material facilities at harbours, framing other related works, the introduction of other schemes and related facilities. The Society is also responsible for conducting and ensuring auction of fish, sale etc.

The Society will also be responsible for collecting the user fees, fixed by respective governments through announcements, from the consumers.

Maintenance of cleanliness at the harbours, personal hygiene of those using the harbour and processing of solid, liquid waste at the harbours etc. is done through the Harbour Management Society. Fisheries Department began

Punargeham Scheme worth Rs 2,450 crores for rehabilitating 18,685 families, living within 50 metres of the tidal zone, to a protective zone. The government has given administrative sanction for implementing the scheme. For the Scheme, Rs 1,398 crores were set aside from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and the remaining Rs 1,052 crores from the Budget share of Fisheries Department.

The Scheme is being implemented in three stages from the period beginning from 2019-20 till 2020-21. The Scheme aims to rehabilitate 8,487 families in the first stage and 5,099 families in the second and third stage. For this, individual house construction and flat complex models are followed.

All families staying within 50 metres of the shore from the tidal mark will be included under this Scheme. To increase internal production of unpeeled cashew nuts, steps are being taken to distribute quality young plants through Cashew Development Corporation. Cashew Board was formed to prevent unhealthy practices in the import of unpeeled cashews. 6,000 metric tonnes of unpeeled cashews have been collected at a low rate from foreign markets and distributed to Cashew Development Corporation and CAPEX.

- Land was made available for 2,057 fishermen families to construct houses.
- 192 flats were distributed, with all facilities, to 192 fishermen families in Muttathara of Thiruvananthapuram district.
- For fishermen families, 5,560 houses were given, 4,000 houses were re-electrified, 4,500 houses were renovated and 5,477 toilets were constructed.
- Jobs for those from fishermen families in Coastal Police service.
- Rs 10 lakhs insurance aid each to the family of deceased fishermen.
- Aid for 1.68 lakh people under the Financial Assistance Scheme.
- Free ration for 43,500 fishermen families.
- Educational concession for the children of 1.16 lakh fishermen families. MBBS entrance clearance for 34 students through free coaching.
- Renovation and construction of coastal health centres and hospitals are being implemented at a cost of Rs 30 crores.
- Rs 514 crores for the renovation of 1,400 coastal roads.
- Developmental Schemes worth Rs 4,465 crores being implemented through Fisheries, Harbour



- Engineering Departments since four years.
- Fish seed production in State doubled when compared to that in UDF Government's tenure.
- Total fish production in State increased from 7.28 lakh tones to 8.01 lakh tones per year.
- Fishing harbour works were completed in Thalai, Koyilandy, Chettuva, Muthalappozhi and Manjeswaram.
- Dredging activities at Neendakaraharbour was begun by entering into a contract with Dredging Corporation of India.
- Locked down cashew factories were opened and they began functioning.
- Gratuity distribution was re-started to provide the same to cashew labourers who didn't receive gratuity since 2010. The pending gratuity till 2015 was distributed and steps are being taken to release gratuity to the remaining labourers in the current financial year.



DEVELOPMENTS UNLIMITED

A.C MOIDEEN

Minister for Local Self Governments

The last four years have seen limitless developments in the field of local-level development. The floods of 2018-2019 and the post-pandemic lock-down of March 2020 have posed major challenges to the project performance. Still, The Government has continued to make big strides in development.

As is done every year in the months of January-February, a village/ward committee was set up to plan projects and by March 2nd, they had received approval for all projects from the District Planning Committee. With this, the project was scheduled and executed on the 1st of April. This is because the project is executed on a time frame of 12 months.

New 'working groups' were formed to tackle issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, Environmental Protection and Disaster Mitigation. The Plan Guidelines have been revised to facilitate multilateral planning. A category called Innovative Programmes was included. Formulating a comprehensive development paradigm for districts, encouraging multilateral planning and setting development needs and priorities of different levels of local bodies; the objectives of the district

plan are to link the work of various government departments to the planning process. We also have the aim of improving the quality of project formulation, improving the knowledge, content and technical quality of local projects. For this purpose, District Resource Centres have been set up in all the 14 districts. The disasters that the state has faced over time have made it imperative for the state to develop a Disaster Management Protocol at local government levels.

2.19 lakh houses have been built under the aegis of the Life Mission. An additional 13.96 lakh people have benefitted from various social security pensions. The government has also increased the minimum pension from Rs. 600 to Rs. 1300.

To provide timely and fruitful service to the people, steps were taken to upgrade the local body institutions

to ISO standards. In terms of urban development, 7015 crores have been allocated to various projects that are being carried out.

As part of a major movement towards poverty alleviation and women's empowerment, Kudumbasree now stands at 2.96 lakh neighbourhood groups with 44 lakh members. In the last four years, the government has provided financial assistance of about Rs 1,500 crore to the organisation.

In all local-governance bodies, this practice of e-governance has been made mandatory. E-tender has been sanctioned for implementation of repair works in local bodies.

Various training institutes have been integrated into KILA and with the addition of new subject centres, KILA has become a centre of excellence. Through this, 8,98,490 days of experimental functioning have been completed.

- ▶ Development Fund share of Rs 26,227.50 crores to Local Self Government Institutions within 4 years.
- ▶ 2.19 lakh houses constructed through LIFE Mission.
- ▶ 939 GramaPanchayaths and 152 Block Panchayaths secured ISO certification.
- ▶ Haritha Karma Sena formed with 30,000 members.
- ▶ Development Projects worth Rs. 7015.78 for urban areas
- ▶ Projects worth Rs. 961 crores through Chief Minister's Local Road Development Project.
- ▶ A total of 30.81 crore man-days in rural areas through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- ▶ A total of 55 lakh man-days in urban areas through Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- ▶ 2, 14,600 km Road construction and renovation.
- ▶ New buildings for 2037 Anganwadis, 1318 new classrooms, 1849 smart classrooms, 367 new hospital buildings
- ▶ 56,382 cows, 12,890 buffaloes and 1, 18,755 goats distributed in Animal Husbandry Sector.
- ▶ Fallow land cultivation in 22, 83,156 acres and 1, 41,471 organic farming enterprises for Agriculture prosperity.

- ▶ Chief Minister's Helping Hand Interest-free loan scheme of Rs 2000 crores through Kudumbasree for helping the people during the lockdown.
- ▶ Food served to 90 lakh+ people through 1450 community kitchens during the lockdown period.
- ▶ 1114.695 metric ton non-biodegradable shredded plastic made available for road construction.

I am so happy to see a collective response of the government and people response to the covid challenge. I wish my brothers and sisters of Kerala safe and joyous life

Kiran Bedi



Kerala has shown the country and the world how to deal with the pandemic through its diligence and careful monitoring. And it has shown by example what a welfare state is truly all about. Kerala has made it clear that the government recognises that it is of the people, and by the people and hence is responsible for the people.

Anitha Nair





FOUR YEARS OF GREEN SHEEN

Adv. K. RAJU

Minister for Forests, Animal Husbandry and Zoos

The government views its forest conservation activities with a broader participatory approach aimed at managing forests and wildlife with the help of local people along with the social and economic uplift of the tribal community who depend largely on forest resources.

Kerala has been ranked third among the top states four times in a row in terms of increase in forest cover. An area of 319, 50401 hectares of forest in the state was declared Proposed Reserve Forest. A total of 378 families of 14 tribal settlements living in the deep interiors of the forests who wilfully expressed their desire to move out were rehabilitated. Strong measures were taken to thwart encroachment of forest land by building 53,635 stone-made stumps called 'jandas'.

Constructive methods were initiated across the state to minimise the severe man-animal conflicts. Local vigil groups comprising people's representatives were setup under the banner of Jana Jagratha Samithis. The mobile application - 'Wild Watch' was devised to help detect the presence

of wild animals and doubled the compensation amount being given to people who fall prey to wildlife attack.

Fire alert system, fire warning system and fire monitoring cell that functions round the clock from the department headquarters were launched to keep a watchful eye on forest fire.

For the first time in the state forest adalats were held in all districts which not only became a platform for settling various grievances but also allotted compensation of Rs 2.31 crore. Online sale of Vanashree products was initiated. The Kappukadu elephant sanctuary in the Kottur forest range is the first-of-its-kind elephant rehabilitation centre with global standards.

Major Milestones

- **Rs 800 crore project for mangrove conservation, land takeover and rehabilitation.**



- Kerala becomes first state to make use of crash guard rope fencing
- Compensation amount given for wildlife attack doubled.
- 53,635 jandas (border stone) set up in state, to prevent forest encroachments.
- 350 check dams constructed
- The Forest Department purchased two state-of-the-art Fire Responder vehicles to deal with emergencies like wildfire disasters.
- 'Srishti' Scholarships: Started 'Srishti' Scholarship project to promote education of backward girls from Scheduled Tribes families.
- Mission Green Sabarimala: Project to enforce green protocol at Sabarimala temple premises so as to make 'poongavanam', the dense forest around the temple, and the pathway leading to the hill shrine pollution-free.
- Fire Warning System: Fire Warning System implemented to predict outbreak of wildfire.
- HAWK to carry out investigation: The department developed an online module called HAWK (Hostile Activity Watch Kernel) to curb wildlife poaching and other criminal activities inside forests.

Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary

The Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary came into being with an aim to manage the forests through a participatory approach for the protection of environment, ecosystem and wildlife along with retaining the age-old tribal culture. ■

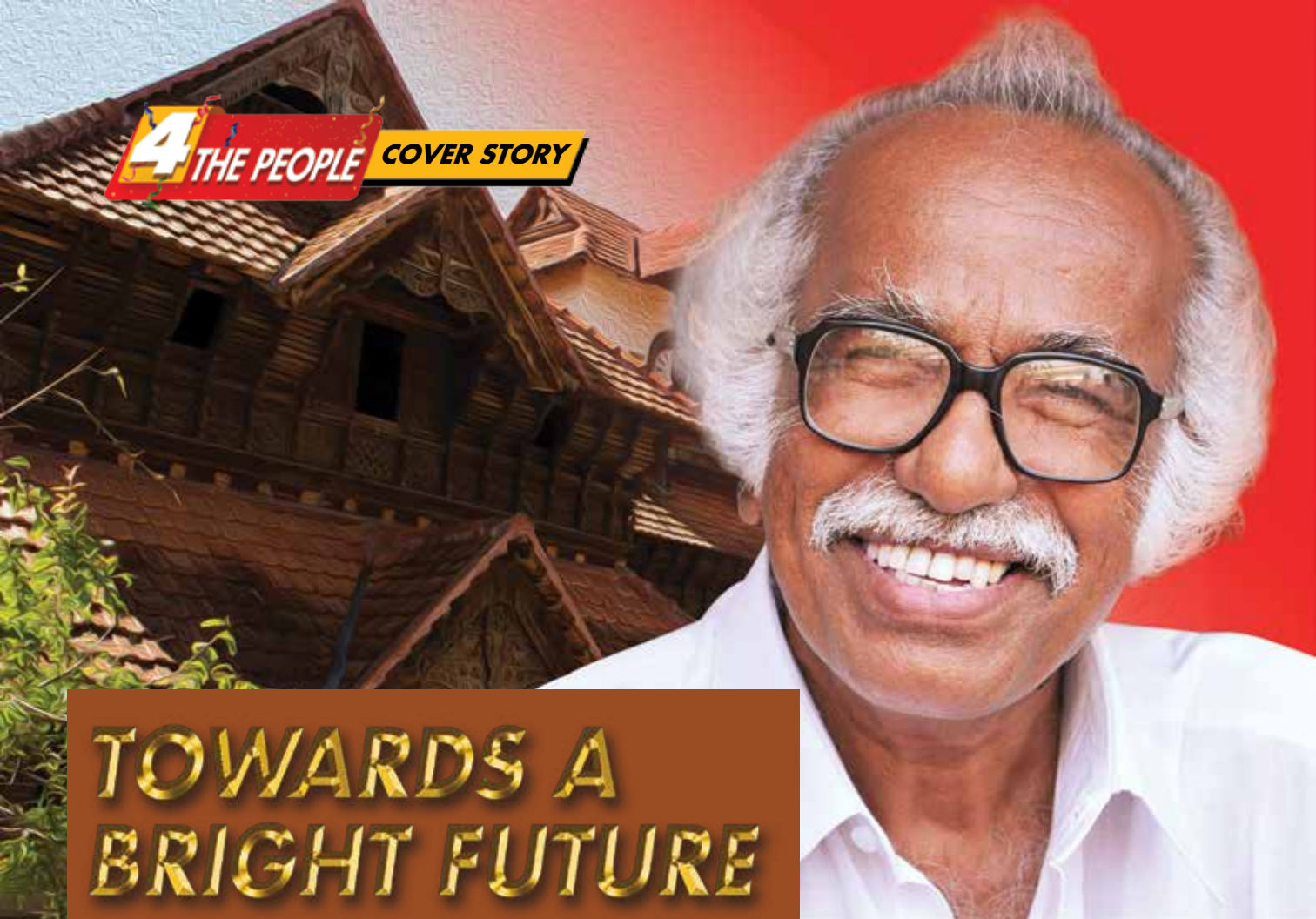
An Exceptional 'Life'



LIFE Mission – the State Government's ambitious total-housing programme has 'moved' the Good Samaritan in Panniyode Sukumaran Vaidyar. Since the inception of the mission Life, Vaidyar was out there to comprehend the activities and the criteria for providing homes to the homeless in the state. He even visited the flat complex constructed under the Life Mission at Adimali and met Kadakkal Abdullah who earlier donated land for the mission. Then he took a momentous decision in his life. He decided to donate his 2.75 acres of land for constructing apartments to the homeless under the Life housing mission. The land donated by Vaidyar is so far the largest piece of land donated to the Life Mission by a person.

The Life Mission C. E. O, U. V. Jose visited him and handed over a memento as a token appreciation for this unique endeavour. After visiting the donated land, the C. E. O assured commencement of the construction in no time.

'Vaidyar' is the name given to traditional practitioners of ayurvedic medicines. Earlier he had constructed a waiting shelter for bus commuters and a library at the Panniyode junction.



TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE

RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI
Minister for Ports, Museums, Archaeology and Archives

Timely action has been taken by the department of Ports for the effective implementation of different projects. Vizhinjam International Sea Port project is moving fast to attain the target. To speed up the development activities of all Non-Major ports and to monitor maritime activities, Kerala Maritime Board Act was passed on September 2017.

Several milestones have been achieved during the last four years in the protection, conservation, excavation and exhibition of many invaluable treasures. All our Museums are modernized to national standards and converted as 'Thematic', in the International Museum concept. Several excavations have been carried throughout Kerala and unearthed artifacts of cultural and historical importance.

- Additional Facilities at Kannur Azhikkal Port (River Port) is provided.
- Short time Maritime courses started at Neendakara in Kollam and Kodungaloor.
- Digitization of Kerala Coast from Thiruvananthapuram to Kannur is completed. For increasing the Depth of Port Channels, Manual

Dredging Policy formulated with the aid of Local Self Government Institutions and the distribution of sand made possible.

- District Heritage Museum Projects in all districts.
- In commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, DPR has been prepared for Gandhi Smrithi Museum at Payyannur and setting up of Museum is going on at the cost of Rs. 2.62 Crores.
- Action taken for setting up of Handveev Museum at Kannur in the heritage building in Handveev Complex. Rs. 2.17 Crores earmarked for the project.
- Foundation stone laid for setting up of Theyyam Museum at Chandappura in Kadannappally Panappuzha Panchayath and DPR prepared.
- Total modernization of the Napier Museum Thiruvananthapuram has been started.
- Natural History Museum



Thiruvananthapuram has been modernized. Childrens Park, 3D Theater and FoodCourt are also provided in the Museum compound.

- The Old Museum Band Stand in Botanical Garden is renewed and made functional.
- Conservation work of Golden Chariot used by Travancore Maharaja has been done.
- A new project for setting up of an International study and Research Centre in Archives, in Karyavattam Campus, Thiruvananthapuram has been approved. An amount of Rs. 6 Crores earmarked and an M.O.U signed with the University of Kerala.
- Conservation of Central Archives Building completed and action initiated to setup a Modern Palm Leaves Museum there.
- A Signature Museum depicting signatures of eminent personalities has been setup in Thiruvananthapuram.
- A project of District Heritage centre has been started to preserve valuable records and documents in each district.
- A new building constructed in Idukki for the District Heritage centre and Museum of Archives are being setting up there.
- Community Archives project implemented.
- The Manuscripts of Mahatmaji at Vinoba Nikethan and of eminent writers like Kumaranasan, O.N.V Kurup and P. Kesavdev are conserved by the Department of Archives and its digital copies kept in State Archives.
- M.O.U signed between Departments of Archives of Netherlands and Kerala for exchanging of Archives related to the State of Kerala and Dutch. ■

UNIQUE, STRONG POLITICAL WILL PREVAILS

ARUNA ROY



Kerala has been globally recognised in its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, both for containing the spread of the disease and humanely tackling the socio-economic fallouts. The State government's prior investment in the public health sector provided an accessible, scientifically rigorous, and systematic way of implementing its Covid-19 response. Kerala's response is rooted in strong political will to ensure basic democratic and constitutional rights, which distinguishes it from that of other Indian States' and of the Centre.



EFFECTIVE, LABOUR-FRIENDLY YEARS

T.P. RAMAKRISHNAN
Minister for Labour and Excise

The support and encouragements received from the labour force, trade unions and investors of Kerala was the inspirational factor that leads the Government in implementing various labour - welfare and enforcement schemes in the last four years. All efforts have been made to convert Kerala an investor and a labour - friendly destination. Two programs - Awas and Apnakhar which were formulated for the benefit of migrant workers have been appreciated by all sections of the society.

The programs and schemes initiated during the last four years have resulted in maintaining healthy labour - ambience in the state. The drastic change witnessed on the functioning of the Excise Department during this period had given a new corruption-free face to the Department. The number of cases registered and legal actions initiated against illegal transit of drugs have been increased compared to earlier periods and in the history of the Department.

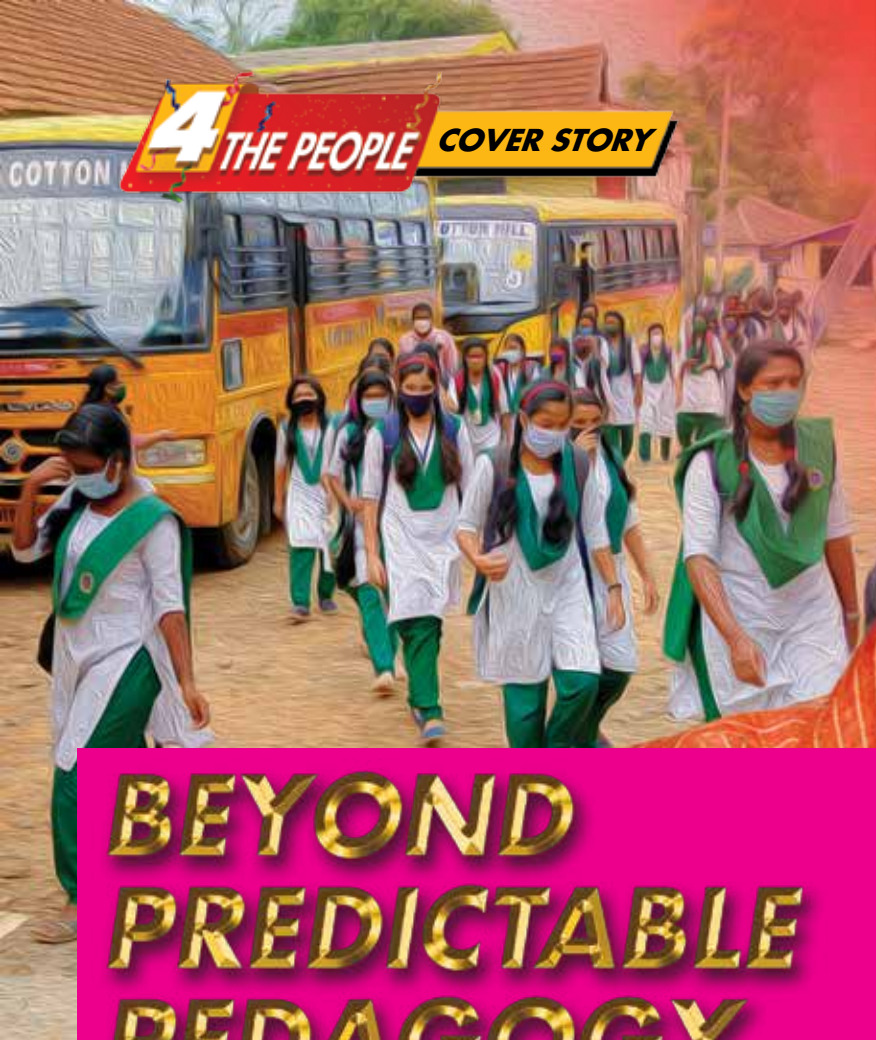
- ▶ New Labour policy was announced to make Kerala a working-friendly and investment-friendly State.
- ▶ Actions were taken to ensure minimum wages for various sectors. The number of members in the Labour welfare fund board increased to 80.07 lakhs.
- ▶ Historical changes were brought in Kerala Shops and Commercial establishments act including “The Right to Sit” during work.
- ▶ Demanding of wages without doing any work has been abolished and made punishable under the court of law.
- ▶ Notification was issued on National Women’s Day (8th March 2020) regarding the extension of maternity benefit act into the private and unaided educational institutions.
- ▶ Rs. 950 crore financial aid to 69,96,984 members of 16 welfare fund boards during COVID - 19



period

- ▶ Started 17 new Government ITIs in the State.
- ▶ Noon - meal program for women ITI students.
- ▶ Insurance coverage of Rs. 3.00 lakhs per trainee for all ITI students.
- ▶ Technical exchange program for ITI trainees by imparting special training in foreign countries.
- ▶ Employment effected for 19,810 trainees through Job fair.
- ▶ Started high-end training institute to impart skill training in construction sectors at Chavara - Indian Institute Of Infrastructure And Construction in Kollam district.
- ▶ State job portal has been started.
- ▶ Self-employment schemes for widows and marginalized persons those who have registered with the employment exchange.
- ▶ First Tribal Employment Exchange in the country started functioning at Palode in Thiruvananthapuram district.
- ▶ New ESI dispensaries at Pathanamthitta, Kattappana (Idukki district) and Mukkom (Kozhikode district).

- ▶ MoU signed with Health education, England for recruitment of nurses from Kerala.
- ▶ Constituted crime branch to investigate Narcotic crimes.
- ▶ Enforcement has been strengthened to control drug mafia and other illicit substances.
- ▶ An anti-drug mission "Vimukthi" has been initiated and the effective campaign started with the support of NGOs, cultural/sports and residential associations.
- ▶ Started 5741 anti-drug clubs in schools and colleges including professional institutions.
- ▶ Created 384 new posts in Excise department for strengthening the enforcement activities.
- ▶ Special recruitment for 25 tribal youth initiated.
- ▶ New Excise Circle Offices in Varkala, Idukki, Thamarassery, Iritty, Vellarikkundu.
- ▶ Recruitment of 138 women civil excise officers.
- ▶ De-addiction centres in all districts.
- ▶ Jana Maithri Excise circle offices at Devikulam in Idukki and Nilambur in Malappuram districts.
- ▶ Excise Towers in district headquarters.
- ▶ Wireless communication facilities established.



BEYOND PREDICTABLE PEDAGOGY

C. RAVEENDRANATH
Minister for General Education

What can be termed as achievement in the field of education is nothing but building back confidence in the public education system after a long period of time. Futuristic approach towards education is a boon, when it comes to the modernization efforts.

Pothu Vidyabhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam (The public education rejuvenation programme), which is a part of the Nava Kerala Mission, has undergone certain experiences, rare in the history of the development of education in Kerala. The most important among them has perhaps been the rejuvenation of the public schools, which constitute public spaces created by Kerala's developmental schemes, and the harnessing of support as well as creative involvement of the public to ensure the efficient functioning of the educational establishments.

All our schools are being transformed into public institutions that enshrine the values of democracy and secularism. The signs of such a transformation can be seen in enhancing the infrastructural systems in schools, making them technology-friendly, developing them in such a way

as to include all students in academic activities and ensuring partnership of the public in all processes of education. The programme is growing from strength to strength. The most significant achievement is that it has succeeded in recapturing public trust, the most eloquent evidence of this phenomenon being a hike in student enrolment in the last three years. An additional number of 5, 04,851 (5.05 lakhs) students sought admission to public schools within the period from 2017-18 to 2019-2010.

Families that had never depended on public schools for educating their children are now convinced of the efficiency of those institutions, and have admitted their children in them. A series of activities conceived around the concept of "Talent Lab" was initiated to help gifted students in various fields, suitably tailored to match their pace of learning. Social luminaries were introduced to them,

as part of a very popular programme “From School to Talent”.

An Academic Master Plan was chalked out with a view to ensuring comprehensive development of schools. This accommodated a Mentoring Scheme to provide support to each and every student. Diverse academic activities like the “Sahitam Portal” were kickstarted to ensure the smooth functioning of a holistic student assessment programme.

The first place that our state garnered in the field of academic advancement in the School Education Quality Index [SEQI] developed by NITI Ayog is a ringing acknowledgement of the sincere efforts taken in this direction. All secondary and higher secondary classrooms have been upgraded to ensure the support of modern technology in such activities. Computer labs have been set up in all primary schools.

All these facilities and arrangements will render great support during these COVID-19 times and beyond. The prior experience in online education gathered by both teachers and students became very useful during the lockdown period. We understand that the huge strides made in the field of education have had a positive impact not only in educational institutions but in the society as a whole.

All our schools are being transformed into public institutions that enshrine the values of democracy and secularism

The most eloquent evidence of this phenomenon being a hike in student enrolment in the last three years

The prior experience in online education gathered by both teachers and students became very useful during the lockdown period.

Testing times, Competent solutions

From idiot box to intelligence box, it is the second coming of television that evokes enthusiasm these days. The ‘forcefully’ redefined teaching - line even provides much space for the online platforms.

It was when huge changes were overtaking the field of education that schools had to be shut down because of the spread of COVID-19. Students were compelled to remain indoors as part of resistance measures. Despite



that, many of them continued to be active, by making use of new media technologies.

We envisaged 2020-21 as a full academic year, and made preparations required to achieve that aim. However, against the backdrop of COVID-19, some serious overhaul had to be effected. Consequently, the entire period of summer vacation was set apart for imparting training to primary teachers in ICT. It is difficult to predict when school activities will return to the normal schedule. From 1 June itself, online classes began to be telecast using the digital platform and other facilities available in the state, Victers Channel being the most important among them.

Challenges open new doors of opportunity. If any difficulty crops up during the time of transmission of Victers Channel programmes, they are made available on Facebook and YouTube, and can be seen any number of times. This is an instance of public intervention undertaken by the Government of Kerala in order to ensure that no student misses their class owing to lack of resources.

There is a pressing need to ensure the development of students’ basic skills and to offer more opportunities to those who show talent in specific fields. The measures that had already been adopted to improve the quality of the campuses have to be taken to completion. Attention has to be paid to gathering public support for fulfilling projects like infrastructural development, setting up of bio-diversity parks, greening of campuses, establishment of drug-free campuses and so on.

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4 YEARS OF A SPLENDID JOURNEY

A.K. SASEENDRAN
Minister for Transport

Radical changes made by this government led to the revival of this department. Efficiency has been enhanced. Staff attitude too changed to the professional – mode which helped gain rich dividends.

Six newly established Sub-RT Offices under the Motor Vehicles Department started functioning, also completed modernization of the offices. With the implementation of the 'Vahan' system in the Motor Vehicles Department, procedures have been simplified. All payments can be made online. The entire service of the department will be made available through online process within two months. The Motor Vehicles Department has also introduced a point-of-sale system. Even the fine amount can be paid immediately through the 'PoS' system.

The Motor Vehicles Department is in the final stages of completion of computerization of the department, including check posts, to make the department corruption free and to provide services transparently and quickly.

Safe Kerala Project

'Safe Kerala Project' introduced across the state to reduce road accidents. As part of this, 85 enforcement squads for 24 hours patrolling and control rooms have been set up in 14 districts.

State Electric Vehicle Policy

The State Electric Vehicle Policy, as envisaged by the Government, is the beginning of a revolutionary change in the transportation sector of the State. The objective is to introduce one million electric vehicles by 2022.

Best City Bus Service Project

As part of strengthening of public transport system in Kochi, the State Government has launched the 'Anusuyatha Yatra Kochi Smart Bus



Project' in Kochi which has got the 'Commedable Initiative Award' of the Central Government for the year 2019 under the category of 'Best City Bus Service Project

India's first Solar Boat, Water Ambulance and Water Taxi Services

The Water Transport Department has launched, 'Aditya', India's first solar passenger boat and 'Vega 120', Kerala's first high speed boat. The Water Ambulance Service started by the Water Transport Department has been instrumental in the rescue operations during the great flood.

State Water Transport Department enters into the Tourism Industry

This is the first time in the state that the Government has been able to bring the Water Transport department to the tourism industry.

KSRTC going ahead without new loans

The Government has set up a consortium of banks to reorganize and convert previous loans into a single loan with low interest and long repayment period. With the restructuring of the loans, KSRTC could reduce the monthly loan repayment by around Rs 60 crores. The saved amount can be used for other purposes.

Timely distribution of pension

The Government has paid the pension dues and now it

is being distributed on time through a consortium of co-operative banks.

Electric, CNG Buses and LNG, CNG Pumps.

KSRTC, as part of the Government's Electric Vehicle Policy, has launched 10 electric buses and one CNG bus. CNG / LNG Fuel supply pumps have started functioning in Kochi.

MoU with Birmingham City University by Sree Chithira Thirunal College of Engineering

The Sree Chithira Thirunal College of Engineering, under the control of the Transport Department is in the peak of excellence. In addition to the college's NAC accreditation, the Student & Faculty Exchange and Research Project are being implemented in partnership with the Birmingham University, UK. For this, an MoU has been signed between Birmingham City University, Sree Chithira Thirunal College of Engineering and APJ Abdul Kalam University of Technology.

Inclusion of Road Safety in School curriculum

The Kerala Road Safety Authority, in cooperation with the Education Department, has prepared a syllabus covering important road safety measures for school students and the precautions to be taken to prevent road accidents. The teachers' hand book has already been distributed for this purpose.



WE WILL SURVIVE...

K.K. SHAILAJA TEACHER

Minister for Health, Social Justice and Woman and Child Development

S**AARS Corona Virus 2 continues to spread throughout the world escalating fright and deaths. No preventive vaccines or effective treatment methods have been developed against this till date. Kerala achieved the credit of reducing and containing the spread of the virus and the rate of deaths as a result of the timely and accurate interventions that we made.**

A counter corona strategy was adopted by integrating all the ministries and departments under the leadership of our Chief Minister. The success that we achieved in flattening the curve of the virus spread was noted, discussed and appreciated by the world. It was not a coincidence that the death rate in Kerala could be restricted to 0.56% when the same in various other countries were hiking from 4% to 10%.

Kerala is now facing the third phase of covid -19 outbreak. This phase is tougher as compared to the first and second phases. The fact that people are returning from areas with higher virus density as compared to the earlier phases can be considered as a reason for increased chance of the virus

spread. Matters and situations are kept under control by ascertaining the number of people returning via land, sea and air daily and also by regulating the functioning of the police, revenue, health departments and the volunteers in accordance with the maximum number of cases that can be examined per day. Efforts are continuing to receive, observe and protect our fellow beings who are returning to their homeland and also to protect others from getting infected by the disease through contact with them.

Measures are in progress under the initiative of the “Aardram” Mission to make the health institutions of the State right from the primary health centres to the medical colleges’ patient friendly.

E-Health Programme is being implemented in the health sector of the state. It will be helpful in future to maintain the records relating to



patients in computerised form, to easily avail the lab results and for easy exchange of data between hospitals and also in provision of sophisticated and scientific treatments with the development of E-Health system. These efforts alongside the kind of developmental activities all through the completed four years, makes this Government valued to every segment of the society.

- Activities aimed at achieving sustainable development in the state are being carried out.
- Master plans to create patient friendly hospitals in medical colleges under the Aardram Mission
- Cancer grid and cancer board formulated as part of Cancer Strategic action Plan. The cancer treatment which was earlier available only in the cancer institutes are now made available in all medical colleges.
- The Karunya Health Scheme (KASP) is being carried out. Treatment worth rupees 5 lakh is being provided each year freely for a family under the new Karunya scheme.
- 315 ambulances were deployed in the state as part of the “Kanivu 108” scheme which aims at providing immediate treatments to accident cases.

- Kerala has become a state with Ayurveda treatment centres in all panchayats.
- Ayurveda PG Diploma courses started in 8 new departments for the first time in Kerala.
- India’s first sports Ayurveda hospital,” Kerala Institute of Sports Ayurveda Research” has started in Trissur.
- 42 homoeo dispensaries has been made model homoeo dispensaries.
- 5 new moving food safety laboratories have started functioning to make the food safety inspections more effective.
- Kollam was declared to be the first district in India to have food safety license/ registration.
- The ministry for Women and Child development was formed for the development and upliftment of women and children.
- ‘Sahayahastham’ programme that provided financial help of rupees 30,000 on single time payment basis to widows below 55 years of age who are economically backward for self -employment was started.



CONSTRUCTIVE FOUR YEARS

G. SUDHAKARAN

Minister for Public Works and Registration

Public Works Department has secured unparalleled achievements. The activities with the financial aid of KIIFB have transformed the face of Kerala in the field of development within a short span, which can be evidenced from the works completed within a short period – Four Years.

Hill highway, a noteworthy scheme is being executed to resolve travelling issues in hilly regions and improving the development of concerned industrial sectors. The highway passing through Nandarapadav, Kasargod to Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram is 1251.04 km long. In this, nine activities have started in the districts of Kasargod, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram.

After this government came to power, loads of projects were implemented to resolve the traffic issues of national highways passing through the central parts of the state and are highly dependent on transport by the majority of

the people. The completion of Kollam bypass and the construction of flyovers at Thondayad and Ramanattukara of Kozhikode district have helped in easing traffic issues. The construction of Alappuzha bypass and Vyttila-Kundannoor flyovers are in the initial phase.

This government has succeeded in materializing the widening of the national highway, a longtime dream of Kerala that has been pending. The activities of Thalassery- Mahe bypass, Neeleswaram railway flyover, Kazhakoottam flyover are progressing. The tender activities to expand national highway reaches of Talapady- Chengala and Chengala – Neeleswaram of Kasargod district are in the final phase. The Public Works Department has rendered leadership to the construction activities in four years that the state of Kerala has never witnessed so far.



- ▶ Steps have been taken to root out corruption. The vigilance system has been strengthened.
- ▶ 229 new bridges, 472 buildings of different departments, and 4093km roads of B.M and B.C standards have been constructed.
- ▶ Toll collection is exempted from the roads of the Public Works Department.
- ▶ Kollam bypass is dedicated to the land. The construction of the Alappuzha Bypass is in its completion phase.
- ▶ The new technological methods like cold inset recycling and road milling were utilized for the construction of roads.
- ▶ Coir geotextiles (coir bhoovastra), natural rubber, and plastic were used for the construction of roads.
- ▶ 317 new vacancies including the vacancies of three chief engineers were created in the Public Works Department.
- ▶ 4413 postings including the recruitment of 4193 people in various posts through P.S.C.
- ▶ The departments namely Bridge and Maintenance were newly formed.
- ▶ The construction of six reaches of hill highway and one reach of the coastal highway is being initiated.
- ▶ The government has regained the Public Works department rest houses of Munnar, Vaikom, and Kuttalam.
- ▶ The government gives 25% of the amount spend on obtaining land for the six- laning of the National Highway 66. The widening of six lanes is on track.
- ▶ Engineers' Congress and Overseers' Congress have commenced for the training of skills.
- ▶ The functioning of the Kerala Highway Research Institute has been extended by conducting online classes to 15000 Engineers during the lockdown period.
- ▶ The services of the Registration department are made online. E- Payment and E-stamping are implemented.
- ▶ 31 Sub-Registrar office buildings were newly constructed. The construction of 41 office buildings is in different phases.
- ▶ Silver line, Thiruvananthapuram- Kasargod 531 Kilometer semi - high-speed railway line scheme is approved.

FOUR AGRI-PLUS YEARS

V. S. SUNIL KUMAR,
Minister for Agriculture

The State Government of Kerala, in its four years of governance, framed and implemented an action plan aimed at improving the living standards of common man in Kerala. Steps taken by the government have paved way for a considerable increase in the income of farmers.

Thrust was laid on boosting paddy and coconut cultivation, soil conservation and promotion of vegetables. For the first time in India a welfare fund board for farmers was set up in the state. The fallow land farming schemes were started with an aim to expand the acreage of paddy farming from 1.98 lakh hectares to 3 lakh hectares in three years.

475 mini rice mills and 16 processing units were set up at 'padasekharams' to sell the rice and other value-added products of small and marginal paddy farmers. These units were conceived with the idea to mill paddy into raw rice gains at the farmlands.

Vegetable farming was expanded as part of integrated vegetable development scheme and hence the productivity rose from 6.5 lakh metric tonnes to 14.09 lakh metric tonnes. The government was able to double the production of vegetables. Jackfruit was declared the official fruit of Kerala and an international jackfruit festival was hosted in Wayanad.

Aimed at the food security of tribal people, cultivation of small cereals was started in 1000 acres in Attappady, and the products were marketed under the brand name Attappady Millet Village Products. To tide over the crisis caused by the fall in rubber price, the State Farming Corporation through farm diversification took up farming of pineapple in 20 hectares, cocoa in 5 hectares, green fodder cultivation in 2 hectares and turmeric in 50 hectares. As part of Punarjani scheme, 2, 38,376 farmers who suffered crop loss were allotted a financial aid of



Rs. 78.43 crore from the State Disaster Relief Fund. The government also disbursed Rs. 216 crore, including Rs. 80 crore from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund, to the farmers while another Rs. 51 crore was disbursed to the 1,52,350 farmers who are part of the state crop insurance scheme.

'Padhom Onnu, Padatheku' is a scheme which was started to attract school children into farming. Agriculture was made a part of school syllabus. The integrated food security scheme called 'Subhiksha Keralam' is being implemented in association with various departments.

4 years of Agri - boom

- Royalty for paddy field owners: Rs40 crores for the first year
- An increase of 2 lakh metric tonnes in rice production
- Paddy cultivated in 50,000 acres of fallow land
- Jeevani - 'Our crops, our health': Project aimed at attaining self-sufficiency in vegetable production
- The restructured crop insurance scheme - Compensation given to the tune of Rs166.58 crore
- Agriculture pension rose from Rs 500 to Rs 1300. Rs 1550.7 crore disbursed so far.
- Vegetable production recorded a rise of 14.9 lakh metric tonnes from 6.28 lakh metric tonnes
- 2 crore coconut saplings distributed in 10 years
- No lockdown in agriculture sector - procured 25,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables in 2 months through effective intervention
- Set up first farmers welfare fund board
- Millet village scheme for the nutrition diet of tribal population
- 2,064 clusters set up to expand organic farming
- Njattuvela markets, Karshaka Sabhas held at Karshaka Councils
- VAIGA international workshops, fairs to boost income through value-addition. Forty farming ventures started through 4 VAIGAs
- E-governance mechanism that facilitates submission of any applications and disburse financial aid directly
- Relief for natural disasters: A total of Rs 437 crore disbursed, including Rs 80 crore from Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund
- Vacancies of 600 agriculture officers filled



SUPPLY GALORE...

P. THILOTHAMAN
Minister for Food and Civil Supplies

The Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department along with the Legal Metrology Department had undergone many tectonic reforms from the conventional style of functioning and tuned itself to be in congruent with the current scenario. The main reformation in PDS, the door delivery of Food grains at the door steps of Fair Price Shop as mandated in the NFSA 2013 was started.

For ensuring Food Security and better access to food Mobile Fair Price Shops were implemented in the Tribal belt of Thiruvananthapuram, Idukki, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Palakkad and Wayanad Districts.

The other novel venture of TPDS, the epos-based distribution has been implemented in all ration shops throughout the State. Sabari branded tea which is the branded item of Supplyco and bottled drinking water are being

sold through FPS at a reasonable rate of Rs. 13/ bottle. New Ration Cards in consonance with the National Food Security Act 2013 has been issued to all citizens. In pursuant to the idea of renovating the existing Fair Price Shop to a more attractive centers of citizens, uniform model has been mooted for which a financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2500 has been sanctioned.

Consumer Help Desk has been set up in 07 districts and would be sealed up to all districts. A quantity of 3555 MT. of rice has been purchased at economic cost and distributed to the distressed fishermen during OCKHI Cyclone devastated the coastal region of the state for which an amount of Rs. 8.31 Crore has been incurred. Purification Process of the approved priority list has been undertaken 5 times and eliminated 468568 no. of ineligible families and substituted the 480568 same number as mandate under rule 4(13) of PDS Control



Order 2015.

The selling price of bottled drinking water has been fixed at Rs. 13.

The System of proposing proxy has been introduced in TPDS to the bedridden citizens to avail of their monthly entitlement.

Give up project. The card holders had given an option to give-up their entitlement for a period of 06 months at a stretch 'The same can be reviewed and resumed after the time line.

During 2018-19 86 Nos. of Supplyco outlets were renovated by spending Rs. 7.07 crores from the Plan fund.

New 42 Maveli stores, 11 Super markets and 15 Maveli super stores functioning.
64 Maveli stores, were converted and upgraded as superoutlets.

26 Maveli stores were converted and upgraded as Maveli super stores.

1 Maveli store and 4 super markets were converted and upgraded as peoples bazaar.

Supplyco had started sales of household utensils at a gross margin of 40% of the Open market price through its 160 selected outlets which had given a sigh of relief to the common consumers.

During the flood season in 2018, the Supplyco could

arrange to provide essentials to the tune of Rs. 29.51 crores to the distressed in various relief camp setup across the State.

On the back drop of Covid – 19 pandemic The Government declared National level Lockdown from March,25. Then on Supplyco issued distress relief kits containing 17 essentials.

The entire card holders in the State to the tune of 87.39 lakhs were given kits with 17 items of essentials free of cost.

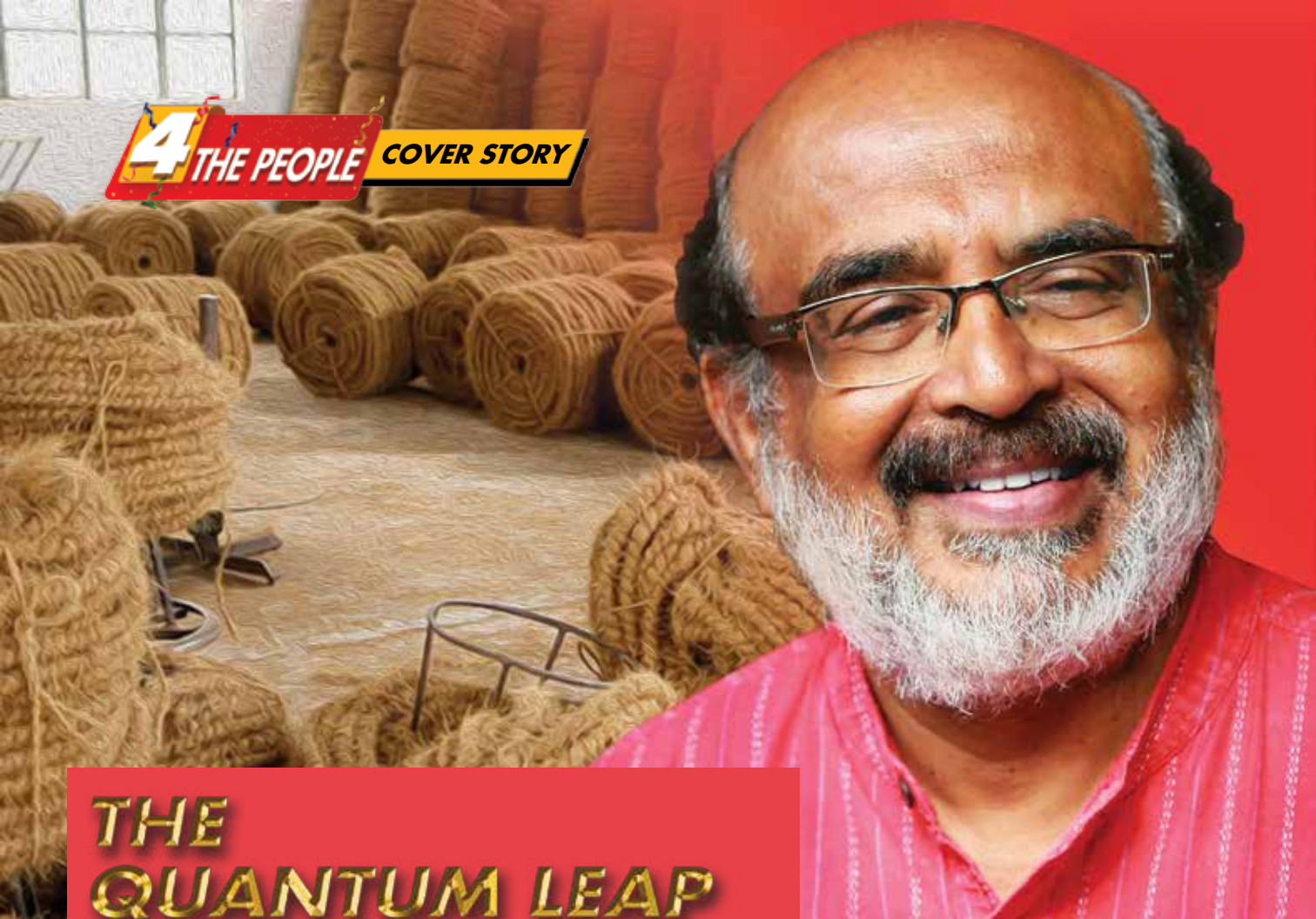
All inmates in both recognized and unrecognized welfare institution such as destitute homes, welfare homes, Asrams, Convents were given 5 kg rice/ person.

During May & June Government of India had allotted rice @ 22/Kg to the State which is being distributed to the card holders @ Rs. 15/Kg for which an additional burden of 105.6 Crore is being met.

A quantity of 130.42 MT rice has been issued to the community Kitchen functioned in the State.

Upto May 25, a quantity of 1166.52 MT Rice and Atta valued to Rs. 3,49,994/- has been issued to the migrant labourers.

A quantity of 460.29 MT rice has been issued to those who doesn't own a ration card in the State. During this pandemic period, the legal metrology enforcement wing had made 16243 inspections and imposed penalty to the tune of Rs. 79,40,500/- for contravention.



THE QUANTUM LEAP IN DEVELOPMENT

Dr. T. M. THOMAS ISAAC
Minister for Finance and Coir

It can be confidently claimed that the financial crisis being faced has not impacted the leap in Development. Finding novel ways, The State Government has succeeded in improving the Welfare and Development in its quantum, reach, spread, and impact substantially.

The stagnation loomed large in the National Economy and the national growth rate dwindled. Even in this crisis, Kerala registered impressive growth. This is vivid when we go through the statistics on the physical achievements of the present Government.

Total amount disbursed as social security Pension on completion of its 4th year, the State Government has crossed ₹22000 crore. Enhanced the pension form 600 rupees to 1300 rupees. More than 12 lakhs of new pensioners have been enrolled. Thus, the total beneficiaries under Social security pension / Welfare pension have gone up to 47,88,939.

- ▶ The allocation for Local Self Government has increased considerably. Allocations in 2020-21 are 12074 crores. Additionally, 1000 crore allocated for the Chief Minister's Rural Road Rebuild Scheme which is implemented through Local Government Institutions. The total outlay for this scheme is ₹2500 crore.
- ▶ The total budget outlay for the coastal scheme in the current year has been hiked is raised to ₹380 crore.
- ▶ Through Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund ₹1216 crore disbursed. More than ₹ 3000 crores crore has been disbursed as flood relief.
- ▶ Almost 15000 Km of roads were completed and 68 bridges were constructed.
- ▶ Kerala Water Authority has provided 7.5 lakh connections. Two and a half additional house



connections shall be provided during the fiscal 2020-21.

- ▶ Health-related schemes - spend ₹9651 crore. The number of outpatients in government hospitals has increased to 3.3 crore from 1.2 crore and the number of inpatients has escalated to 9 lakh from 5.4 lakh.
- ▶ Around 5 lakh students have additionally joined public schools in standards II to X.
- ▶ So far 258658 houses have been constructed through Life Mission and other agencies.
- ▶ 14 lakh families were sanctioned new electric connection.
- ▶ NORKA Welfare fund membership rose to 4.7 lakh from 1.1 lakh.
- ▶ Membership of Kudumbasree has increased to 45 lakhs from 40 lakh. Bank linkage loan rose to ₹15732 crore from ₹5717 crore. The number of labour-oriented ventures has gone up to 23453 from 10177 and the number of agricultural groups has increased to 68000 from 54000.
- ▶ The number of houses built for the scheduled communities – 51926.
- ▶ The extent of paddy land has gone up to 2.03

lakh hectares during the year 2018-19. The paddy production also has increased to 5.8 lakh tonne from 4.4 lakh tonne. A new scheme has been launched in 2020-21 providing royalty to paddy farmers considering the ecological importance of paddy land and cultivation.

₹40 crore is earmarked as a beginning for providing royalty to the farmers.

- ▶ The fish production in Kerala now stands at 8.02 lakh tonnes.
- ▶ The production of Public Sector Undertakings rose to ₹3442 crore in 2018-19.
- ▶ 1.83 lakh jobs, ₹4700 crore investment and 52137 new enterprises in small scale sector have been ensured.
- ▶ The economic growth of Kerala hiked to 7.2 percentage.

KIIFB and Anti-Recession Package

₹50000 crore capital investment through this route has been meticulously planned and being successfully executed.

679 projects approved, Total sanctioned cost - 54391 crores



Global Media on Kerala

SABIN IQBAL
Writer - Journalist



Come, Covid-19, when the world stood still in awe and bewilderment, wondering how to rein in the spread of the virus, we walked the talk and ‘broke the chain’ and flattened the curve. Duly, world media picked up the news of how a tiny consumer and migrant state in the south-western edge of India has managed to bring the spread of the coronavirus down to single digits.

Close to 40 international media, including the major media outlets from around the world like the BBC, The Guardian, Washington Post, The Economist, Le Monde, Gulf News, etc., have run the Kerala story – the taming of the Corona Virus.

“Every evening at 6 PM, families in the state turn on their televisions. The chief minister’s daily update is such essential viewing that audience figures spike, pushing popular serials and reality shows aside,” wrote the Post.

“The local village council galvanized local health and community workers and opened a community kitchen to feed the people in isolation. They have been providing free lunches for more than 1,200 people in the area—residents and stranded migrant workers. Kerala, many believe, has turned out to be a striking outlier in the battle against the virus in India,” reported the BBC.

Meanwhile, The Guardian ran a long piece on how effective was the ‘Kerala Model’ of fighting Covid-19. “The ‘Kerala model’ is already being held up around the world as a success story. How did it do it? First, Kerala started from a strong baseline. Its socio-economic development is an example of what investments in human capital can do for poverty reduction and prosperity. It has vastly higher literacy rates and better health outcomes than the rest of India; the state has long been a Communist party



stronghold....” wrote the British newspaper.

Kerala’s approach was effective because it was ‘both strict and humane,’ said Shahid Jameel, a virologist and infectious-disease expert,” wrote Washington Post.

The UK-based The Tribune quoted what senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai said about Kerala: ‘What Kerala thinks today, India must think tomorrow.’

The Voice of America reported about how effectively the many teams worked in coordination and harmony to track the patients, create their ‘route map,’ and to see they were quarantined and treated properly. “Twelve teams that included medical workers, police and volunteers worked for days to prepare the travel path of (the) family, using GPS data from their phones, eventually tracing more than 4,000 people who then had to be placed under observation and quarantine.”

Nigerian newspaper Punch wrote an editorial praising Kerala’s method and comparing them with those in the African country. “The campaign, ‘Break the chain,’ was used in Kerala to reduce the spread. In other words, if there is a positive case, trace contacts of the positive case, the second party and third-party contacts, thereby breaking the chain of spread.

The technology of Geotagging made it easy for them to follow up 10,000 people every day, monitoring their health status and symptoms. Something like that could be done in Nigeria. The state of Kerala engaged in a private-public partnership with hotel management for their facilities to be used as quarantine and isolation centres instead of building new isolation centres,” the editorial said.

Other major media houses that reported and praised Kerala’s efforts include Singapore’s The Straits Times, Qatar’s Al Jazeera, MIT’s Technology Review, Abu Dhabi-based The National, etc.

Close to 40 international media, including the major media outlets from around the world, have run the Kerala story

Nigerian newspaper Punch wrote an editorial praising Kerala’s method

The UK-based The Tribune quoted what senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai said about Kerala TheGuardian, ran a long piece on how effective was the ‘Kerala Model’ of fighting Covid-19



On-line solutions in the Covid – age

B. ABI BASHEER

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Redesigned education dissemination has become imperative, since the novel corona virus defer every attempt to eliminate it. Even though it may take a lot more time to tame the virus, the education system has to ascend sans obstacles.

The Novel Corona virus enforced for a total shut down of Educational Institutions across the globe. Students and teachers were forced to avail the support of technology for learning and teaching. The paradigm shift from conventional class room teaching to online mode is challenging to the educators as well to the students. The crisis has given us the opportunity to experience the new epoch of learning. Globally, efforts are being made by nations to provide remote learning opportunities with the aid of the World Bank.

In the pre-corona world, e-learning happened in the form of sharing study materials through Whatsapp, e-mails etc. The educators and students were

also resorting to massive open on - line Courses (MOOCs) and National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) for quality learning through webinars and video - guided lectures, in the Higher Education sector. The National Digital Library of India (NDLI) and Kindle was also used as a e-platform for reading textbooks, articles, journals and books.

In the post - corona world, all students from kindergarteners to doctoral candidates are being advised to pursue their education online. Online education is conducted in two ways – Synchronous (Teacher and students online at the same time) and Asynchronous (Teacher and students are not engaged in the learning process at the same time). Various online platforms available are Google Classrooms, Zoom, Remind, Webex and much more. The students and teachers were initially slow to embrace online learning. But the hurdles



are getting cleared in a slow and steady manner with determination and patience.

In the Higher education sector, it is high time to advance the standards of online learning and teaching. Government - university policies has to be made liberal in offering Bachelors and Masters Degree courses through online. But, in the dominion of school education, online mode of learning and teaching is relatively new as compared to conventional in-person learning.

Not many students and teachers have experienced the joy of online learning and teaching. Hence, the capacity building for teachers and students has to be enhanced. The teachers and students must be given adequate training to manage the online classes more effectively. Novel ideas must be formulated to assess the grades of students attending online courses. A well - focused, systematic curriculum should be designed to improve the worth of online learning and teaching using the supremacy of technology.

For a hassle free learning environment, the student requires a high speed internet connectivity and mobiles/ computers. In online learning the face -face interaction

is missing. Emotional and social needs has to be addressed to enable students learn , in addition to these technical issues.

One can say that online courses are not as effective as in-person classes, but they are undoubtedly better than having no classes at all. With the advancement of science and technology education in the form of online has become more possible economically and operationally. The biggest advantage of online classes are customized learning facility, reduced costs and networking opportunity. The students attending an online class will get the opportunity to interact with peers across the nation, even across globe.

In a short span of time online mode has experienced predominant acceptance. The online education facility must be extended to differently abled students too. The initiative taken by the Kerala Government in transforming the television from the so called idiot box to information box, in the form of Kite-Victers channel is highly appreciable. Students are now using their gadgets not only as a entertainment device, but as an infotainment device. The prospect of online education looks promising and opens up education to a larger section of the population than ever before. ■



The Mask and the Sanitizer

N. BHADRAN NAIR
Executive Editor, Indian Science Journal



One has to live with the reality that a new life-companion is out there – The Corona Virus. Masked faces can be a harsher alternative but sanitized hand could compensate...

“This virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities and this virus may never go away,” warned Dr. Mike Ryan, Emergencies Director of the World Health Organisation.

What has started as 1, 2 or three has now burgeoned to close to 2.5 lakhs cases in India so far, with no sign of abating. The country has gone through a complete national lockdown, from a time when the caseload was just 500. But still containment of the highly contagious viral infection hasn't been wholly possible.

While claims and counterclaims on the efficacy of lockdown as a containment measure are debatable, what has come to be known is that we have to prepare for a long-drawn battle with Coronavirus, adding another

ailment to the long list of infectious diseases.

The main reason for this argument is, no preventive drug has been invented so far. But several research establishments, including some in India, are fast-pacing the process to find an immediate cure for the infectious disease.

Food habits, personal hygiene, sanitation and etiquettes in public places contribute to a healthy society and a healthy society is home to healthy citizens.

Perhaps many do not have the social consciousness about these factors that immensely contribute to public health. But an invisible virus has taught a lesson that (i) health does not come with affluence of might, (ii) health is individual responsibility contributing to collective social responsibility and (iii) health has to be ingrained our habit and lifestyle. It is time we give



health a higher priority in our day-to-day life.

The second message from the global pandemic was decentralised health infrastructure. India's healthcare cost is among the lowest in the world but it is still out of the reach of a vast majority of its citizens. For them, public healthcare facilities are the only refuge.

Each year, 39 million people are pushed into poverty by out-of-pocket payments for healthcare, with households on average devoting 5.8 percent of their expenditures to medical care, according to a report by the World Bank. Coronavirus has brought the focus back to public-funded healthcare from the grass-root level. If Kerala has succeeded in the containment of the pandemic, it was because of the grass-root healthcare services, right from nutrition to surveillance. It helped a system of reverse feedback that could help policy-makers to intervene as and when there is an emergency. It served as insurance to better healthcare.

It may still take some time for scientists to develop an antibody for Coronavirus, but one thing is certain that it is going to stay, like AIDS and the only way is to learn to live with it. The global pandemic has also taught us another lesson – the new global-order is homeward. Self-dependence is the new tag-word.

The lockdown in whatsoever form cannot continue forever, as it would stunt the already decelerated economic growth. Life won't be the same as it used to be until the outbreak of this pandemic a few months ago. Lifestyles, social behaviour and our public engagement has to change – in short, a relook at lifestyle has become unavoidable. Healthy living should be part of our learning curve from the time, we start learning the alphabets – it should be our individual and collective responsibility as well. Facemask and sanitizer has become an indispensable companion of our life. Let us go back to our roots – the family.

What has come to be known is that we have to prepare for a long-drawn battle with Coronavirus

If Kerala has succeeded in the containment of the pandemic, it was because of the grass-root healthcare services

Several research establishments, including some in India, are fast-pacing the process to find an immediate cure for the infectious disease

Self-dependence is the new tag-word



Habituation of the On-line 'Paradox'

Dr. NAMITA NAZEER

M.D. Psychiatry
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Covid - 19 ignited new world order invariably invites novel living rehearsals.

COVID-19 struck the entire world by January 2020. It was declared an epidemic initially restricted to China. But by March 2020 it was declared a pandemic. As a consequence many countries including India went into total lockdown. This resulted in sudden closure of all educational institutions. Now in June 2020 we can see major exams are being conducted and schools are 'on' with online classes.

Online education is a novel way of coaching-platform for teachers, learning-avenue for students and an altered experience for parents, especially in schools; for this very reason entire scenario will be problem-struck. The trouble comprise teacher- student rapport, especially in younger children where pre - recorded classes are conducted, as it's impossible to harness the attention of restless children.

Live classes are often not possible for parents too. In pre - recorded classes, only limited communication is possible. It's difficult for teachers to get full picture of a student's situation and to assess whether student is physically or mentally engaged or not. One cannot assess students' behaviour patterns.

Parents have to study their kids' lessons and teach them and make them complete their work-books along with their professional and personal issues and work. This can increase stress and anxiety levels of parents. Still the situation brings parents and children closer.

Issues faced by the children are boredom, lack of attentiveness, inability to clear doubts with teachers, have one - to - one interaction with their teachers and peers. They miss play-time with their dear-ones and miss social interactions which



are necessary for holistic development of a child's personality.

Other issues faced by teachers include limited connection with children. Teachers too take time to get accustomed with online classes. They have to adapt to this novel scenario forced upon them due to an unprecedented pandemic. They have to spend more time at home preparing videos. They may be bothered by their own kids during online classes and their families may get in the way to their attending to classes instead of looking after family matters. Also we can see that teachers are also affected by sick social media 'trollers' and abusers who misuse teachers details creating fake ID's and abusing them violating their privacy and integrity undermining their confidence. This can result in depression, anxiety, insomnia and even suicide.

How to solve these issues is something more than relevant these days. It is better if parents could share a significant part of their daily schedule for children. Time management is imperative. See to the fact that parents are their kids' first teacher. Children learn mostly from parents and replicate them.

Even while sparing as much as time for kids, sufficient

time-management for official and house - work, don't forget to leave a quality- time for parents themselves. Parents can take rest, exercise, meditate or relax and follow their likes and hobbies too. Also plan adequate time for sleep and follow sleep - hygiene for a sound slumber.

In case of teachers they also have to look after their mental health and well being. While planning classes they have to see to academic preparedness of their students and how they can provide academic support. Students with good family support usually do well. For students with mental health issues and learning difficulty peer - support groups as well as mental health professionals' help can be provided by the teachers through school authorities. In Kerala help for children is provided through DISHA (Direct Intervention System for Health Awareness), Child line, Legal cell, DEIC (District early Intervention Center) and DMHP (District Mental Health Programme) ■



Post Covid Kerala: Coping with the New Normal

Dr. JOSE SEBASTIAN

Former Senior Faculty, Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation



Development in post - Covid Kerala had to be planned in a flexible - mode. Since conventional revenue-generating avenues might suffer the crunch of deteriorating economy, novel experiments have to be explored.

Like all regions of the world, Kerala is also not left with any option other than living with Covid-19. Till a fool - proof vaccine is developed, people everywhere have to follow a policy of cautious optimism and move forward. As a region with high density of population and fragile eco system, the challenges that Kerala faces is perhaps far more formidable than any other region.

Kerala's economic growth has been heavily dependent on the construction and service sectors. Remittances have been the driving force behind the robust rate of growth of these two sectors. As thousands of Keralites

are returning from the Middle East and other countries, at least for the predictable future, Kerala cannot bank on remittances for its sustenance. Kerala has the entire wherewithal to emerge as a manufacturing hub. The State is abundant in the four 'Ms' of industrialization specifically Money, Market, Manpower and Materials. The credit- deposit ratio of the state is around 65%. As for market, Kerala stands top among Indian states in per capita consumer expenditure.

Kerala is rich in a number of the raw materials like rubber, coconut, spices, tea, coffee and minerals. Almost all these are exported outside the state or country. If Kerala recognizes agro-processing as its area of competitive advantage and decides to concentrate its energies to develop agro parks, the backwardness of both industrial and agricultural sectors can be addressed simultaneously.



The fiscal challenge

The challenges posed by Covid-19 are multi-dimensional. Almost all sectors of the Kerala economy are directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic and it is not identified how much time it takes to revive the economy. While the major revenue sources of the state have almost dried up, the expenditure needs to prevent community spread of the disease is putting pressure on the finances of the state in an unprecedented manner.

This calls for a thorough- going restructuring of the finances of the state. The state is heavily dependent on indirect taxes like goods and services tax and sales tax. Unless the level of consumption of the poorer sections is raised by various means, the state cannot expect the tax collections to pick up. This however is crucially dependent upon the welfare expenditure of the government.

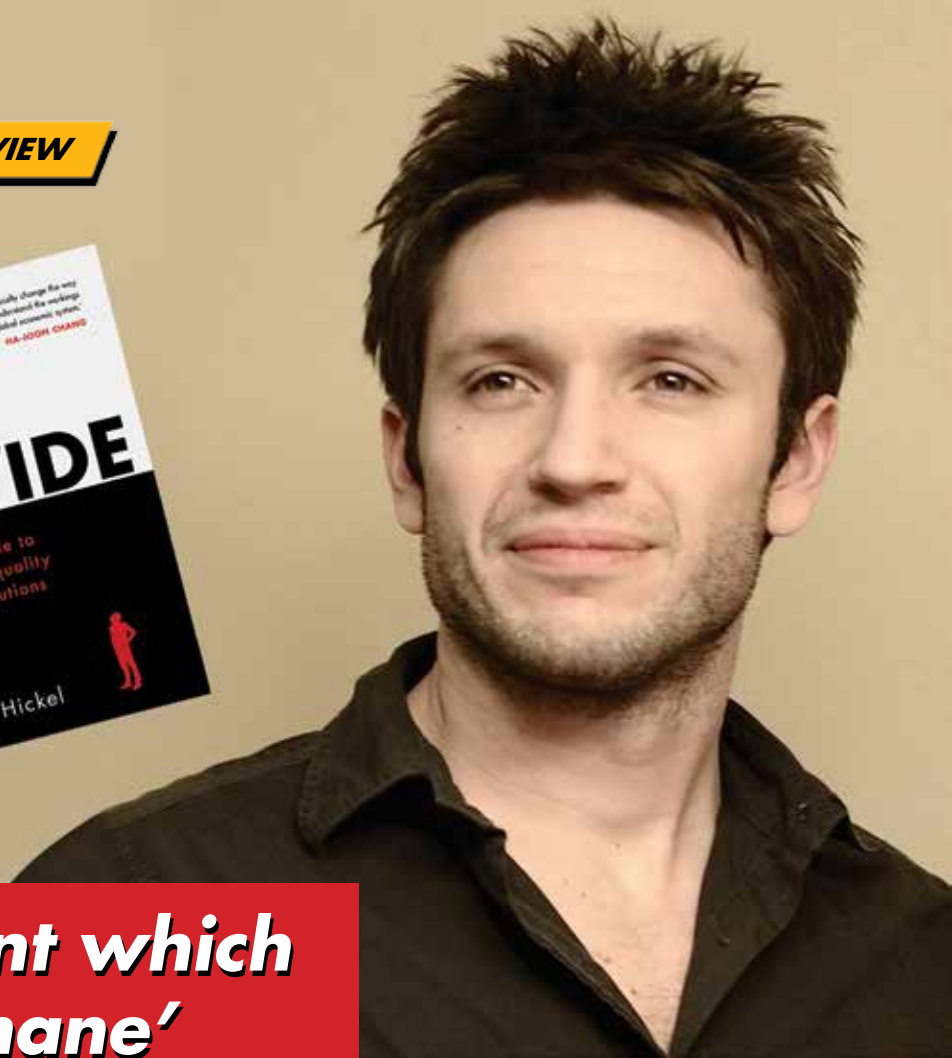
The public finances of the state need to be more inclusive, to cope with the challenges of the pandemic. More public resources may have to be raised from the richer sections of the society and transferred to the poorer sections. This will help to revive the trade and commercial sectors of the economy and in turn

the revenue collections of the state also will go up. In the post - Covid days, Kerala will have to pursue a development strategy that combines economic growth with the fundamental ethos of the Kerala model of development. Mobilizing the necessary social capital to pursue this development strategy is the new challenge to Kerala society.

The challenges that Kerala faces is perhaps far more formidable than any other region

Kerala will have to pursue a development strategy that combines economic growth with the fundamental ethos of the Kerala model of development

Kerala is rich in a number of the raw materials like rubber, coconut, spices, tea, coffee and minerals



'Development which is more Humane' - Dr. Jason Hickel

BALAGOPAL KENT
Editor, ukmalayalee.com



Kerala could show the world there is another way to development which is more humane and not just accumulation of capital opined Dr. Jason Hickel in the exclusive talk with Balagopal Kent for Kerala Calling

The noted economic anthropologist Dr. Jason Hickel is the author of "Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World", which is due to be published in August 2020.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, is a Senior Lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London. He serves on the Labour Party task force on international development, the Statistical Advisory Panel for the Human Development Report 2020, the advisory board of the Green New Deal for Europe, and on the Lancet Commission on Reparations and Redistributive Justice.

Can you please tell us what "Degrowth" is and about your new book?

The world has awoken to the fact that we are facing an extraordinary crisis of climate change and ecological breakdown. Now, we have to face up to its primary cause. Our economic system - capitalism - is fundamentally dependent on constant growth, ever-increasing levels of extraction and production and consumption, which are burning through the living world. Not growth for any particular purpose, but growth for its own sake, indefinitely. Of course, to some extent growth can be useful. It can be used to reduce poverty, for instance. But it eventually reaches a point where it becomes extremely destructive and causes much more harm than good. The important thing to realise is that this crisis is not being caused by everyone equally. Most nations in the global South consume at levels that are well within planetary boundaries. It

is high-income nations that are the problem here, which have extremely high levels of resource use, vastly in excess of planetary boundaries. This is a problem for the global South.

Half of all the resources that high-income nations consume are extracted from the South, where it contributes to deforestation, pollution and other forms of ecological breakdown. The same is true when it comes to climate change. High-income nations have contributed the vast majority of historical emissions, and yet the effects of climate change disproportionately hurt the South. It is a matter of environmental injustice. So if we want to have a decent shot at averting climate catastrophe and reversing ecological breakdown, then high-income nations have to actively reduce their use of resources. This is known as “degrowth”. This requires shifting to a post-capitalist economy - an economy that does not rely on constant growth just to stay afloat. In my new book, *Less is More*, I describe what this looks like and how to get there.

What about the global South and places like Kerala?

The important lesson is that we must reject the Western development model that sees GDP growth as the highest value. Instead, we need to focus on the things we actually want to achieve: better health, better education, good wages, healthy food, a stable environment. If this requires some growth, within planetary boundaries, so be it. So long as growth is never our objective, in and of itself. This is what I call “post-growth” development.

The success of an economy or country lies in successful human development with less ecological impact. Is this the best time for Kerala to review its approach to economic growth and how can they materialise this?

Last year I worked with colleagues in ecological economics to develop the Sustainable Development Index (www.sustainabledevelopmentindex.org). It starts with the UN’s Human Development Index and adjusts it for ecological impact (consumption-based CO2 emissions and resource use). This way the countries that have high human development but low ecological impact rise to the top.

We can also add sub-national regions to the list, like Kerala, and different US states. If we do this, we see that Kerala is toward the top of the ranking, in the top 15. India is 56 and China is 101. Kerala is a much better model for sustainable development, along with Costa Rica and Sri Lanka.

Kerala is beginning to reach planetary boundaries.



What is the best way to continue improving human development without causing ecological damage?

The first and most important thing is to continue to extend high quality universal public health-care and education for all. This is the ticket to long, healthy and happy lives. The next step is to distribute income more fairly.

By distributing income more fairly, you can improve the lives of ordinary people without needing any additional GDP growth.

Do you advise that countries should stop measuring the indicator of progress of their economies through the GDP?

GDP is a very flawed measure. It counts up the monetary value of all the stuff we extract and produce and consume, but it does not count the costs. If you destroy a forest for timber, GDP goes up but it does not count the cost of losing that forest as a habitat for endangered species or as a sink for carbon. So it is imperative that we replace GDP with a more reasonable measure.

Corona virus has already exposed many weaknesses of growth-obsessed capitalist economies. It is definite that people will be for governments to prioritize health and wellbeing over economic growth. How can people be made aware that the present governments are following the culture of accumulation of capital rather than human welfare?

We need to demand a more rational, more humane economic system. Perhaps, the government of Kerala will give some thought to this, and show the world that there is another way.

There are many critics who say that there is not an alternative to capitalism in the present times due to globalisation?

It might seem that there is no alternative to capitalism, because capitalism is all we know. A post-capitalist economy is quite simply an economy that prioritizes the well-being of humans over the well-being of capital ■



Kerala Dialogue

A Global Conversation on Development

Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister of Kerala

Humanity is in an arduous battle with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic and the resultant crisis have made us all rethink about the core aspects of our life. We now know that we have to change for this new world.

Our priorities are going to change, even the way we organize our society may have to change. This is not something that governments can alone do; a society-wide conversation is necessary. We have to search, develop, discuss and debate ideas and models through this conversation. Like many other occasions, Kerala will be a pathfinder in this quest also.

We are starting a platform called “Kerala Dialogue” to facilitate a global conversation on development. Scientists, philosophers, policy-makers, economists, social scientists, writers, journalists, activists, representatives, professionals and the general public will be part of this conversation. The first part of this series features some of the world’s leading thinkers Prof. Noam Chomsky and Prof. Amartya Sen. This discussion, titled Kerala: A Development Path Ahead will be moderated by V.K. Ramachandran, Vice Chairman, Planning Board.

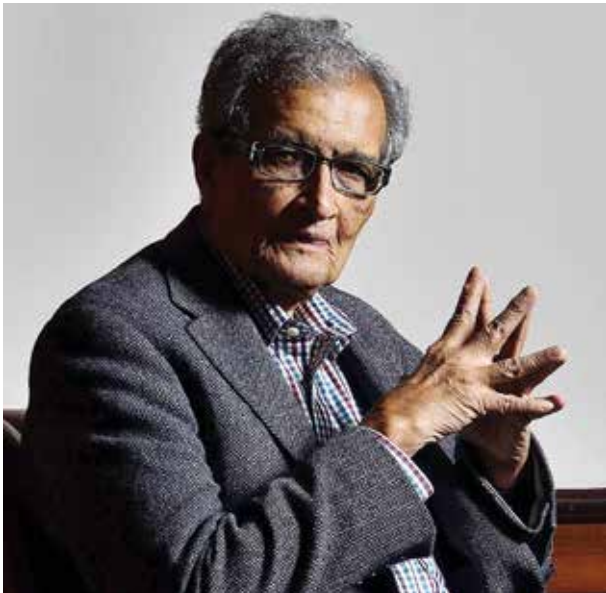
Historically, Kerala has had a very strong system of decentralised governance. The State made pioneering strides in the decentralised form of governance, including implementation of the peoples’ plan programme. It is this strong system of participatory governance that has

helped Kerala in the containment measures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also made us rethink the role of state intervention, especially in social sectors like health. Public sector intervention in social and economic sectors cannot be treated as an avoidable evil. Borrowing by the state cannot always be a vice. We now know that economic and social inequalities tend to make the problems of pandemic worse.

I hope this conversation will further advance our understanding about the world, the role of governance and the best models for our societies. I welcome you all to this conversation.

There is a much better understanding in Kerala: Amartya Sen



Prof. Amartya Sen is the Lamont University Prof. of Economics and Philosophy at Harvard University. He is a winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics. Prof. Sen has been a long-standing scholar of Kerala's development experience.

State Planning Board member V. K. Ramachandran speaks to Amartya Sen

V K Ramachandran (VKR): **What have the pandemic**

and lockdown taught us about importance of public action?

Amartya Sen (AS): We had a unilateral lockdown with a four-hour notice, suddenly stopping people going back home, and people suddenly not having the means of earning an income. Now, this, of course, is not something that was led by Kerala, for that matter, was very much the thing that the Kerala state wanted. I think what the Kerala state wanted, as far I can see it from outside, is that they would try to exclude people from having contact with each other, by testing quite widely, by tracing contact of anyone who is found to be positive or under suspicion of being positive. And then, seclude them and also observe them and prevent them from infecting others. That actually does make a lot of medical sense and it was successful. In the case of Kerala, there was a much better understanding, partly because there is a long tradition of not just health care but also education in Kerala.

VKR: **What has the pandemic taught us about inequality in the world?**

AS: The pandemic in itself doesn't come with lessons. It kills indiscriminately.

VKR: **Whether it's correct to talk about the post-COVID world at all. Is the pandemic a transformative moment?**

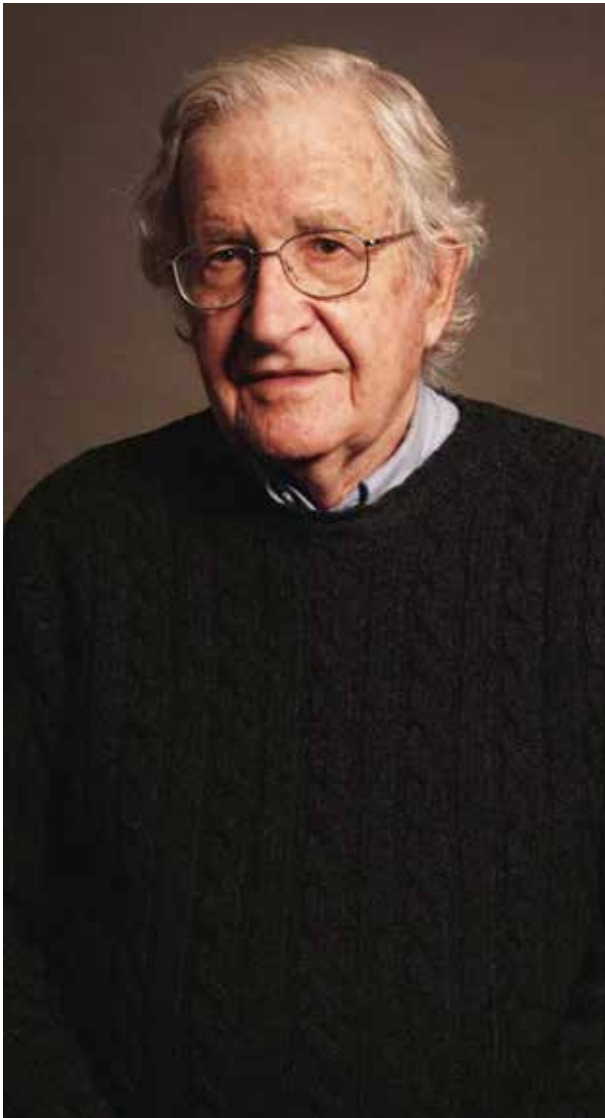
AS: Well I think it would be in Kerala, because Kerala already knew a lot, that to some extent consolidated aspects of it. The danger of being deluged under the rather deceptive economic slogan that is so dominant in India today and there is wide resistance to that. But it also suggests that combating bureaucracy, combating red tape, and doing things with exceeding speed, which indeed is what Kerala seems to have done in dealing with COVID 19. It is really very important. It is not only important in dealing with COVID-19, it also important for making economic development get going at a high speed.

VKR: **What are the points of light? Where are the rays of hope?**

AS: Let us take what is going on in America, a revolt against inequality, in particular inequality between whites and blacks, but not just that. Then you could say that something is being learnt, and to that learning there is a contribution of the crisis of the pandemic too. If you take that view, it's a very positive view, as opposed to the view that people are just very unhappy because things have worked out badly. There is a lesson there, but not as clear a lesson as it would be if it's seen as a reaction to inequality. We have to see which way it goes. At the moment there is a real sign of dialectical hope there.

The way Kerala reacts to a crisis is entirely different:

Noam Chomsky



Professor Noam Chomsky, laureate professor of linguistics at the University of Arizona. He is the founder of the modern science of linguistics and cognitive science. Noam Chomsky is also, perhaps, the world's most avidly read political and social commentator of our time, and indeed over five decades.

State Planning Board Vice Chairman V. K. Ramachandran interviews Prof. Chomsky on the backdrop of COVID-19 scenario.

V.K. Ramachandran (VKR): **Noam, what has COVID-19 taught us about inequality in the modern world?**

NC (Noam Chomsky): That has brought out very sharply the extraordinary inequality that has been, of course always there, but greatly exaggerated through the neoliberal period. And it has also brought out, in the United States, its particularly racial character.

VKR: **Is it correct to talk about in terms of the post COVID world?**

NC: What's going to be a post-pandemic world depends on what people are doing right now. What are the governments of the world doing? Some of them are doing something, including India, not enough but something.

When the US imposed the sanctions — the only country in the world that can do this — everyone in the world has to obey the sanctions. This is awesome power, no one else comes close and no one else is going to come close. All the talk about China becoming a competing superpower, I think, is built on sand.

VKR: **You have been to Kerala twice. What comments do you have on Kerala in the present situation and the development path ahead of us?**

NC: Well, the last time I spent time in Kerala, with you mostly, it was quite remarkable to see the differences between Kerala, and the rest of India, Tamil Nadu next door and other parts of India where I have also travelled. I mean it is pretty remarkable that on drives down the streets in Kerala, instead of seeing people banging on your windows pleading for a rupee, seeing people sitting in bars reading the newspapers. Things like that, it is different.

Now it is of course — I am not there, but reading about it, the differences between Kerala and the rest of India, and the rest of most of the world — reacting to the crisis is quite startling.

'The West need to learn from Kerala'

- **Martyn Day, British MP**

BALAGOPAL KENT
Editor, ukmalayalee.com



International media, academicians, scientists, economists have all applauded Kerala's successful approach taken in regards to fighting the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, Martyn Day, from the parliament in the UK asking the West to learn from Kerala on how to fight the virus.

What do you think the West can learn from Kerala on the successful ways on how they are addressing the fight against Covid-19?

This is the biggest public health challenge to be faced in our lifetimes and the measures we take to deal with it must reflect its magnitude, unfortunately the European response was in my opinion too slow to react to the threat. All of which has been compounded by political choices which saw a decade of austerity cut health spending and staff numbers.

Perhaps having suffered from an outbreak of Nippa virus recently Kerala was better prepared and took virial threats more seriously. Even today we can compare the UK 7-day isolation for those with symptoms to the 14-day WHO recommendation and the 28-day quarantine in Kerala. It is easy to see who is treating the threat more seriously. By contrast Kerala appears to have been on top of the issue from the very beginning, demonstrating effective planning and speed of action as main lessons to be learned by the West.

In your opinion what makes Kerala stand out from rest of the world in regards to the fight against Covid-19? Why are they successful?

One area is political, it has a government supportive of a command economy model. By contrast the neoliberal models elsewhere have been proven weaker in their initial response and I fear too keen to prioritise the economy over public health with potentially premature easing of lockdown measures.

How do you compare Kerala to the West in regards to the way how it's all going at present in regards to the fight against Covid-19?

Clearly while Kerala and the UK started from different positions and also have very different public health profiles, things look much better in terms of confirmed cases and deaths in Kerala than they do in the UK. I feel my in-laws in Kerala are currently safer than my parents in the UK.

Hope you are aware that there are thousands of Kerala nurses in the UK? How are you able to support them at these present times in the UK?

Kerala medical and care staff play a vital role in the UK Health and Social Care provision, and in the wider community. They along with all other vital workers should be adequately resourced with proper PPE, and equipment to do their jobs safely. The Home Office hostile environment regarding visas and immigration needs ended urgently. In my opinion those already here and exposed on the front line should be offered Indefinite Leave to Remain for themselves and families. The proposed new Immigration system also needs scrapped and it should be made easier and more welcoming for valued workers like these to enter the UK with their families



The Consumer 'fed' unhindered...

N.V. RAVINDRANATHAN NAIR
Senior Journalist



In times of distress the timing- of - service become more than significant. Consumerfed took the Covid - challenge in true spirit and rose to the occasion in flying colours.

While Kerala makes the historic feat in the fight against the lethal Covid -19 pandemic with the Public health sector playing a pivotal role, it is made possible also by the efforts of The State's lively co- operative and public distribution sectors with institutions like Kerala State Co-operative Consumers' Federation Ltd, (ConsumerFed), ensuring food - refuge for the state.

In dealing with such an unprecedented situation like Corona - spread, it is of paramount importance to ensure that every household in the state is having food and essential items. But it was not an easy task as Kerala being a consumerist state.

The major step the Consumerfed took at this juncture was to procure sufficient quantity of food grains and groceries. By distributing food grains at controlled price food security aspect of the people was addressed from the very beginning.

"Since the lock down was clamped ,large number of people who had never been regular customers of Consumerfed stepped into the Triveni stores making it more relevant in the time of crisis" points out Consumerfed chairman M. Mehboob. Consumerfed's focus was in ensuring the undisrupted supply of essential items like groceries and medicine.

Neethi Medical stores played a key role in bringing medicines to the customers at a much discounted rate. It has also started distributing masks and sanitizers. The monthly stock of provisions worth Rs.25 crore and sales



worth Rs.18 crore were increased by Rs. 65 crore and 55 crore respectively in the last two months. “There were great demand for mobile Triveni stores which reached out to the high ranges and coastal belts” P.K. Anil Kumar, Manager, Administration said.

Consumerfed’ s efforts to bring essentials to the people under home quarantine and the scheme started for aged couples living alone got much appreciation. The home delivery of medicines too got similar recognition. Another major step taken by Consumer fed was to start the online trading. People could log in on www.consumerfed.online to order the items. Setting up its own web domine, Consumerfed incidentally became the first public sector institution under the state government to conduct online trade.

The Consumer fed has donated Rs. 1 crore from its profit for the year 2019-2020 to the Chief Minister’s Disaster Relief Fund (CMDRF). Consumer fed employees also donated Rs.46. 36 lakh. In recognition of the hard work during the lock down a package worth Rs.1.25 crore has been announced for the employees.

When the Karnataka state closed the roads leading to the Kasargodu district, people could not cross the border

to buy essentials. In view of the situation Consumerfed started 10 co-operative stores on the borders. As the 36 liquor shops and 3 beer parlours under the Consumerfed are remaining closed during lockdown it has sustained a loss worth Rs.25 crore for the loss of business during this period.

With 183 Triveni Super Markets/Little Triveni Super Stores / Mega Marts and 45 Mobile Triveni Stores and 978 Neethi medical stores, Consumerfed has not only provided support to the people in distrest but also made its presence felt in the market in the difficult days.

The major step the Consumerfed took at this juncture was to procure sufficient quantity of food grains and groceries

Consumerfed has not only provided support to the people in distrest but also made its presence felt in the market in the difficult days

The home delivery of medicines too got similar recognition



Monsoon - Safe Animal Care

Dr. B. AJITH BABU
Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry Department



Since the Covid-19 attack dwindling economy invites one's attention even to the unexplored areas. When it comes to animal rearing, it is considered as one of the 'safest' income-generating choices.

During this lockdown period or otherwise, livestock farming is one of the top avenues that bring a constant income to the farmer or entrepreneur. A good number of farmers in our State rear livestock that includes Cattle, Buffalo and Goat for their livelihood.

Livestock rearing requires appropriate expertise and know-how regarding the protection of animals from bumpy or unpleasant weather. Animals should be provided sufficient shelter to protect them from heavy rainfall, winds and hailstorm. Farmers need to understand the common problems they are destined to face during monsoon and how to overcome the troublesome situation.

Management of Livestock during monsoon

Improper or leaky roofs

Water - leakage in the animal shelter will affect the comfort of the housed animals. If the cattle shed is not clean enough then water leads to the creation of chemicals like ammonia that affects eyes of the livestock. For goats, livestock farmer needs to keep their hooves away from water to avoid hoof - rotting disease.

Worm infestation and microbial load

The chances of worm infestation in the animals are more in the rainy season. So, farmers should stock broad spectrum de-wormers and those should be used under the direction of a Veterinary doctor. De-worming has to be done at the onset & throughout the season to control worm - multiplication.



Moisture present on the ground can be a source of bacterial growth, which can cause diseases. So, it is essential to keep the shed - floor clean and tidy.

Gastric problems

During the rainy season, the availability of green grass will be more than usual and the farmers will feed their animals with more moisture content. This causes animals to pass watery dung in the wet seasons.

Ectoparasites

Ectoparasites, especially ticks spread more rapidly in the rainy season. They can cause various tick-borne diseases.

Mastitis

Diseases of udder also become common in the rainy season. Unclean or dirty sheds during monsoon can cause mastitis which can cause a reduction in milk yield.

Feed storage

If the feeds become wet then it will develop moulds. That may result in aflatoxicosis which is fatal to the animals.

- Animals should be vaccinated against contagious diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease, H.S (Hemorrhagic septicaemia) and Anthrax.
- De-worming with broad-spectrum de-wormers may be done at the beginning of the monsoon season and throughout the season at regular intervals under the prescription of a qualified veterinary doctor.
- Ecto parasiticidal drugs should be used at regular

intervals for removal of ectoparasites

- Farm must be disinfected using a disinfectant regularly
- The feed store should be dry, well ventilated, rat - proof and clean.
- Get animal-insurance to get compensation in unexpected losses. Many subsidized schemes are available with Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development departments. Nearby government veterinary hospitals can be contacted for more details regarding the insurance schemes.

In any commercial farming, the success of the farmer and the profitability of the farm depends on the scientific management of the animals maintained. In livestock as well as in poultry farming, the supervision of the housed animals and birds during inclement weather is of utmost importance. Necessary precautions against unexpected calamities reduce the risk involved in farming.

Livestock rearing requires appropriate expertise and know-how regarding the protection of animals from bumpy or unpleasant weather

The success of the farmer and the profitability of the farm depends on the scientific management of the animals maintained

Moisture present on the ground can be a source of bacterial growth



The Tinsel - town reverie and reality

ANAMIKA
Freelance Journalist

Silver screen heroes and damsels are in a trance owing to the colossal threat of never – before – pandemic strike. Tinsel – town awaits another spring but exploring new platforms for nought but existence.

When theatres across the State downed their shutters in March, Malayalam film industry was ready with a solid line-up for Easter, Vishu, Eid and summer holidays. Marakkar: Arabikadalinte Simham, Mohanlal's opulent period drama, was all geared for a global release by the end of March, but the date was pushed to December or early 2021. And within a couple of weeks schedules got reshuffled, shoots were cancelled and projects were shelved, bringing the industry to a virtual standstill.

What was expected to be a brief temporary break continued for nearly three months hitting all activities across production, exhibition, and distribution. With zero income during the period and its meticulously planned release calendar in shambles, the industry was thrown into unprecedented chaos.

Since it's impossible to predict a date when theatres can resume screenings, options like OTT streaming platforms were considered. But the day Amazon Prime announced the release of seven Indian films including Sufiyum Sujathayum, it was met with stiff opposition. While superstar films and multi-crore spectacles cannot think of going for an OTT release, there are some directors and producers who see it as a safe option for survival. They point out the accumulating losses and see it as a short-term solution until the world can tide over the crisis.

At the same time, it's not an easy decision to make since a huge chunk of revenue comes from box office collections, especially when we consider larger-than-life films. In 2019 Mohanlal's Lucifer hit the screens on March 28 and enjoyed a great theatrical run, but this year his 100-crore period drama was put on hold. Mammootty's 'One', Fahad

Faasil's 'Malik' and Tovino Thomas' 'Kilometres and Kilometres' are the other major films that opted to wait it out.

Most probably, they will be joined by a long string of others, including Onam releases, intensifying the crisis. And at a time when everything goes back to normal, it will not be just vernacular cinema vying for slots. There will be Hollywood productions including the latest James Bond film and some much-awaited Tamil and Hindi release making the situation all the more difficult.

And when it comes to the immediate crisis, over 30 films had to stop production midway when the lockdown was announced. According to industry insiders, now the biggest challenge will be to reschedule the dates of actors and ensure the availability of locations. It also involves a lot of logistical issues since out-door sets had to be dismantled during the lockdown and there is also a huge concern over manpower management.

At present, the fraternity and its various organisations are trying to work out a new strategy to cushion the blow. A number of projects have been shelved or postponed indefinitely since producers are not in a position to take any extra burden till their last films are released. Over 200 crore is currently stuck



in films that are ready for release and at advanced stages of production.

Many production houses, which were ready to bankroll colossal projects, are now looking for low-budget films starring comparatively new actors. According to trade experts, it will be impossible for the industry to reboot without actors and crew members taking salary cuts and A-listers working on profit-sharing arrangements.

New films and those resuming the shoot will be left with limited resources and though the cash flow has been hit, they will have to shell out additional funds for the new safety and hygiene norms. The future of the industry depends on collective effort as the fear of uncertainty looms large.

But on a positive note, it's not possible to resist the magic of big screen for long and once the threat abates, the audience will definitely flock the theatres once again.

The industry was thrown into unprecedented chaos...

The future of the industry depends on collective effort as the fear of uncertainty looms large

And when it comes to the immediate crisis, over 30 films had to stop production midway when the lockdown was announced

Time to reboot Kerala Tourism



MAITHILY P.R. & SURESH MENON
Tourism Consultants

For the past four seasons Kerala Tourism has faced stiff challenges in the form of highly infectious viral diseases, one of the worst floods in a century, and then to top it all, Covid-19, a pandemic which has brought the world to a standstill.

Tourism industry is key to Kerala's economic sustenance as it is one of the pillars of its revenue. A typical consumer state, Kerala has only a few things to offer to the world, and its award-winning tourism industry is one of the them.

But experts believe that Kerala has the resilience to overcome the challenges and turn, once again, the tourism industry, which employs hundreds of thousands of people, into one of its mainstays of revenue.

Industry experts feel that a little bit of recalibration of its target group, visionary policies and determined administration and effective media planning will help Kerala turn the tables in less than four months.

Two experienced consultants, Maithily PR and Suresh Menon, have put forward a list of suggestions which can bring the tourism industry back on its

feet through Public-Private-Government participation. They believe Kerala should look at itself as a destination which is a combination of leisure and health to 'reboot Kerala Tourism'.

Target High-paying Tourists

Though everyone has been affected worldwide by the Covid-19, the high-paying tourist segments still have disposable incomes. And they are yearning to travel. This segment should be the 'target segment' initially. It may be noted that bookings on cruise liners for 2021 have already increased by 40% over 2019. This is enough proof that people do want to travel as early as possible. This segment needs to be wooed and tapped immediately.

Disinfection Welcome

Every tourist or guest checking into any facility passes through a disinfection area before he/she steps on to the public areas of the property. It could be in the form of a comfortable wash room, where every guest is expected to sterilize himself. Sterilized bath robes and disinfection



kits must be made available. Responsible tourism needs to be enhanced, as a mantra.

Health & Wellness Destination

The success of Kerala in dealing with the containment of the pandemic and its proven use of medicinal herbal remedies and treatment to enhance the immunity is well known worldwide. Kerala must be promoted as a wellness destination where tourists go back with an enhanced immune system and with knowledge of how they can remain healthy and fit through natural methods. Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Yoga and other herbal systems of medicine to be aggressively promoted. Kerala is the only destination in the world that offers these, packaged along with leisure. Promote Kerala as the destination for wellbeing of the mind, body and soul – Wholesome healing.

Redefining Infrastructure

New and innovative methods of employing existing infrastructure and resources must be implemented aggressively. Promote houseboats in the middle of the backwaters as a destination by itself, for wholesome healing. They can also be used as a holiday quarantine. Promote resorts and facilities in the middle of nature as destinations for longer periods, integrated with natural healing programs that will enhance the immunity of guests. Promote home-stays and bed & breakfast facilities with vigour as part of social and women empowerment initiatives.

Enlist Specialist Hospitals

Specialist hospitals for emergency care will need to be brought into the umbrella of Travel & Tourism, irrespective of whether it be for health or leisure. The availability of

these facilities in close proximity forms a part of confidence building measures to give a sense of comfort and safety to the in-bound tourists.

Foreign Direct Investments

A database of sick tourism players, who are disposing their properties, needs to be quickly compiled and offered for FDI through the automatic route.

Collaborative Tourism and Optimisation

Collaboration among the players in the industry is a must. This will include sharing of resources and business.

Road Trips

To minimize the physical interaction of tourists with others, road trips to short destinations may be emphasized upon. Apart from aiding social distancing, the car-rental companies stand to benefit from the boom in vehicle hire. The vehicles could be self-driven or chauffeur driven.

Harness Media

The mainstream and online media need to be convinced and their support enlisted, keeping the long-term vision of the tourism industry and hence, the media industry also.

Employability and Skill Enhancement

The brushing up and development of soft skills for all the front players in the tourism and health industry must be taken up on a war footing, so that every tourist leaves with a smile. It must be remembered that a happy tourist transforms into a self-appointed ambassador of Kerala tourism.

Unity Pays

The government has to form a close working partnership with the private tourism players and take them into confidence when formulating a strategy. The private players have to be open to suggestions and criticism too, and need to fall in line with the broad agenda being formulated by the government.

It is important that a unified effort between the private players and governments participation has to be in place at the earliest to pull Kerala Tourism out of danger. Once it is set on its track, the industry will create roads to other revenue generation initiatives and thousands of jobs, which could help the state in a long way, especially when thousands of expat workers are coming back home from a troubled Arabian Gulf

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