



Words through the 'LENS' of inspiration



The giant leap is on, fulfilled promises galore...



Endearing elikutty and her fascinating Malayalam

KERALA CALLING

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2020 AUGUST 01



THE GIANT LEAP IS ON


നോപ്പിട്ടോണം
മാസ്കിട്ടോണം
ഗ്യാപ്പിട്ടോണം





ഓണാശംസകൾ

Break the Chain

നിവാരണ ശൃംഖലയെ
ഭാഗ്യം



LET US
LAY AN
OPTIMISTIC
POOKKALAM
ON THESE
ONAM DAYS



Where are we, the Malayalis, heading to? The question arises as a perplexing one since the Wuhan - outbreak. It has been months since we were head-on with the pandemic. Every effort to tame the dreadful virus is being resisted, much to the agony of the populace world over. The State Government and the resilient populace have become a paragon of excellence when it comes to the efficient tackling of the pandemic and limiting the number of fatalities to the minimum.

Even while we fight it out in the middle against the Coronavirus, disasters of colossal magnitude hit us one after another. Incessant rain which resulted in floods followed by landslide came as an unprecedented jolt. Lots of invaluable lives were lost in the Pettimudy tragedy, so was the livelihood of several families. Shedding fear of the pandemic spread, people from all walks of life shouldered the rescue operations with the official authorities, which in turn helped save many from the debris.

Before recovering from the 'Pettimudy- shock' came the aircraft crash. An Air India Express flight crashed after overshooting the runway at the Kozhikode International Airport at Karipur, much to the disbelief of the already pandemic threatened public. Once again, the indefatigable helping hands of the Malayali rose to the rescue of many precious lives. The State Government of Kerala put in every effort in the rescue as well as in the post-tragedy follow-up initiatives in both incidents.

The Malayali resoluteness together with a determined, ever compassionate Government is there to confront any challenge right from the forefront. It is a certainty that the brighter days are not that far away.

Amidst all the unfortunate incidents, come the days of Onam once again. With umpteen numbers of programmes aimed towards the upliftment of life in the post-COVID era, together we can experience the new-normal-Onam. Social distancing has to be maintained but our minds should remain one in this time of distress. I wish everyone a splendid and peaceful Onam once again.

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





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The Giant Leap is on, Fulfilled Promises Galore...

Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister of Kerala

Much has happened in the State between the last and current issues of Kerala Calling. It was when we were already fighting the Covid-19 pandemic in full swing that we came close to a flood. Tragedies - a landslide in Idukki and a plane crash at Karipur - shook us and took the lives of innocent people. Amidst these setbacks, our state is setting an example in moving forward. We have not slowed down in serving the public, completing developmental projects, and addressing people's issues.





Fight against Covid-19

I had said sometime back that fighting this pandemic is like running a marathon; each leg matters, above all our endurance. Despite restrictions having been eased throughout India, we aren't seeing a spike-like we see at the national level and we are still doing extremely well in comparison to the rest of the country. As far as Case Fatality Rate goes, it has fallen considerably. Our Test Positivity Rate is still among the best in the country. We still trace contacts and strictly ensure quarantine even for secondary contacts.

In fact, through COVID First-Line Treatment Centers (CFLTCs) and specialised COVID hospitals, we have only ramped up our fight against the pandemic in this third phase. At present, our focus is to protect lives and livelihoods. Containment is being imposed wherever fresh cases are being reported. This will help reduce the incidence. At the same time, life has to go on. Therefore, strict adherence to COVID protocol is mandated across the State. This will enable the general public to go ahead with their daily lives, and earn their livelihood.

The immense support extended by the people of Kerala, that's how we have managed thus far. Keralites' exceptional spirit of volunteerism is what helps the State to overcome any disaster. As far as the administrative mechanisms go, early preparedness, effective

coordination, seamless cooperation, immediate relief, decentralised initiatives through LSGIs and robust public health services have formed the bedrock of our fight against COVID-19. We have left no stone unturned in fighting this pandemic.

Monsoon Havoc

In the face of a double disaster, the pandemic and the floods, relief camps were set up following the COVID protocol. Evacuation of people from disaster-prone areas was also conducted following the protocol. Kuttanad is a classic case in point, of how despite floods, life wasn't affected like usual. Our interventions in Pamba to remove silt and debris and in Thottappally to widen and deepen the estuary need special mention. This was done, despite a virulent campaign against both from vested interest groups. Time has proved that we acted in time, keeping the best interest of the State and its people. Unfortunate and unpredictable incidents like landslides have taken lives. But otherwise, as evident, we have been able to manage this monsoon havoc quite well.

Enhanced State Interventions

In the earlier issues, I have mentioned about our interventions aimed at agricultural self-sufficiency and protecting livelihoods, i.e. Subhiksha Keralam and Vyavasaya Bhadratha. Earlier we had announced a



Flood Relief Camp

special Covid-19 package of Rs. 20,000 crores. We have also announced a “Dream Kerala” project which will tap into the skill pool of returning pravisas for employment generation and entrepreneurship.

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a rethinking of the contours of state intervention, especially in social sectors like health. The argument for rolling back the state has become questionable even among the proponents of the free market. Kerala’s experience shows how public investment in healthcare and a participatory model of governance with empowered local governments can help in pandemic mitigation. A truly federal set-up with shared responsibilities between the Centre and the States is better suited to deal with situations like the present one rather than a centralised system. This should be the period in which we end fiscal conservatism. Primary needs of citizens like food, shelter, health, education and employment should get primacy. We need to bear in mind that there is no country without its citizens. The country’s welfare lies truly in its citizens’ welfare.

Looking Back

Over the last 4 years, we have strengthened and widened the State’s historic achievements in the social sectors, and used them as a foundation for major growth in agricultural and industrial production, by realising the required basic infrastructure. At the same time, we have tried to champion Kerala as a haven for investments and thereby create employment opportunities for our youngsters within the State itself. Of course, our skilled human resources will go a long way in integrating knowledge-based services into our economy. Foreseeing

those possibilities, we are proceeding with a vision to transform Kerala into a future-ready economy. Accordingly, we have committed ourselves to the production of electric vehicles, promotion of solar power, and development of the IT and BT industries.

Many projects which were considered impossible earlier, have been realized by this government. GAIL pipeline project is one such mega project. This will provide piped gas connection to a large number of households. The Kochi-Mangalore line is complete. The completion of the Edamon-Kochi Power Highway has ensured uninterrupted power supply and distribution in our state. The four-laning of National Highway is another endeavor which was deemed to be impossible. However, the land acquisition for the NH development has been completed to a large extent and the work has started. This has become a reality because the state took the important decision to bear 25% of the land acquisition cost. Once fully functional, the K-FON will create a broadband revolution.

KIIFB Projects worth Rupees 56,000 crore are presently at various stages of completion. Coastal Highway, Hill Highway, National Waterway development are some major projects taken up by our government. Kannur Airport and Kochi Metro are two major infrastructure development projects completed by our government. New long-term plans for infrastructure development are also planned. The semi high-speed rail project or the K-Rail is one of them. The project, which is expected to be implemented in association with the Railways, will cost Rs 66,000 crore. Once completed, Kasargod can be reached in four hours from Thiruvananthapuram at



Life Mission

moderate rates.

Forward on the Path of Welfare

We have made Kerala Bank a reality, thus creating a financial institution that can stand for the interests of the state. Our government has protected public sector enterprises - which can be managed to ensure the public good - that was on the verge of collapse and turned them into profits. We have transformed our traditional industries and made them competitive and availed online platforms for their marketing.

The success of our Pothu Vidyabhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam is evident from the addition of five lakh students in public schools in the last four years. By conducting online classes through KITE-VICTERS, we have ensured that the students do not lose out of their education and that their future is not jeopardised because of this pandemic. Aardram Mission has transformed our health sector. Primary health centres have been upgraded to family health centres. Hospitals, including medical colleges, have been made patient-friendly. Haritha Keralam Mission has helped us to protect our environment and increase agricultural production. Paddy cultivation has been increased from 1.7 lakh hectares to 2.02 lakh hectares. Steps have been taken to achieve self-sufficiency in milk, eggs and vegetables.

The government has also set an example for the country in giving priority to social security. Houses were built for more than 2.25 lakh homeless families, through the LIFE Mission. Social security pension was paid on time. The social security pension has gone up from Rs 600 to Rs 1300. 45 lakh people are getting pension. In 2015-16,

33.99 lakh people received pensions and in 2019-20, it was 48.91 lakh. Between 2011-2016, Rs 8,429 crore was disbursed as social security pension, our government has so far disbursed Rs 23,255 crore as welfare pensions.

This year for Onam, our government has decided to disburse social security pension of about Rs. 2,600 to each beneficiary and Onam kit for all 88 lakh ration cardholders in the state. The government is determined to put cash in the hands of people, thereby making their survival during the Covid-19 crisis comfortable. We expect that the pandemic upon us will be defeated in the coming months with the help of vaccines and scientific methods. In the meantime, we are preparing for a giant leap that is to be made after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government is determined to put cash in the hands of people.

We have made Kerala Bank a reality.

Time has proved that we acted in time, keeping the best interest of the State and its people.

Up Scaling Development with a Vision

A.K. Balan

Minister for Welfare of SC/ST & BC, Law, Parliamentary Affairs & Culture

Projects of colossal extent seem befitting the fast-paced new world order. When it comes to development, projects are planned sans any constraint. Every initiative from this government is implemented with a people-friendly objective and the same is followed in mega projects too. Whether it is a project in health care or an entertainment - oriented one, worthiness is considered as the benchmark.



Institute of Integrated Medical Sciences (Palakkad Medical College)

One of the major projects implemented by the scheduled caste development department is the Institute of Integrated Medical sciences, Palakkad. (Palakkad Medical College). The hospital block of the medical college is being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 337 crore. The Academic block and Hostel blocks have already been constructed. The project is scheduled to be completed by December 2020.

The hospital will have all the modern facilities and will be a dream comes true for the most backward district of Palakkad. Steps have already been initiated to start Post Graduate Medical Courses in this college. There will be PG courses in eight departments. Situated close to the Tribal heartland of Attappady, the Medical College will benefit a large chunk of the Tribal population, in particular. The entire amount for the construction of the institution is met from the fund earmarked for Scheduled Caste Sub - plan.

International Film Festival Complex

The permanent venue for IFFK (International Film Festival of Kerala) is proposed to be built in Kazhakkootam KINFRA Park in the 5 acre plot at an estimated cost of Rs.100 Crore. It is envisaged as a theatre complex having 12000 viewer capacities with state-of-the-art facilities. The complex will consist of the administrative block of Chalachithra Academy, film Library, film museum, research centre, preview rooms,



media arena, open- air theatre, canteen and hostel facilities.

Film City

A film city with all modern facilities for outdoor - shooting like indigenous and international theme parks, Atmos 3D mixing studio, theatres and hotels is proposed to be constructed in the premises of Chitranjali Studio complex. The estimated cost is Rs.150 Crore. Chitranjali studio will also be augmented to suit the nature and purpose of the new film city. The DPR (Detailed project report) for the project has already been prepared.



The hospital block of the medical college is being built at an estimated cost of Rs. 337 crore.

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Chitranjali studio will also be augmented to suit the nature and purpose of the new film city.

Upholding the 'Rights' of the Deserving Slice

E. Chandrasekharan
Minister for Revenue & Housing

It is a widely acclaimed fact among welfare economists that land reforms were the foundation upon which the Kerala model of development was built. What makes Kerala society radically different from those in other parts of the country is the ownership of land vested with the masses. On its epoch-making journey to welfare, Revenue Department of Kerala is close to accomplishment of its mission of making Kerala a state where every citizen has a piece of land and a home of his own.



Land Reforms – A Continuum

Till this date about one and a half lakhs of farmers have been given absolute ownership of land by this Government. This was made possible by bringing amendments to rules which have hindered rightful endowment of title on agricultural land to farmers. Several enabling orders were issued by the Revenue department towards clarification and facilitation of disbursement of title deeds to the landless. Ceiling of income to receive Pattayam for agricultural land already in possession of the farmer was repealed. Provisions to pledge such land in banks to avail loans were incorporated. Permission was granted to fell trees grown by farmers themselves on Pattayam lands, except Sandal wood trees.

Pattayams will be given to deserving farmers, in those places where the Covid 19 situation did not permit distribution. Likely from next week onwards, these Pattayams will be distributed through online decentralised disbursement measures, at Legislative Assembly constituency levels. By the end of this Government's tenure, we will have close to two lakhs Pattayams distributed to eligible farmers.

Digital Land Management & Conservation

As part of the digitization programme envisaged by Government of India, land management and conservation mechanism of the state Government is being digitized at a fast pace and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Records of settled



cases in land tribunals, Pattayams and records of rights issued, land revenue records of various revenue offices, survey & registration data and multidimensional details regarding Government lands and leased lands will be made available on a digital platform provided by Revenue Department, enhancing transparency, accountability & accuracy in matters relating to land in the whole of the state.

Lease Alert System

Thousands of hectares of government land have been given on lease to several trusts and individuals for long periods. A significant number of them have defaulted on payment of lease rent, even though usually it is a small amount. At the same time, these land holders have been making huge profits out of government lands, without paying what is due to the exchequer. It is roughly estimated that the defaulting parties cumulatively owe about Rs.1200 crores to the state Government. In view of this uninspiring track record, a newly formulated Lease Alert System will start functioning from this month. This will ensure timely payment of lease rent and meticulous online management of leased land.

One and a half lakhs of farmers have been given absolute ownership of land by this Government.

Land management and conservation mechanism of the state Government is being digitized at a fast pace.

A newly formulated Lease Alert System will start functioning from this month

Of Studies...

Dr K. T. Jaleel
Minister for Higher Education

I prefer to reserve a detailed writing on what we have done to a later issue of this magazine and as of now wish only to dot down a few of our efforts in the past two years of my tenure as the Minister for Higher Education.



I myself is a teacher and when I assumed office, I had a reasonably clear picture of the higher education scenario. I can depict the picture as a four-fold one.

Number one is to introduce some sort of discipline in the conduct of courses and examinations and announcement of results. Now, among all the odds, we could commence this academic year on June 1 itself.

The second one was accreditations and regulations. To say the least, results show the efforts put behind; now the list of top 100 universities in the NIRF rankings includes 4 universities from Kerala in which 2 of them are in the top 50. For the University of Kerala, it is a great achievement to be ranked 22nd in the list. New statutes for the Technological University have been published and the process of revising University laws will be finishing soon.

We have recruited over a thousand teachers in various levels of higher education institutions and nearly 900 new posts have been created afresh. Appointment of non-teaching staffs through the public service commission crosses 3000. This year over a thousand teachers will be appointed in government-aided institutions.

The fourth thing that had been challenging was financing. Universities and institutions in the Government/aided sector needed funds in large amounts to overcome the neglects of the past and raise to the level of dreaming national accreditation. The government showed no hesitation in pumping coffers



University of Kerala

through various forms like budget allocations, KIIFB support, RUSA contributions etc.

Now since the challenges have overcome to a great extent, it's time to look towards the future. A few more of our institutions and Universities are to come within top 50 in National rankings and a few of them should find a place in the world rankings. For that to happen we have to make our UG and PG level courses futuristic and our teachers are to become empowered to show the courage and passion to break conventions and that they are not machines who replicate the status quo. Our students; not institutions only are to be given more autonomy to drive their own learning and their talents are to be assessed in more creative ways than just exams. An expert committee appointed to make studies in this regard has put forth their recommendations and the government is considering implementing them in letter and spirit. ■

NEWS SCAN

NOW 'SAFE' HOMES TOO...



The Kasaragod district administration has introduced a novel scheme to treat asymptomatic Covid patients at home itself, to restrict the number of infected crowding hospitals. The state government has issued guidelines to treat asymptomatic Covid patients at home in the wake of the pandemic spread of Covid-19 in the state.

According to Kasaragod DMO Dr. A. V. Ram Das, 151 asymptomatic Covid patients are under treatment at their home in the district. Medical officers and a team at Panchayath level and another squad from Covid control room at district level continuously monitor the health of the patients.

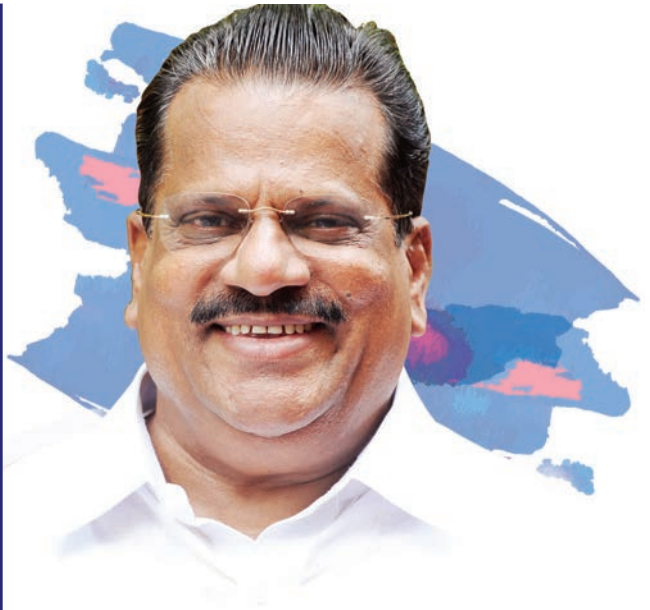
Kasaragod district administration and health department have made cautious planning and arrangements to make patients safe at their abodes. The entire medical team in the district is fully confident over the arrangements made and ready to face any eventuality.

The Never-Before Industrial 'Boom'

E. P. Jayarajan

Minister for Industries, Sports & Youth Affairs

The Department of Industries has been able to make the state industry-friendly through constructive interventions. The simplification of the rules and regulations have created an extremely favourable environment for businesses to flourish and has attracted more entrepreneurs.



The fact that the government itself is preparing big projects will greatly benefit the progress of the state. These projects are being implemented to further develop the industrial environment and will spur the state's growth 'tenfold'.

Coimbatore - Kochi Industrial Corridor

With the approval of the National Industrial Corridor Development Implementation Trust (NIKDIT), the state government has begun the process of building the Kochi-Coimbatore-Industrial Corridor. The project will extend the Bengaluru-Chennai Industrial Corridor to Kochi via Coimbatore, a distance of 160 km. The project aims to create business associations by acquiring separate plots of land on both sides of the road. Direct and indirect jobs will be created for one lakh people and investments of Rs. 10,000 crores will be implemented. The Kochi Global City project is also in progress as part of the Industrial Corridor project. For this, KINFRA has identified 220 hectares of land in Ernakulam.

Gail Pipeline

This is a gas pipeline system prepared by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) for LNG distribution across the country on the power grid model. The aim is to supply LNG for domestic and industrial use. 98% of the work of the project has been completed. The Kochi-Mangalore pipeline (444 km) from Kochi to Koottanad (97 km) in Palakkad district has been commissioned.

New industrial parks

Six industrial parks are being set up under the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and 10 under the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA).

The Bio 360 Life Science Park is one of the most important parks situated in Thonakkal, Thiruvananthapuram. It is the first industrial park dedicated to Life Sciences.

A Medical Devices Park (Meds Park) is being set up on 9 acres adjacent to the Life Science Park. The park includes an incubation centre, a knowledge resource centre and an animal house.

The Mega Marine Food Park at Cherthala, Alappuzha is being established with the aim of providing impetus to the seafood processing and distribution sector. Work is in progress for an electronic hardware park at Ambalur in Ernakulam district. Nearly 100 acres of land has been acquired.

A light engineering park is being set up on 34.5 acres at Ottapalam, Palakkad. The centre is responsible for the manufacture and distribution of forging, fasteners, electronics and steel.

The state government has begun the first phase of the Global Ayurveda Village Project. The project covers an area of 39.45 acres and includes a therapy centre, research centre and a medicinal garden. 32 acres of land has been acquired in Varkala for the second phase of the project.

Muttam Food and Spices Park in Idukki is being set up on 15 acres. Facilities including processing cluster and storage and processing centres will strengthen the spice sector in Idukki.

The KINFRA Defense Park at Ottapalam in Palakkad district is ready to run. The park has been set up on 60 acres at a cost of Rs 130.94 crore.

The Mega Food Park at Elappully, Palakkad is now operational. An SDF building complex, along with the construction of a centralized processing centre has been completed on 79.42 acres.

The Integrated Rice Technology Park on 5 acres at Kanchikode, Palakkad is under construction and is equipped with a rice mill, storage centre and packhouse.

An Industrial Park with International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Export Enclave and Container



Gail Pipeline

Freight Station is being set up at Mattannur in the Kannur district.

Land Bank

With the objective of making Kerala an industry - friendly sector, a new Industrial Estate will be set up in various parts of the state, focusing on land, water and air transport availability and proximity.

Direct and indirect jobs will be created for one lakh people and investments of Rs. 10,000 crores will be implemented.

The aim is to supply LNG for domestic and industrial use.

The state government has begun the first phase of the Global Ayurveda Village Project.

Ever-Expanding Serving Indicator

Kadakampally Surendran
Minister for Co-operation, Tourism &
Devaswoms

Since the LDF government came to power, a number of exemplary projects have been implemented in the co-operative sector. If we look at the field of development, welfare and services, it is evident that the benefits have been accrued by the needy and the most vulnerable in society.



The establishment of Kerala Bank, Care Home, Phase I will provide housing to more than 2,000 people. The "Muttatha Mulla" is there to help families out of the trick of high-interest moneylenders. Home delivery of welfare pensions is assured. Consumer Fed, which has been reeling under losses, is making profit and operating more efficiently. Navakeraliyam Debt Relief and KSRTC Pension Distribution is also part of the long list of feats accomplished under the department. Several numbers of projects both large and small, are on track to reach the target.

The Recruitment Board for Devaswom appointments and appointment of Abrahmana Shanthi has been modelled on the PSC recruitment process, The government has also been able to make changes through the appointment of Abrahmana Shanti and the reservation in Devaswom appointments for the economically backward sections of the society.

The Sabarimala Rest Station Project has been implemented under the direction of the Chief Minister of Kerala. The government aims to build camp complexes for Sabarimala pilgrims on land that is owned by 38 temples in the state.

Care Home Phase II

The second phase of the Care Home project aims to build one flat complex in each of the 14 districts to rehabilitate those affected by the natural calamities and floods of 2018 and 2019. Each complex will have 30 to 40 homes. The project is expected to cost around 60 crores and is expected to be completed by March-April 2021.



Paddy field

Palakkad Paddy Project

Palakkad will become a home for the first modern Silo-Modern Rice Mill project in Kerala. Silo-Modern Rice Mill is the first of its kind in Kerala to start a co-operative sector with the assistance of the Government of Kerala. The project is expected to be completed by March-April 2021.

Member Relief Fund

"Member Relief Fund" is a scheme for distressed members of co-operative societies. The assistance of Rs.10, 000 to Rs.50, 000 / - is given to the members of co-operative societies affected by fatal diseases.

A digital market network for selling cooperative products under a unified brand is being formed.

The Government has formulated a number of schemes utilizing the endless tourist potential of Northern Malabar. Of these, Muzhuppilangad, the longest drive-in beach in Asia, is planned to be developed as a tourism destination of international standards.

Travancore Heritage Circuit project has been initiated to connect heritage sites spread over Thiruvananthapuram district and surrounding areas.

A comprehensive plan has been prepared to revitalize and attract tourists to the Akkulam backwaters, an important reservoir in Thiruvananthapuram district.

Kodungallur-based Muziris, Thalassery and Alappuzha

are currently implementing three heritage conservation projects in the state. Steps are being taken to extend the Thalassery Heritage Project to the Wayanad district. In addition, the government has launched similar development projects in popular shopping malls at Mithaitheruvu and Chala.

The Alappuzha Heritage Project is being implemented where factories related to coir will be revitalized. Construction of the Coir Museum is in progress.

The second phase of the Care Home project aims to build one flat complex in each of the 14 districts.

A digital market network for selling cooperative products under a unified brand is being formed.

Muzhuppilangad, the longest drive-in beach in Asia, is planned to be developed as a tourism destination of international standards.

The Even 'Flow' to Continue

K. Krishnankutty

Minister for Water Resources

Supply of potable water to all cannot be a dream but reality since this Government is determined to provide it to the maximum possible families. Projects of such magnitude that will help in delivering a huge amount of water in one go are being materialized and several are in the pipeline as well. Steps to restrict floods in vulnerable areas are on. New irrigation projects are carved to fulfil the needs of the times. A never-before thrust is given to find solutions to inter-state river disputes.



Potable water for all in rural areas

The Department of Water Resources has undertaken a mega project to supply piped water to all households in rural areas. The project aims to make drinking water available to 52 lakh households by 2024. Clean water will be piped to 21.42 lakh households in the current financial year itself. The pipe connection will be made available to more than one and a half lakh families by next November. At present, there are 67.41 lakh rural households in Kerala. Kerala Water Authority has set up Project Implementation Units (PIUs) at various levels.

The Water Authority has submitted detailed engineering reports for the implementation of the aquaculture project in 791 panchayats. The plan for 2020-21 aims to provide drinking water connection to 100% of the households in 586 villages, 380 panchayats and 23 block panchayats. So far, 719 DERs worth 4343.42 crores have been approved to provide 16.47 lakh connections in 14 districts.

Flood-Free Kuttanad

The timely measures taken by the Water Resources Department in the region have paved the way for the prevention of floods. The widening and opening of the Thottapalli sinkhole enabled the floodwaters to flow completely into the sea. The project which was supposed to be completed in 120 days, was completed by the Irrigation Department officials in just 59 days.

The Thottapalli Spillway upgrade, installation of



Kuttanad Backwater, Alappuzha

flood regulators and bypass canals, a breakwater at Thottappally, upgrading the leading channel, strengthening the bunds, A.C. canal – these are the ongoing projects. Rs. 160 crores have been allotted to cleaning the streams in Kuttanad. A project of Rs. 105 crores were initiated to increase the depth of Kottayam Puzhukkanilam lake which is part of Vembanad lake.

New Irrigation Project

After three and a half decades, the Water Resources Department is introducing the new irrigation scheme - an irrigation project of 500 crores including a new dam in Attapadi. Detailed project document has been prepared.

A concrete dam is envisaged to connect Agali and Sholayar panchayats. The dam will be 450 meters long and 51.5 meters high, 8 meters wide at the top. The dam will have five shutters of 9.5: 7.0 m each. Water will be delivered to the farmers through concrete pipes at a distance of 47 km along the right and left banks. The main beneficiaries of this scheme are the farmers in the tribal areas. A total area of 4255 hectares will be irrigated. The project also includes a drinking water supply system.

Inter-state River Water Hub

The Palakkad Inter-State River Water Hub will be operational this year. With the commissioning of the hub, Kerala will have a system for occupied co-ordination of inter-state river water issues. It will also help in water management in major irrigation projects

with greater farmer participation. The construction cost of the hub is Rs. 1.5 crore; the second phase of construction work has begun. The second phase of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 261 lakhs. Inter-state riverine archives library, museum, data interpretation centre, dam safety training and farmer training facilities will be there in this phase.

The Department of Water Resources has undertaken a mega project to supply piped water to all households in rural areas.

The Palakkad Inter-State River Water Hub will be operational this year.

The Water Resources Department is introducing the new irrigation scheme.

Electrifying Development

M.M. Mani
Minister for Electricity

The Government of Kerala has decided to designate the Electricity Board as a single entity in the public sector, despite strong privatization measures across the country. As part of this policy, the power sector in Kerala has been able to make great strides in the last four years.



On May 29th, 2017, Kerala has declared as the first fully electrified state in India after completing all the required work within a year. Kerala can supply electricity without any restrictions.

Edamon Kochi Power Highway is a project that has played an important role in increasing the power import capacity of Kerala. Another important project that has been started in the construction of HVDC from Pugalur in Tamil Nadu to Thrissur. The activities are going on in a time-bound manner and are projected to be completed by October 2020. The project will increase the import capacity of Kerala by 2000 MW.

Transgrid

The State Government has also attached great importance to strengthening the transmission network within the State. As part of this, a Rs 10,000 crore Transgrid project is being implemented.

Production

During this period, 25 MW of power was added to the state through water projects. It generated 27 MW from wind farms and 180 MW from solar projects. Thus, a total of 232 MW of electricity was generated in the state during this period.

Power supply

The power supply sector has also made great strides. Effective interventions are being made to modernize the power supply network in Kerala. The 4300 crore



Dyuthi project aims to strengthen the network so that power can be supplied from multiple sources in all areas to avoid power outages, underground cables, aerial bundled conductors.

Energy conservation

The state is also making good inroads in energy conservation activities. The Filament Free Kerala project aims to convert ordinary light bulbs of household consumers in Kerala to LEDs and fully convert street lights in Kerala to LEDs.

K- FONE

K- Fone is a flagship project undertaken by the State Government. The scheme aims to provide free broadband connection to 20 lakh BPL households.

E-Vehicle

The work of creating charging systems to ensure the

proliferation of electric vehicles is in full swing under the leadership of the Electricity Board.

Major projects

Transgrid - The first phase is being carried out with the assistance of KIIFB worth Rs. 5200 crore.

Solar - Special project for the development of solar power. Target - 1000 MW from solar power plants. Of this, 500 MW is from roofing plants. Operation under progress.

Filament Free Kerala - The project to replace ordinary light bulbs and install more efficient LEDs. A special project is underway to upgrade the street lights.

E-Safe - A special scheme to ensure safety by avoiding electrical accidents.

The motto of Self-Sufficiency

J. Mercykutty Amma
Minister for Fisheries & Harbour
Engineering

Projects of mega-scale are being implemented in the fisheries sector since those earn a living from this sector need extra care when compared to others who are engaged in safer jobs. The post-COVID scenario is given utmost priority and projects are designed accordingly. With the inception of Subhiksha Keralam project thrust is given towards the enhancement of fishing activities in a safe and healthy environment.



The 'Subhiksha Keralam' project initiated by the State Government intends to achieve self-sufficiency in food production and also to enhance maximum output in agriculture-related sectors. Keeping this in view, the Fisheries Department has framed new projects to improve fish production in the state; to meet the growing demand for fish.

The average per capita consumption of fish in Kerala is 24.85 kg. It is the highest rate of consumption among the Indian states and also equal to the rate of consumption of some developed nations of the world. Our state usually produces 6 lakh ton of marine fish and 2 lakh ton of aqua fish. The production is around 8 lakh ton per year. Out of this, we are exporting 1.80 lakh ton. Our internal consumption is 7.5 lakh ton. So we have a shortage of 1.50 lakh ton of fish every year. This shortage is met by the fish imported from other states.

But the scarcity can be abridged by increasing the aqua production in the state. The state is having enormous areas of water bodies and it is a fact that if we effectively use this area for aqua production, no doubt the shortage of fish requirement can be solved. Along with the effective utilization of water bodies for fish production, it is possible to adopt new fish production technologies to enhance fish production in our state. For this augmentation, new branches of fish production, framed on modern technology like Re-circulatory Aquaculture System, Bio-flock Farming, Cage Farming, Mussel Farming, Oyster Farming etc. can be used. All these new projects are going to be implemented with the support of Local Self Government Institutions. Through these projects, it is expected to improve the fish production in



our state and it reaches the target of 1, 23,000 ton in the year 2026.

Every year, the sea swells and heavy rains cause days of great sorrow and much loss for the fisherman communities living along the coast. Such events are a loss for the state of Kerala as a whole, and to put an end to worries, the state government has formulated a rehabilitation scheme of Rs. 2450 crores.

The project will relocate 18,685 families living in coastal areas to safer areas. An amount of Rs. 1,398 crores have been provided for the project from the Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund and the remaining Rs. 1,052 crore from the budget allocation of the Fisheries Department.

The project will be implemented in three phases from 2020-2021 to 2021-22. The first phase will rehabilitate 8,487 families and the second and third phases will rehabilitate 5,099 people each. The plan is to build individual houses and flat complexes for rehabilitation.

Priority will be given to families facing the threat of continuous flooding and weather-related adversities.

The Fisheries Department has framed new projects to improve fish production in the state

The scarcity can be abridged by increasing the aqua production in the state

Priority will be given to families facing the threat of continuous flooding and weather-related adversities

Strengthening the Pillars of Development



A.C. Moideen
Minister for Local Self Governments

Four years of this Government's governance has quietly proven that local bodies have the power to stand with the people and be strong in any situation.

Development activities worth over Rs 20,000 crore

During the current financial year, the local bodies have launched development activities worth over 20,000 crores in various sectors.

Subhiksha Keralam Initiative

According to the preliminary report agriculture, irrigation, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, soil and water conservation have furnished approved projects under the aegis of district planning commissions; these projects are worth 2,238.67 crores out of a total of 29,759 projects in the region. Local governments play a vital role in the 'Subhiksha Keralam' project implemented in collaboration with various departments and agencies.

LIFE Mission

2, 24,286 houses were completed as part of the project. Local bodies have allocated 8068.70 crores for housing through various sources. In the third phase of the mission, three cents land will be provided to beneficiaries who do not have their land, to construct housing complexes and cluster-based housing. The third phase will be completed this financial year. One lakh house will be constructed at this stage.

CM's Local Road Rehabilitation Project

The Chief Minister's Local Road Rehabilitation Project worth 1,000 crores will be implemented this financial



year. Besides, 481 crores have been set apart for road modernization as part of the Rebuild Kerala project.

Disaster Management Plan

This is the first time in the country that a state has prepared such a local level disaster management plan. More than 800 local bodies have also prepared disaster management plans. All activities to this effect will be completed in this financial year.

Urban development projects will continue

Various schemes are being implemented in the state for urban development. Urban development includes several activities such as drinking water supply, waste management, urban sanitation, vehicle parking and enhancing urban aesthetics. 7093.44 crore is being spent on special development activities.

Waste disposal

Kerala has become the first densely populated state in the country to declare itself free of external waste.

- **The Material Collection Facility Centre and the Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) will be deployed to more areas to facilitate decentralized waste treatment. 837 Material Collection Facility Centres and 151**

Resource Recovery Centres have already been set up under various Local Governments in the State. In collaboration with Haritha Kerala Mission and Kudumbasree, Haritha Karmasena activities will be further strengthened and streamlined.

- **Sanitation and waste disposal projects worth 978.62 crores will be implemented in collaboration with the Local Self Government Institutions this financial year.**
- **Public buildings with toilet facilities will be constructed along with the national highways.**
- **Health, drinking water and waste management During the current financial year, projects worth 793 crores are being implemented for 15,359 projects in the health sector. 551 crores have been sanctioned for drinking water projects and 978 crores for sanitation.**

10,620 projects will be implemented in the areas of housing, electrification and slum development. An amount of 4,428 crores have been set apart by the local bodies for these activities.

Social welfare schemes

Local Self Governments have envisaged projects worth 1,638 crores for social welfare schemes, nutrition distribution, anganwadis and vocational skills.

Environment-Friendly Development

K. Raju

Minister for Forest & Wildlife, Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Zoo

Apart from regular protection, conservation and eco-tourism activities numerous special projects have been taken up in the last four years and are being implemented in the Forest Department. Projects of mega-scale have become the hallmark of this department.



To reduce human-wildlife conflict, 204 Jana Jagratha Samithees have been formed in the State in the past 4 years. The Government of Kerala is setting up an Elephant Rehabilitation Center of International standards at Kottoor in the Thiruvananthapuram District, the first of this kind in the whole country. The Center proposed to be set up at a cost of Rs 105 Crore will have facilities for housing 50 Elephants. They will be kept in chain - free condition in their natural habitat in 176 hectares of forest area.

The project also will contribute to enhancing the biological diversity of the forest area, predominantly occupied by acacia trees. As part of landscaping and afforestation, 6000 saplings of forest trees, bamboos and palms are getting ready for planting in the project area.

Thrissur Zoo, forming part of the century-old State Museum and Zoo at Thrissur is getting relocated to a sprawling Zoological Park in 340 acres at Puthur forest, 12 Kilometers away from the Town. Designed by Jon Coe, international Zoo Designer, the Zoo will become the first zoo in the country with a unique state-of-the-art design.

Animals will be exhibited in spacious enclosures meeting all standards of safety, security and ecological requirements of animals in the wild. Works of 24 special enclosures for animals including three aviaries spread over four kilometers in the foothills of three interconnected hills in Puthur village, bound by hefty boundary wall over three kilometers, are progressing at a high pace.



Entrance Plaza-Elephant Centre

Phase - I is nearing completion and the construction of nine enclosures, reception Centre, parking lot, biodiversity center including nocturnal zoo and service road, included in Phase II will be completed by the end of December 2020.

10 lakh saplings of more than hundreds of varieties of trees, bamboos, palms, shrubs, herbs, climbers and water plants will change the face of this forest. This project has a Jalasamrudhi component also. The rainwater from the forest will be collected in seven artificial ponds built within the site. 645million cubic meters of rainwater, sufficient to run the zoo for three years will be conserved, bringing outlasting improvement in the 'hydrology' of the locality.

Opening of Puthur Zoological Park will be in two stages. The Park will become operational with existing animals in Thrissur Zoo by the end of 2020; full-scale operations by 2021.

The rainwater from the forest will be collected in seven artificial ponds built within the site.

The project also will contribute to enhancing the biological diversity of the forest area.

Opening of Puthur Zoological Park will be in two stages.



Administrative Block of Puthur Zoo

Elegant Development in the 'Mega-Mode'

Ramachandran Kadannappalli
Minister for Ports, Museum, Archaeology
& Archives

Considerable achievements have been made in the departments of Ports, Museums, Archaeology and Archives for the last four years. Developmental Activities are in full swing for the last phase.



Our dream project Vizhinjam International Sea Port work is in progress. Important components like Port Operations building, Substation and switchyard Complex, Gate Complex are nearing completion. Construction work of breakwater has resumed. Techno- Economic Feasibility Report for the development of the Port project at Azhikkal is approved by the State Government. Development activities related to Azhikkal Port construction are in progress.

The Natural History Museum, Thiruvananthapuram will be equipped with modern interactive display tools for interactive learning by students as well as visitors.

Land to an extent of 3.21 acres at Peralassery, Kannur has been identified for the establishment of a Personalia Museum on Life and Times of A.K. Gopalan or AKG.

A Theyyam Museum will be built in Chanthapura, Kadannappally, Kannur. 90 cents of land have been acquired for the purpose.

The Handloom Museum at Kannur is designed to display the history of handloom technology and industry with actual models, paintings, sculptures, handloom products etc. is nearing completion.

International Archives and Heritage Centre' is a joint venture of the State Archives Department and the University of Kerala. The University of Kerala has allotted one acre of land to the Archives Department at the Karyavattom University Campus on lease agreement for a period of 33 years for this purpose.

The Kerala State Archives Department has the largest collection of Palm Leaf records in the world. These



Niyamasabha museum-before and after conservation



Padnmanabhapuram palace-before and after conservation

rare and invaluable records written in the old script of Kerala and kept in the form of Churnas. Counting on the significance and immense value of these rare records the Government have accorded sanction to set up a Palm leaf Manuscript Museum at Central Archives, Thiruvananthapuram.

Conservation and Digitization of Cartographic Records

The State Archives Department has a rare and immense collection of Cartographic records (maps) in its custody. Considering the significance and immense value of these records the department for the first time in its history has decided to implement a mega project for the Scientific Conservation and digitization of these records. This innovative project undertaken by the department will be implemented in the current financial year itself.

It was decided at Government level to set up District Heritage Museums in all districts to house and exhibit the cultural heritage of that District under the Department of Archaeology. Works are progressing at a faster pace in Idukki, Palakkad and Ernakulam. The refurbishment of Hill Palace Museum using Central financial assistance is in the final stage. The gallery setting works are in progress

Department of Archaeology has taken action to set up a site museum named "Gandhi Smrithi Museum" at Payyannur, Kannur. The structural conservation works

of the monument and collection of artefacts are almost complete.

The Greenfield International Seaport at Azhikkal is to be built for domestic and cargo in the open sea at Azhikkal in 3 phases, capable of handling Panamax size ships (up to 4000 container capacity ships).

Schemes for enhancing cargo and port-led economic development are planned. Work for the development of S.E.Z/Industrial Parks are also planned.

The Handloom Museum at Kannur is designed to display the history of handloom technology and industry

The Kerala State Archives Department has the largest collection of Palm Leaf records in the world

The Natural History Museum, Thiruvananthapuram will be equipped with modern interactive display tools

Realising Bigger Dreams in the Labour Sector

T.P. Ramakrishnan
Minister for Labour & Excise

Following the Covid pandemic, ministry of labour and skills has made effective interventions to ensure the safety and security of labourers and their families. The Government is marching ahead by securing both labour and labourers' rights and ensuring their social security. Investment friendly conditions will be strengthened further.



Rs. 274 crore rupees have been distributed among the labourers of traditional industrial sectors under Income Support Scheme. Monthly pension was increased from 600 to 1300 rupees. Historical changes were brought in Kerala shops and commercial establishments act including 'right to sit during work'.

Upgradation of Government Industrial Training Institutes to international standards
At present 97 ITIs are functioning in Kerala under the Industrial Training Department. The intention of the government is to convert all these institutes as centers of excellence.

Career development and employment
Career Development Center and Employability center will be extended to all districts. PSC facilitation centers will be arranged in association with all employment exchanges.

A New face to the excise department
The Department set an all - time record in the case of drug busts. Vimukti Mission was formed holding up the concept of a drug-free Kerala through refraining from drugs.

The construction of Cherthala, Idukki Thankamani, Udumbanchola, Mananthavadi, Badiadukka and Mattannur exchange range offices will soon be completed.

Residential and housing programs for labours
Major initiatives have been taken to provide apartment complexes for unorganized sector workers and low

wage workers at affordable prices, under the 'Janani Project' own Housing for plantation workers, hostel accommodation for guest workers on a rental basis, and studio-apartments for working women on rental basis. Apna Ghar project was envisaged to provide safe and hygienic rental accommodation for guest workers in the form of hostels.



Hostel at Palakkad

Apartment complex completed at Adimali under the Janani project. The second apartment complex is at Ponjassery, Ernakulam district having 296, 2 BHK apartments in four towers with 14 floors. Each tower consists of 74 apartments having 715 sq.ft. each. Now, construction of Tower 1 having 74 apartments is in final stages.



Apartment complex completed at Adimali under the Janani project

Another first of its kind innovative project of BFK is the 'Studio Apartment Project for Working Women' providing good quality decent and safe accommodation for women working in Kerala in the form of one bedroom studio apartments on a rental basis. The apartments are proposed with one-bedroom, common hall, a kitchen and basic furnishings such as a cot, table, chair and cupboards. The apartment complexes will have all required fire safety, sewage treatment and rainwater harvesting facilities along with diesel generator backup systems, CCTV system etc. BFK is in the process of implementing two schemes under this project in Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur



Apartment complex being constructed at Ponjassery under Janani project:

districts. At present, 0.733 acres of land within KINFRA International Apparel Park, Menamkulam, Trivandrum District has been leased and the designed Studio apartment complex in G+6 floor with 130 apartment units is under consideration with the Government.



Individual house under Bhavanam project

PSC facilitation centers will be arranged in association with all employment exchanges.

Another first of its kind innovative project of BFK is the 'Studio Apartment Project for Working Women'.

Apna Ghar project was envisaged to provide safe and hygienic rental accommodation for guest workers in the form of hostels.

For 'Knowledge' Sky is the Limit

C. Raveendranath
Minister for General Education

The "mission to protect public education" (Pothu Vidhyabhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam) has created a great stir in the field of school education. Advancements in the development of physical facilities, provision of modern technical and educational facilities in all schools and in increasing the participation of the community in the academic arena are some of the major accomplishments.



In every constituency, 141 schools have been targeted for construction of buildings at a cost of 5 crore with the assistance of KIIFB. 20 school buildings have been inaugurated and 35 others are ready for inauguration. Other buildings will be completed soon. 3 crore has been set aside for each of the 395 schools and 1 crore each for 446 schools with KIIFB assistance. In addition to these measures, a challenge fund has also been established for aided schools.

Schools have become 'smart' and technology - friendly. It is a great achievement that children from all walks of life have such unprecedented access to technology. As part of this, 44705 classrooms in 8th to 12th classes have been converted to smart classrooms. Computer labs have been set up in all primary schools.

Hi-Tech school project

- Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) has successfully implemented the Hi-Tech school project in 4752 Government and Aided - Secondary schools.
- 44705 classrooms of Std 8 to 12 in 4752 schools have been made Hi-Tech, featuring a Laptop, Ceiling Mounted Projector, USB Speakers, Networking and access to SAMAGRA Resource Portal, developed by KITE.
- As part of the Hi-Tech school project, a total of 59532 Laptops, 43736 Multimedia Projectors, 42055 Projector Mounting Accessories, 21841 Projector Screens, 43030 USB Speakers, 4578 DSLR Cameras, 4545 LED Televisions, 4720 Full HD Webcams and 4611 Multi-Function Printers have been deployed to schools.



CM launching Hi-Tech school project



CM inaugurating ICT hardware distribution

- High - speed broadband internet connectivity is also provided to all Hi-Tech schools.
- A Web-portal and Call-Center set-up for addressing hardware complaints from schools.

Hi-Tech Lab project for Primary schools

- KITE has also successfully implemented the Hi-Tech Lab project in 9941 Primary schools, for which KIIFB has funded Rs.300 Cr.
- 54916 Laptops & USB Speakers along with 23050 Multimedia Projectors deployed to Primary schools along with Broadband internet connectivity through this project.

Necessary support processes

SAMAGRA resource portal www.samagra.kite.kerala.gov.in now has 33804 digital resources for Classes 1 to 12; ICT based subject training have been provided to teachers.

- MOOC model training platform for teachers viz KOOL (KITE's Open Online Learning) through which training imparted to over 10000 teachers.
- Little KITE Students IT Clubs have been setup in more than 2000 schools, which have over 1.50 lakh student members, to support ICT activities in schools.
- The Little KITEs members are trained in Electronics,

- Animation, Local Language Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, 3D Animation, Cybersafety etc.
- Regular Content Development activities are being undertaken.
- First Bell classes being aired through KITE VICTERS channel, for which the ICT equipment deployed to schools as part of hi-Tech project, are also made use of.



Modernised to Accelerate 'Pace'

A.K. Saseendran
Minister for Transport

This Government has been able to rapidly take forward and modernize the Transport Department in the right direction through directional activities and thereby provide transparent and timely service to the people. In the last four years, this government has implemented many major projects in the Transport Department.



Safe Kerala Project

Motor Vehicles Department was entrusted to implement this project in collaboration with the Kerala Road Safety Authority. As part of this, 85 enforcement squads were formed for 24 hours patrolling and control rooms have also been set up in 14 districts. For effective implementation of this project, 262 new posts have been created in the Department. It has been decided to make available 65 electric vehicles through ANERT for enforcement purpose.

The establishment cost of the project is 235 crores.

Smart Cards

The Government have decided to implement Smart card-based Registration Certificate & Driving Licence in accordance with Vahan Saradhi Software implemented by the Government of India. The project intends to issue a most modern polycarbonate - based driving license and registration certificate with state-of-the-art safety technology proposed by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. This system will also be useful to access Driving Licence and Registration Certificate details instantaneously. The project for printing and distribution of the smart cards has been entrusted to the Kerala Books and Publications Society.

Checkpoint Modernisation

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. The project includes the implementation of weigh-in-motion bridge - related civil, electrical and structural networking infrastructure, Automatic

Numberplate Recognition (ANPR), Cameras, Automatic Vehicle Classification and counting (AVCC), ICT and Non - ICT Equipments etc.

The Government decided to form Metropolitan Transport Authorities in the State

Metropolitan Transport Authority

The Government decided to form Metropolitan Transport Authorities in the State for the planning, supervision, coordination, development and regulation of Urban Transport in the Urban Mobility Areas.

This system will also be useful to access Driving Licence and Registration Certificate details instantaneously

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Vehicles

The Sree Chitra College of Engineering under the Transport Department had undertaken a pilot study to generate necessary data for assessing the viability of hydrogen fuel cell technologies and a project report has been submitted for the approval of the Government.

It has been decided to make available 65 electric vehicles through ANERT for enforcement purpose

Water Transport

Kerala Water Transport Department is planning to replace all the diesel ferries with more solar boats and placing solar panels in the boat jetty. This will ensure zero pollution and zero fuel cost. Kerala State Water Transport Department intends to acquire Asia's first solar electric Ro Ro for carrying cargo and passengers. The techno financial study has already been completed and the project is on the way for implementation. ■

The Ideal 'Health-State'

K. K. Shailaja Teacher
Minister for Health, Social Justice and
Woman & Child Development

The aim of the project - Aardram is to gradually upgrade all the primary health centres in the state to family health centres. During the first phase of the mission, 170 primary health centers were converted into family health centers. In the second phase, 504 primary health centers were selected to be family health centers. Of these, construction of 164 centers has been completed; the remaining family health centers is in progress. In the second phase, the construction of 102 operational family health centers has been completed. Family Health Centers aim to provide the best patient-friendly treatment facilities to the people at the local level.



The process of setting up cath labs through KIIFB in eight district-level hospitals and two government medical colleges is nearing completion. An amount of 80 crores has been sanctioned for this purpose.

44 extra dialysis centers in taluk level hospitals are being completed under the same scheme, a project which has been sanctioned 69 crores. Of these, 36 dialysis centers are available to patients. District /Taluk level hospitals are also expanding their capabilities through the construction of Stroke Clinics and district Cancer Care centers. Stroke units have been set up in 8 hospitals and 24 district Cancer Care units are currently operational.

Through the KIIFB-funded master plan, 7000 crores have been sanctioned for the comprehensive development of medical college; Malabar Cancer Center, Kochi Cancer Research Center and district/general / taluk hospitals in various districts of the state will benefit from this scheme.

Operation theatres in general hospitals, district hospitals and taluk hospitals, as well as the Anaesthesia, Dermatology, ENT, Gynaecology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Radiology, Laboratory, Cardiology, Neurology and Urology departments, are being upgraded with the addition of new equipment. Steps are being taken to purchase equipment, hospital furniture, beds, pillows, generator and air conditioning to improve the Anesthesia, ENT, general medicine, Pediatric, Gynecology, laboratory, Operation Theater and Orthopedics departments in general / district hospitals and taluk hospitals.

An administrative sanction of Rs. 368 crore has been



Ernakulam Medical College

received for Ernakulam Medical College and the construction work of the super - speciality block is in the final stage. Construction work of the 173.18 crore Super Specialty Hospital at Government Medical College, Alappuzha is in full swing. Kozhikode Medical College has included OP renovation in its works under the Aardram Misson.

An amount of 27.24 crore has been sanctioned via the Kasaragod package for the construction work of Kasaragod Medical College. The academic block was completed using this amount. Construction of the hospital block is in full swing. 273 new teachers have been appointed for the smooth functioning of Kasaragod Medical College.

Steps have been taken to start a medical college in Idukki and the administrative sanction of 60.17 crores has been given for the construction of a hospital with adequate beds. Its construction is nearing completion. The construction of the Hospital Block at Konni Medical College has been completed. Construction of the academic block is nearing completion. 311.76 acres in Kannur and Kalyad have been set aside to set up the International Research Institute for Ayurveda (IRIA).

The project includes an Ayurveda Research Institute, a 100-bed Ayurveda Research Hospital, a Manuscript Study Center and an Ayurveda Museum occupying 36.57 acres. The foundation stone for the IRIA was laid in Kalliad, Kannur. KIIFB has approved a proposal of 69.05 crore for the implementation of the first phase of the project.

Family Health Centers aim to provide the best patient-friendly treatment facilities to the people at the local level.

The aim of the project - Aardram is to gradually upgrade all the primary health centers in the state to family health centers.

Erecting Diverse Developments

G. Sudhakaran

Minister for Public Works & Registration

In four years, more than 10,000 roads have been built to BMBC standards. About 20,000 km of roads have been repaired and restored. 517 bridges were constructed during this period. If we look at the construction history of Kerala in the last 100 years, no other period has witnessed such a sustained construction of bridges. About 400 bridges were designed in four years.



For the first time in India, a Chief Engineer has been appointed for maintenance work. The number of Chief Engineers has been increased from five to eight Chief Engineers.

More than 7,500 government buildings are under construction during this period. Work on the Highway Research Institute has been started.

50 sub-registrar offices are under construction. All rest houses were renovated and more than 30 new rest house buildings were constructed.

To mark a historic beginning in the construction of the National Highway, work on the four-lane National Highway 66 (formerly NH 47) has begun, coinciding with when this government came into power. The Chief Minister has been spearheading the project.

The Kollam bypass has been opened to traffic. The Alappuzha bypass is expected to be commissioned in October. The government is proud to be able to launch the NH four-lane road. Rs. 3500 crore project - hilly highway's 21 stretches are under construction.

The 14 km wide Coastal Highway National Highway from Kasargod to the south-eastern Thiruvananthapuram border will be constructed along with the first cycle track. The Thiruvalla bypass will be completed within three months. The Thalassery-Valavupara projects will also be completed soon. The Punalur-Ponkunnam project has started construction of 80 km for Rs. 700 crores.

The scheme implemented for setting up women-friendly



Alappuzha Bypass aerial view

rest houses in government institutions - more than a hundred have been built so far.

The State Government will bear 25% of the cost of construction of the National Highways. The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has initiated tender procedures for four stretches of National Highway 6 as part of its development.

Major projects to be completed by December

- Alappuzha Bypass.
 - Kundannur flyover
 - Vyttila flyover
 - Kattakada Mini Civil Station
 - Punalur Court Complex Phase II
 - Marathukkara Model Residential School Building
- in Kozhikode
 - Valiyazhikkal bridge in Alappuzha
 - Vazhuvadikkadavu bridge in Alappuzha
 - Alappuzha - Ambalapuzha Road Network
 - Thalappadi - Chengala Reach - 39 km in Kasaragod District
 - Chengala - Neeleswaram Reach in Kasaragod District
 - Neeleswaram - Taliparamba Reach - 40.40 km in Kannur and Kasaragod districts on the National Highway
 - Taliparamba - Muzhuppilangadi Reach in Kannur District on National Highway - 35.95 km.

Cracking the Agro Crisis

V.S. Sunil Kumar
Minister of Agriculture

The Left Democratic Front has entered its fifth year of governance, and true to its mottoes has been stringent in upholding pro-people development views and policies. Many large-scale projects related to the agricultural sector of Kerala have already been completed. The State Department of Agriculture is working to ensure that they are completed on time. The most important of these is the block level agricultural knowledge centres, which are slated to begin in August. This is the Onam gift given by the LDF government to the farming community in Kerala.



The Subhiksha Keralam Integrated Food Security Scheme has been launched with the objective of achieving self-sufficiency in the agri-food production sector of Kerala. Megaprojects to be implemented in the fifth year include setting up new supermarkets and village markets for market intervention and setting up 50 new farmer-producer companies.

Subhiksha Keralam Integrated Food Security Scheme

We are strengthening the local agrarian economy by creating self-production and self-sufficiency in each family, giving them access to the food they need. The Subhiksha Keralam project was launched by the state government with this goal in mind. The first phase of distribution of one crore fruit tree saplings has been successfully completed and the second phase has started as part of the Subhiksha Keralam project.

Agricultural activities in the tribal areas will be expanded

Various interventions are underway to promote the cultivation of indigenous cereals, fruits and spices in the tribal areas and to provide expertise in marketing and processing of agricultural products. The first phase of the Athirappilly Tribal Valley project will begin soon. Particular attention will be paid to spices. Schemes will be implemented in other tribal villages to produce their own food items and to set up special farmer producer organizations for tribal farmers.



Subhiksha Keralam

Honey-Banana Agropark for value addition

A special agro park will be set up at Kannara in Thrissur for processing and value addition of honey and banana-based products. The Agropark will be completed this financial year.

50 new farmer producer companies will be formed

50 new farmer producer companies will be formed in the State. It also intends to empower 50 existing farmer producer companies. The Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium - SFAC will provide financial assistance to start small and medium enterprises. SFAC's Green Channel service is available to start agricultural ventures, giving priority to expatriates, women and youth returning home from abroad.

Village Markets and Supermarkets for Market Intervention

2 Supermarkets and 700 Village Markets will be opened

in the state this year with the objective of strengthening market intervention. There are also plans to coordinate and strengthen 1748 existing markets.

Megaprojects at a glance

- Subhiksha Keralam Integrated Food Security Scheme
- Agricultural activities in the tribal areas will be expanded
- Honey-Banana Agropark for value addition
- Agricultural Knowledge Centers
- 50 new farmer producer companies will be formed
- Village markets and supermarkets for market intervention

Flawless, Consumer-Oriented 'Supply'

P. Thilothaman

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies,
Consumer Affairs & Legal Metrology

Food and Civil Supplies department has been delivering the best of efforts to make sure that the public distribution system functions infallibly. Supplyco outlets have been modernised and more products are added to benefit customers from all walks of life. Projects of mega-scale are there to 'stream' the needy ones.



- The Centre for Food Research and Development in Konny, which conducts quality inspection of food items and conducts educational activities including food research. The following are the 5 major projects being implemented at the headquarters of this institution.
- The State Food Commission was set up as per the National Food Security Act.
- Many Civil Supplies Corporation outlets have been modernized. 30 more outlets will be renovated.
- Stock information, file information and employee details of all the outlets can be linked through the centralized software and live information can be obtained at the head office. The situation will be conducive to better performance of the supply chain. CCTV was installed in Supplyco's warehouses.
- The pilot project of the scheme of issuing electronic ration cards to all customers through Akshaya Kendra is in the first phase. Besides, the launch of an electronic portal under the Department of Consumer Affairs that provides timely information on multilevel marketing to the public will take place before November. A scheme to distribute enriched atta to tribal people and other poor families in the state and to enrich and distribute nutritious rice to school children is also underway.
- Since this government came to power, 24



Supplyco set to go online

panchayats have been provided with Supplyco outlets. Steps to set up Supplyco outlets in the remaining 14 panchayats will be completed. This financial year, 20 Maveli stores will be upgraded to supermarkets.

- Model scheme for the elimination of grain smuggling and looting in the ration system.
- Closed-circuit TVs in ration warehouses aims to establish and monitor surveillance and prevent the possibility of misappropriation of goods from warehouses. The unique feature of this system is that it can detect vehicles moving in the wrong direction and vehicles that do not reach the destination in time.
- Water Meter Calibration Unit at Legal Metrology

House, Ernakulam inaugurated.

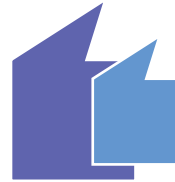
- Administrative approval has been obtained for the construction of an office building at Thrissur Legal Metrology Bhavan.
- Office Building Construction - Kasaragod
Administrative sanction has been obtained for the construction of an office building in Kasaragod district.
- C.F.R.D. - Elanji Food Processing Park
Construction of food processing center and dehydration plant at Elanji is nearing completion. The above park is a rare project in Kerala where vegetables and fruits can be grown intact. It could be inaugurated this financial year itself.

SPECIAL



Adv. M.K. Zakir
Chairman, KPSC

BEYOND DOUBT, THE TRUTH WILL PREVAIL...



Kerala Public Service Commission unlike before is being targeted for all the wrong notions these days. Since these controversies could mar the confidence of candidates and the general public alike towards this constitutional entity, the chairman Adv. M. K. Zakir is out here to clear the cloud of uncertainty.

Kerala Public Service Commission, with its long legacy of more than six decades, is the tower of hope for the youth of Kerala. Social evils of corruption and nepotism which all of us are concerned about have never affected KPSC. It is functioning without being influenced by any sort of external pressure. KPSC, compared with other state PSCs, is functioning with a true sense of fairness, without giving much room for complaints.

Cooked up stories and fabricated figures regarding vacancy reporting and appointment are being spread among the general public. I would like to clarify that no ban from any quarter is imposed on releasing PSC Advice. By incorporating the newly created 16,000 posts, the PSC could issue 1, 41,615 Advice from 25/05/2016 to 31/07/2020.

The Government had issued directives to various departments to report all existing vacancies to PSC on time. PSC had issued an ultimatum saying that any case of retirement, resignation, death, promotion or long leave from the available posts should be reported. Various Government departments gain momentum in reporting vacancies. As a result of these diligent actions, PSC releases an average of 35000 Advice recommendations each year.

Details of Advice Made during the period from 25.05.2016 to 31.07.2020 (4 years and 2 months)

Year	Advice Made
2016 (From 25.05.2016)	26156
2017	35911
2018	28025
2019	35422
2020 (up to 31.07.2020)	16101
Total	141615

Details of Advice Made for some selected posts

Post	Advice made during the period from 18/05/2011 to 24/05/2016	Advice made during the period from 25/05/2016 to 31/07/2020
Police Constable	4796	11268
LP School Teacher	1630	7322
UP School Teacher	802	4346
Assistant Surgeon	2435	3324
Staff Nurse DME (Medical Colleges)	924	2200
Staff Nurse (Health)	1608	3607
Lecturer (Collegiate Education)	897	1006

Radical Re-structuring of Exam System Announced

Two - tier' exam system has been introduced – a preliminary screening test and a final test for those who clear the prelims. The rank list will be based on the second test. The Marks of the prelims will not count for ranking. The basic plan is to have a common screening test for all jobs that require similar qualifications which will considerably whittle down the number of candidates taking the final test. Exams to be conducted from November 2020 should follow the 'two - tier' pattern.

KAS Exam

Heralding the advent of the KAS, eligible candidates will be shortlisted on 26th, August 2020.

The Virus spread has seriously derailed the day-to-day



affairs of PSC, as well. When Covid-19 put a strain on medical fraternity in Kerala, the available KPSC staff was mobilized and hundreds of Advice letters recommending the appointment of more doctors, nurses and paramedical staff could be issued.

No ban from any quarter is imposed on releasing PSC Advice.

'Two-tier' exam system has been introduced.

PSC releases an average of 35000 advice recommendations each year.



Sneha Salim
Freelance Journalist

A DAY THAT ONCE AGAIN WITNESSED KERALITES' ALTRUISM...



A dual tragedy struck the State on August 7 and scores of precious lives were lost at Pettimudy off Rajamalai in Idukki district after a massive landslide in the wee hours of Friday, and many more when an Air India Express flight overshot the runway at Kozhikode International Airport at Karipur in Malappuram late into the evening. What followed was the amazing display of courage and selflessness of local people in the rescue operations and more...

Already challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic and incessant rains that were flooding several parts of the state, Kerala woke up to a ghastly landslide at Pettimudy off Rajamalai in Idukki district a few days ago, which destroyed four layams (living quarters) of tea estate workers. The tragedy claimed several precious lives.

Providing little time for the people of Kerala to come to terms with the disaster at Pettimudy, an Air India Express flight (IX 1344) crashed after overshooting the runway at Kozhikode International Airport at Karipur at 7.45 pm. The flight, a Boeing 737 aircraft from Dubai with 174 passengers, 10 infants, two pilots and five cabin crew on board skidded off the rain-soaked table-top runway and fell into a 30 ft deep valley. The fuselage broke into two, and the two pilots were among the 18 who got killed in the worst ever aeroplane accident the state has ever witnessed.

The State was quick to act after the mishaps, pressing into service all available resources and means for rescue operations. After announcing Rs. 5 lakh ex-gratia for the families of Pettimudy landslide victims, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has clarified that this was just initial financial assistance and has added that the government will continue to extend support to rehabilitate the affected. The government too has announced an immediate assistance of Rs. 10 lakh to victims of the plane crash and free treatment to passengers who have sustained injuries.



But, what hogged the limelight after these tragedies were the quick and selfless act of the local people in Kondotty (where Karipur airport situates) and in Munnar, who braved the Covid-19 threat and inclement weather conditions to join the rescue operations, to ferry injured people to various hospitals and to support the government machinery in the search for missing people.

At Karipur, the local people were the first to reach the accident site, and as per the airline’s statement, scores of lives could be saved only because of the quick intervention by the local people. “We were at the site in no time after the crash and people were bringing whatever vehicles they had to shift injured to various hospitals. Being in a Covid-19 containment zone was no hindrance for the people to lend a helping hand at this time of extreme emergency,” said Swadik Ameen, a 20-year-old BTEch student who hails from Kondotty.

According to him, around 200 of such youngsters, many associated with voluntary organisations and community rescue teams, are now undergoing institutional or home quarantine after taking part in the rescue operations.

After the disaster struck Karipur at 7.45 pm, the injured got admitted to different hospitals at Kondotty, Feroke, Kozhikode, Kottakkal, Manjeri, Malappuram and Perinthalmanna within two hours. Then, it was the turn of people residing in the vicinity of these hospitals in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts to queue up for donating blood till the wee hours of Saturday.

Though remoteness, rough terrain and heavy rains hindered such a quick rescue operation in Pettimudy, local people and social workers in and around Munnar were leading the search operations before the NDRF came in with better equipment. “We are still here, offering whatever help we could provide to search for the missing people,” said Hadlee Renjith, an adventure tourism activist residing in Munnar.

At Karipur, the local people were the first to reach the accident site

Around 200 of such youngsters are now undergoing institutional or home quarantine after taking part in the rescue operations

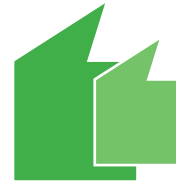
People residing in the vicinity of these hospitals in Kozhikode and Malappuram districts queued up for donating blood till the wee hours of Saturday

SPECIAL



Dr. S. Ayooob
Pro Vice Chancellor
APJ Abdul Kalam Technological
University

KEEPING 'LIFE' IN HARMONY WITH PEOPLE



Possessing a shelter, is the dream of millions of people across the globe. 'Adequate Housing' was declared as a basic human right long back in 1948 through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Sustainable housing has been instrumental in building resilient communities. According to WHO, improved housing conditions assures better quality of life through disease prevention, poverty alleviation and even help mitigate climate change. So sustainable design of housing systems turns instrumental in assuring a quality living.

National Perspective

NITI Aayog in 2018 published a vision document titled 'Strategies for New India @75' enlisting the thrust areas for holistic development. The Chapter 9 of this document titled 'Housing for All' assures every Indian family with safe and affordable housing and share the objective of the Ministry of housing and urban affairs to build 2.95 crore housing units in rural areas and 1.2 crore units in urban areas within 2022.

LIFE: The Inspiring Kerala Model

The initiative undertaken by the Government of Kerala for re-integrating homeless people into mainstream society is a challenging yet laudable step towards social empowerment of the downtrodden. The Government of Kerala, under the visionary leadership of its Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has taken a strong initiative in this direction by launching a flagship project under the title LIFE (Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment). The target is to provide



safe housing to nearly 4.30 lakhs of homeless in the state within a period of 5 years.

During my tenure as the principal of TKM College of Engineering, I got the opportunity to be a part of the EDAM initiative in Kollam district, a satellite project of the LIFE mission project of the Government of Kerala. Many sustainable housing models were developed and implemented under the title 'Back to Home' drawing inspiration from the LIFE mission project.

A team of five final year students of TKM College of Engineering initially developed a low-cost housing model, using funicular shell roofing and interlocking bricks to help and support an autism affected kid. This 450 square foot house including all basic amenities was completed within 40 days for a project cost of around 4 lakhs and was supported by the TKM College trust.

The Infill concrete houses is another sustainable model. The house built according to this technique was completed within two months at a project cost of around Rs.1200 per square foot. A total of

three such houses were constructed using this technology. Precast pre-stressed concrete houses are a classic example of cost effective and easy to build housing model that can withstand natural disasters. The house with an area of 540 sq ft was completed within 28 days at a cost of 6.50 lakhs. Three such houses were successfully completed at Munroe Thuruthu in succession.

In Houses with laterite interlock bricks plastering is completely avoided. Permutations and combinations of all the above techniques were practiced in other housing models keeping in view of cost, ease of construction and time of completion. A total of 13 homes have so far been completed under this project titled 'Back to Home'.



Role of Engineering Institutions

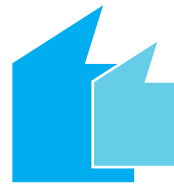
All educational Institutions of our state should fundamentally rethink how we educate our engineering students to address the future social challenges as envisaged in the governmental initiatives such as the LIFE mission project. A holistic transformation is possible only by ensuring strong technical skill, creativity, social mindset, innovativeness and above all, the desire to bring in a change in the LIFE of people around.

SPECIAL



Dr. Anju Angel Alex
Assistant surgeon,
Dept. of health services

CONFRONTING THE PANDEMIC, BUT WITH ELAN...



Confronting to contain and conquer is not at all an easy task especially when a pandemic raises a devastating challenge to everyone. But with an efficient 'system' in place, in the form of a Government, any contest could become yet another cake-walk.

Early in February 2020, the State government ordered the Health department to choose TOTs (Trainer of Trainers) on NCoV (Novel Corona Virus). The purpose was capacity building in myriad cohorts of the society so that no group is unrehearsed. And to think that this happened much before February 11 when the WHO had not even named the disease!

As days progressed, field staff turned computer savvy when online portals for tracking appeared. The WHO's list of countries from where travellers needed to be quarantined lengthened even as Kerala stayed untarnished, thanks to the Government's quarantine guidelines which could be well implemented as health institutions, especially in villages utilized the rapid response teams (RRT) that included LSGD members, ASHAs and, localities along with their own staff. The well-coordinated system took care of a quarantined person's many needs ranging from medicines to groceries.

There was, of course, DISHA, the trusted helpline by the state government, for anyone and everyone. Meanwhile, the psychological trauma of isolation was tackled when staff turned agony aunts with the DMHPs (District Mental Health Program) to fall back upon. The lull continued till March 8.

With the inevitable influx of expatriates, instructions percolated from the State to institutions up to PHCs on the need for revving up field-level activity which was already Kerala's USP. Even as quarantine guidelines changed, vigilance continued.



Photo: The New Indian Express

COVID help desks, triage, fever clinics and PPE coupled with IEC (Information, Education, Communication) from the State government as 'Break the Chain' campaigns assured the public's compliance to the novel systems adopted in OPDs to avoid crowding.

As the numbers got bigger with the easing of lockdown, contact tracing would have met its end anywhere else in the world. But not in Kerala, where it underwent decentralization. It got even better because, for each of the traced contact, the PHC (FHC/CHC as the case may be) now became a source of solace. Which also meant that the moment institutions gets intimated about a positive case, they turn into call centres working as a coordinated team to make a route map, trying to find the source.

The primary and secondary contacts are traced and explained about the need for quarantine or observation as the case may be. Their concerns are addressed as they are telephonically interviewed for risk stratification, thus prioritizing testing which too, being decentralized, is mediated by institutions themselves. In fact, with all staff being trained in swab

collection, even testing is not the prerogative of select institutions anymore.

We are being cared for. If anyone was to turn asymptotically positive and has nowhere to go, he has a CFLTC to turn to - yet another beautiful initiative that makes Kerala different where you are not left to fend for yourself. One in each Panchayat, Part of the surge plan, chosen after much deliberation, together with respective LSGDs. Meanwhile, life goes on as our Non-Communicable Disease clinics, and Immunization sessions take place with prior appointment given by our ASHA s over the phone - social oneness with physical distancing. As trawling ban is lifted, the State's foresight is expressed as guidelines - promise a systematic process of 'tracking - quarantine - testing - verifying' of migrant fishermen with the Health, Fisheries and Police departments working in tandem and ensures more safety on that front too. So, when incredulously asked "how is Kerala managing COVID?" I am at a loss of words- not due to the lack of it but due to the excess of it.

And to think that this happened much before February 11 when the WHO had not even named the disease!

Even as quarantine guidelines changed, vigilance continued



Dr. Hariprasad T.
Junior Resident, Community
Medicine, Govt Medical College
Thiruvananthapuram

THE ELIXIR OF LIFE AND HOPE...



Every step to further life can be considered the outcome of a superior health system. The same becomes more significant in a pandemic-era where death-rate is curtailed to the maximum possible limit by the same health-care structure.

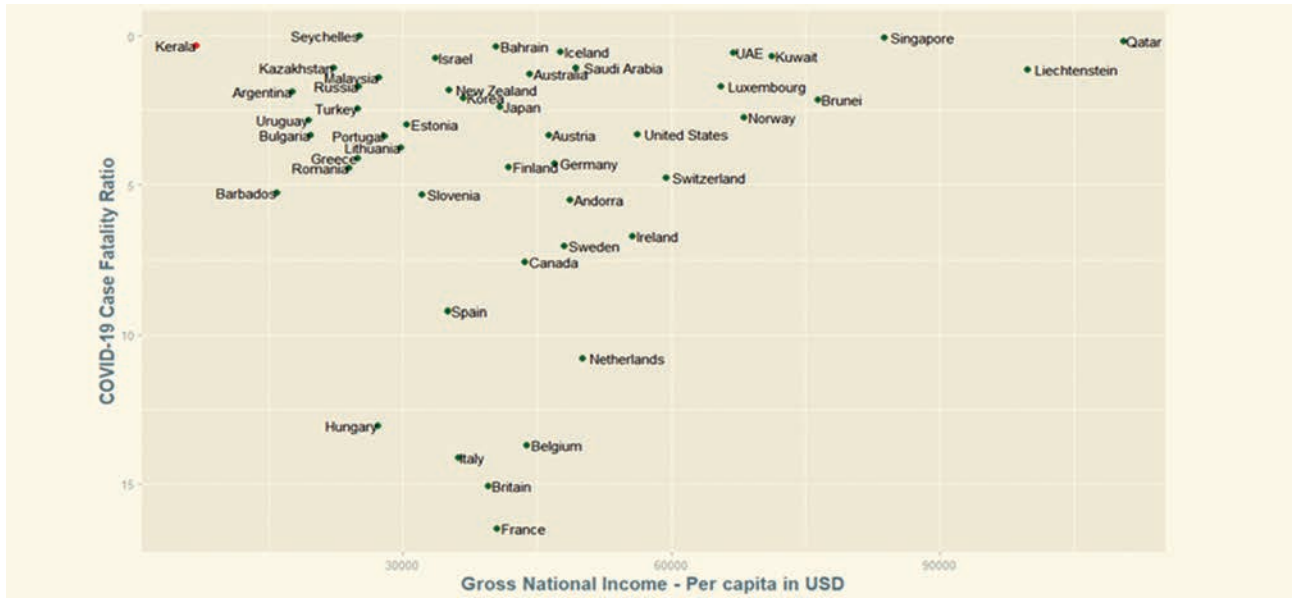
Kerala, being a state with a robust public sector and a competitive and regulated private sector providing health care, never went stressed due to COVID-19, even with the ongoing peak. The strategy to treat less severely ill patients at CFLTCs and to keep asymptomatic patients under domiciliary observance will essentially free up hospital beds for Category B and C patients who demand more care. Thus, the system can reallocate its resources and protect its healthcare staff from getting burned out.

Kerala had recorded 102 COVID-19 deaths till date, i.e. 3.1 deaths per million of population. The population-adjusted COVID-19 mortality in India is 34.4 per million. The COVID-19 case fatality ratio for our state is 0.32%, which is far better than the national average. Kerala accounts for only 0.24% of country's Covid-19 fatality. Of all the COVID-19 deaths in our state, 84% had any comorbidity. The average age of diseased persons is 66 years and the average time to death is 5.8 days following diagnosis.

Since such a granular data was not available for other states, we could not make a nationwide illustration.

A comparison was made with the mortality figures of all developed nations using the data published by the WHO. All nations with a minimum caseload of 10 cases and a Human development index of above 0.8 is included in the analysis. The lowest case-fatality ratio other than zero is 0.05% as reported by Singapore. Kerala stands fourth in the list, the remaining 96% of nations (n = 104) flounder behind; the average CFR being 3.14 (Fig: 1). The population-

The Case Fatality Ratio of Kerala compared to that of developed nations



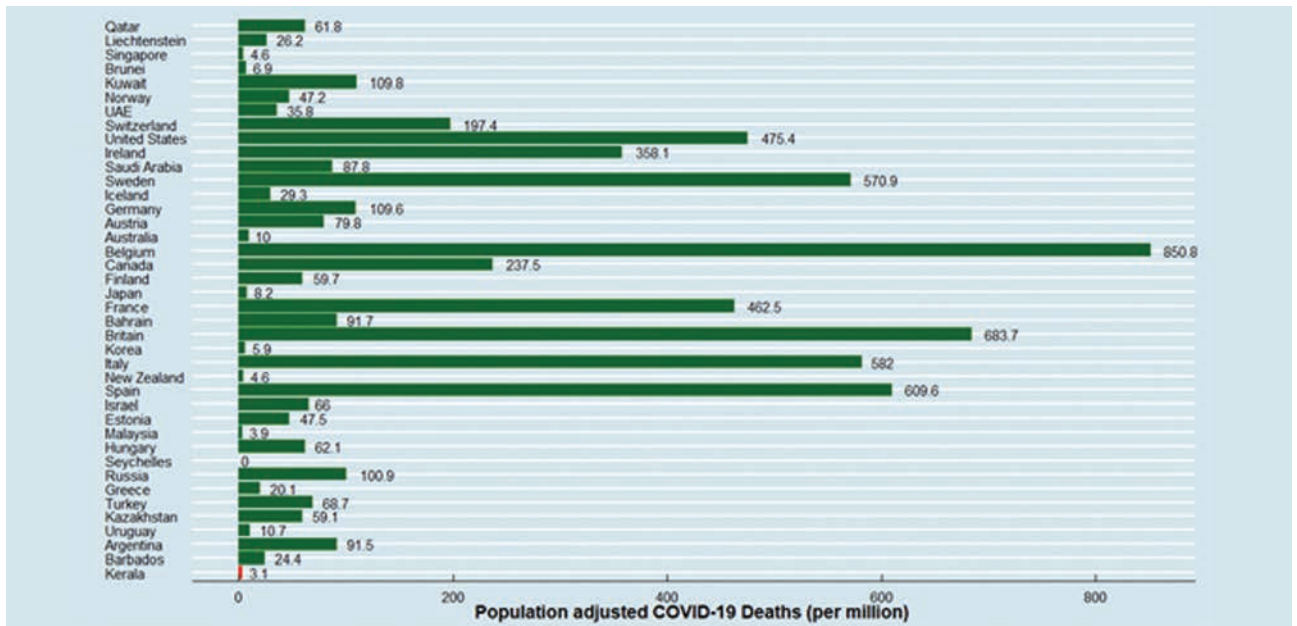
A plot of CFR and Per capita Gross National Income in USD.

adjusted COVID-19 fatality is the lowest for Seychelles, the only African country with a very high human development index. Kerala has the lowest non zero population-adjusted COVID-19 death toll, which is 3.1, close to which are nations like New Zealand reporting 4.5 deaths, south Korea reporting 5.9 deaths and

Singapore, 4.6 deaths per million people. More than half of the countries had reported 46 or more deaths per million population (Fig: 2).

Even with a minuscule per capita income, as compared to most of the developed nations, our COVID-19 outcome surpasses them most. The system was able to provide state-of-the-art healthcare for patients without exposing them to financial hardships.

Comparing the population-adjusted COVID-19 mortality



The population-adjusted number of COVID-19 deaths is shown in the x-axis. Countries are arranged in the declining order of GNI per capita.

SPECIAL

Dr. Prajitha C. Pillai
Dr. Arya Rahul
Dr. R.S. Gopakumar
Dr. Anish T.S.

GET RID OF INFECTIOUS MISCONCEPTIONS...



Extensive apprehensions are there regarding the corona virus spread which even raised eyebrows under the conviction that dead bodies can become 'carriers'...

Recently an article titled "Stakeholder perspective of handling the deceased during Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala, South India, 2018" was published online in the American Journal of tropical medicine and hygiene. This qualitative study was done by a group of doctors, Dr. R. S. Gopakumar - Health officer, Municipal corporation, Kozhikode, Dr. Prajitha C. Pillai, Dr. Arya Rahul - Junior residents of the department of Community medicine, Government medical college, Thiruvananthapuram under the guidance of Dr. Anish T. S. - Associate professor in the department of Community medicine, Government medical college, Thiruvananthapuram.

The study was conducted during December 2018- February of 2019, with focus group discussion and in-depth interviews with officials and health staffs who were directly involved in handling the dead bodies of Nipah patients as per the official records. Interviews were conducted with district officials who were assigned with the responsibility of

cremation of Nipah viral deaths, people's representatives of the constituency where deep burials were conducted, religious leaders and individuals from a dedicated team involved in the cremation process and representative of state rapid response team involved in containment of the outbreak.

The findings from the study showed that the public and the efficient state health system's response were the determining factors behind the efficient handling of corpse during the Nipah outbreak. It also highlights the evolution of public response from fear to empathy and the



efficient guidance from the government in handling the outbreak with limited resources.

Addressing the funeral issue was an important concern for the government for containing outbreak among the population where religious beliefs held an upper hand in funeral customs. The situation was efficiently managed by effective scientific communication between the government, religious, local leaders and the public that resulted in a culturally acceptable and scientifically sound protocol for funeral procedures. The collective effort proved to be good examples of winning social acceptance.

The study has also given an insight into development of new standard operating procedure for burials and how burials were conducted. It has well described the fear, cultural conflicts and unforeseen obstacles along with the shortage of human and material resources for handling the human remains faced by the health system. It points out how well the vigilant health system tackled the paucity in resources on time where the Health minister directly got involved and made immediate arrangements for procuring

body bags, N95 mask and personal protective equipment kit. The study is one of a kind in portraying the Kerala model of efficient community engagement and communication to gain public support and acceptance in a fatal disease outbreak like Nipah viral disease.

Certainly, this article has its importance now considering the fear and misconception people have on spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus from dead bodies. At Kozhikode, where Nipah outbreak occurred in 2018, cremation and burials of COVID dead bodies are carried out from a single nodal point under the guidance of same trained professionals who conducted the cremations and burials back in 2018.

For a disease like Nipah, where the infectivity and fatality are high, the spread of infection during the funeral practices was zero by following a scientific protocol. Hence, it's to be stressed that COVID-19 will not spread from dead bodies that have been cremated or buried in compliance with the scientific protocol.

Spread of infection during the funeral practices were zero by following a scientific protocol.

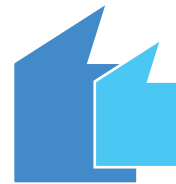
COVID-19 will not spread from dead bodies that have been cremated or buried.

Cremation and burials of COVID - dead bodies are carried out from a single nodal point under the guidance of trained professionals.



H. Basil Lal
Syndicate Member, Kerala
University of Fisheries
& Ocean Studies

BORN TO RESCUE



Crisis many times brings out the humaneness in the compassionate clan; the same can be evidenced in the fisherfolk from Kerala nowadays. Personal experience in this regard has to be shared since it could inspire the otherwise 'sedate' ones from different walks of life.

It was Thursday the 6th day of August 2020 at 4 pm, a meeting of the Harbour Management Council (HMC) convened by the Deputy Director of Fisheries; Kollam was in progress at the Matsya Bhavan Office, Vaddy to evaluate the preparations for resuming fishing and its allied activities at Kollam Harbour, by strictly adhering to the COVID 19 Protocol. This was necessary for the background of the cessation of all fishing activities for one whole month owing to the widespread threat of the looming pandemic.

While the meeting was in progress a message came, that fishing activities have to be postponed to the next day due to inclement weather. However, before the meeting could conclude the request emanated from the Pathanamthitta District Administration for 20 traditional boats, to be deployed in various parts of Pathanamthitta as the weather conditions were deteriorating and the possibility of 2018 like flood situation was emerging.

When this was discussed in the group, there was apprehension amongst a section of the council members, especially in the background of the raging pandemic. In the meantime, the Kollam District Collector contacted me and desired to mobilise a minimum of 20 country crafts to help those flood-affected areas of Pathanamthitta.

Subsequently, the Minister for Fisheries J. Mercykutty Amma intervened to speed up activities. In this backdrop, I contacted Milkees Joseph, a fisherman from Moothakkara, who was the first person to participate in the rescue operations of the 2018 floods. His response to the



request was overwhelming once again. He appreciatively agreed to participate in the rescue mission. Then we approached his fellow fishermen, all responded positively. In about 2 hours, around 15 traditional boats along with their crew were assembled for the mission. Now, it was up to the District administration, especially the Police to rise to the occasion and to extend the essential support like arranging vehicles, fuel etc. Once again, The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Pradip Kumar who managed all arrangements during the floods of 2018 was in charge and his experience proved more than worthy in the crisis hour. T. Manoharan and Rajadas – Matsyafed directors too put in their efforts to provide traditional boats from Chavara and Azheekkal – here to the ‘fisher brethren’ turned good Samaritans rose to the occasion.

Kerala’s own army time and again proves to be the safest bet in the time

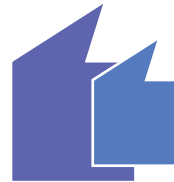
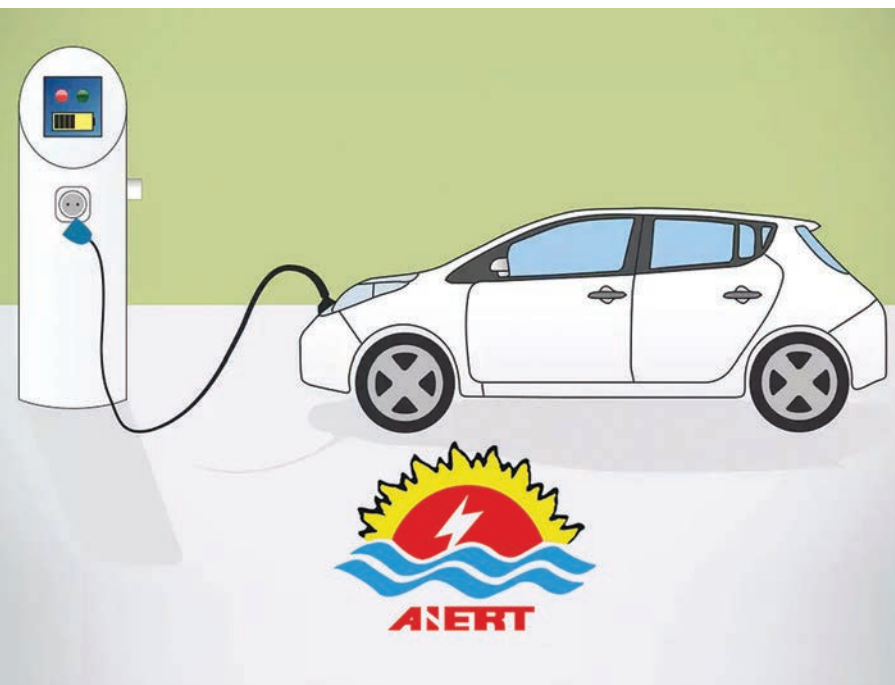
of unprecedented crises. The willingness and altruism in the rescue operation resemble yet another ‘Kerala Model’ to cherish.





Amith Meena I.A.S
Director - ANERT

THE E-MOBILITY PROSPECTS



It is time to redefine the way we move around since the changing times, to a great extent attempt to materialise a pollution-free environment.

The State Government of Kerala has launched e-Mobility Programme to promote Electric Vehicles with the active participation of ANERT, EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Limited) Ministry of Power and Government of India. ANERT (Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology) is the Nodal agency for lease contract project of E-Cars. EVs do not emit harmful gases from it; it is pollution - free and environment friendly.

Moreover EVs do not have many moving parts thereby minimise maintenance and upkeep; oil change and other periodical service are not needed. The Electric cars do have a mileage of 10 km whereas electric buses have 2 km mileage per unit of electricity.

Subsidy and other incentives have been accorded to these kinds of vehicles. The State Government has reduced road tax from 18 per cent to 5 per cent and issued an order directing all Government

departments and institutions to hire vehicles through ANERT. The transport department has issued an order to hire 65 electric cars from ANERT.

Since zero - carbon emission is guaranteed with Electric vehicles the Government gave wholehearted support to manufacture and produce EVs under quality- private firms. The price of EVs is a cut above the fossil fuel ones, as the rate of the battery is 30-50 per cent of the total cost of the vehicle. The Lithium - cell manufacturing is yet to take off in India and cells are being imported.



The ANERT has plans to set up electric - vehicle charging stations in all the 14 districts and steps are afoot to set up one at Shankhumugham, Thiruvananthapuram and KTDC reception centre - Kochi. There is a sketch to set up 135 charging stations, mostly in KTDC hotels and DTPC tourist spots across the State. ANERT has launched a K to K project wherein it envisages installing and running electric vehicles between Kochi to Kovalam to promote eco - tourism as well.



Oil change and other periodical service are not needed.

The ANERT has plans to set up electric-vehicle charging stations in all the 14 districts.

Zero-carbon emission is guaranteed with Electric vehicles



Sudha Menon
Author, Motivational Speaker

SUMPTUOUS ONAM BECKONS AGAIN...



Onam hasn't lost its charm despite the 'shock' inflicted by the pandemic. The typical Malayali resistance and oneness came to the fore in this testing - time and again this 'spirit' adds fervour to the festive days - Onam.

There is a dream I hold close to my heart, of celebrating Onam in my beloved Kerala, at our ancestral home in Malapuram where we have lived in harmony and love with our neighbours of every religion and caste for 120 years now.

That dream, perhaps, comes from a cherished memory of an Onam celebrated at our home decades ago, maybe when I was 8-10 of age. Preparations for the 10-day festival began much in advance when the matriarch of the family, Valliyamma, would receive a steady stream of vendors from the village, carrying yards and yards of colourful fabric, mundu- veshtis and other goodies for the family and for every member of the families who worked on our land and lived as one with us. The village tailor would be there to and get everyone measured so that the clothes were ready by the time Onam came around.

Then there would be the others selling their wares- great bunches of plantains, sacks of rice, lentils, vegetables, jaggery, sugar, spices, for the sadhya that amma's other aunt, Kanakamma supervised, making sure there was enough and more to feed everyone on the farm, including Rema and Rambha, the family's cows, who I vaguely remember, got to enjoy payasam during Onam day.

Onam mornings were about bathing, donning our new clothes and joining the women and kids from our neighbourhood to make giant Pookalams, the flowers for



which we picked from Mutachan's garden. That was the only time we were allowed to pluck flowers from his fiercely protected garden.

The village tailor would be there to and get everyone measured...

I remember the hustle and bustle in the kitchen, the chopping of colourful vegetables, the grating of coconuts, the aromas of spicy sambar, pulisheru, injipuli, the frying of hundreds of pappadums, my ammamma stirring giant urulis of payasams and, finally, sitting cross-legged on the floor to polish off huge meals, along with the extended family and guests. I think my earliest lessons in living in harmony with people of every caste and religion and, indeed, an egalitarian society, came from simply observing my trio of great aunts and their younger brother live their life in our tiny village in Malapuram district.

Every household in the state will have enough and more to celebrate Onam

Our neighbours were largely Muslim families with whom we continue to share love and respect. I think Kerala and my father, Comrade C. Radhakrishnan, who believed in the concept of a welfare state, taught me about being human, caring for every human being and taking care of those less privileged than us.

The world is in the grip of a pandemic and everywhere people's lives have changed- they have lost loved ones, their jobs are gone and their homes are under threat but I know in my beloved Kerala Mahabali will be welcomed with many celebrations, thanks to a benevolent government which ensures the welfare of the people who elected it to power. If we could ensure that even the poorest did not stay hungry, homeless or denied medical care during the peak of the pandemic, then I know for sure that every household in the state will have enough and more to celebrate Onam with the same gusto and fervour that it has always been celebrated with. That is the spirit of God's Own Country.

Thanks to a benevolent government which ensures the welfare of the people who elected it to power

See you soon, beloved Kerala. I hope to celebrate Onam with you next year, with amma whose heart belongs there...

(Sudha Menon is the author of five books published by Penguin Random House and Pan Macmillan. She is a former journalist, a motivational speaker and the founder of writing workshop series, Get Writing and Writing with Women. She is also a model and actor.)

WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

INTERVIEW



Words through the 'LENS' of inspiration

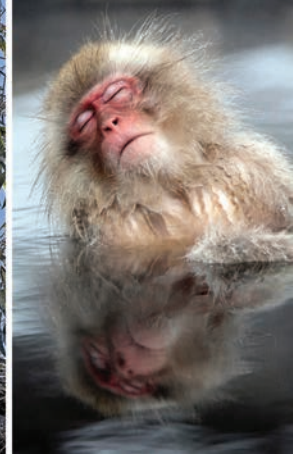


C. Rajesh
Editor, Kerala Calling

It is not far in time that world-renowned photographer **Nick Ut** visited Kerala. He had a nice outing as a guest of the Government of Kerala. The whole world changed considerably since his visit, especially a pandemic of gigantic proportion continues to threaten global populace. In the backdrop of such a disease-threat happened the world photography day on August, 19. Here are the excerpts from the talk Nick Ut held with the Editor of 'Kerala Calling'

C. Rajesh.





What are the main challenges faced by a news photographer during the covid 19 - period?

The main challenge is protecting from the COVID. Access is also restricted more now and we have to work without offices. We all work from the field and from home.

What are your main activities during this period?

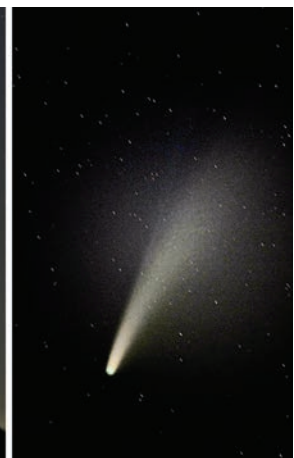
I try to stay at home as much as I can during the pandemic but when I go shoot, I make sure I protect myself very well.

Have you tried new photography techniques during this pandemic?

Yes. We have to use protective equipment and shoot from farther away. It is a challenge but we face challenges daily. Longer lenses help but sometimes we have to still use wide - angle and be close to the action.

Do you remember your days in Kerala? If so, what is your opinion about Kerala, Keralites and the administration here?

Very nice place, great friendly people who treated us very kindly. We enjoyed the



wonderful hospitality from the people of Kerala.

How do you think Kerala is different from other parts of the world in your view?

I've been all over the world and Kerala is a place of joy and peace. There are many places like Kerala where people are very nice. I've experienced nothing but good from everywhere I visited.

After you had gone from here, Kerala had to face a lot of disasters. We braved two mega floods and now the pandemic. What are your messages to your friends in Kerala during this time?

Kerala is a beautiful area with good, friendly, strong and resilient people. Always stay positive and never give up. The tragedy is not good but when we learn from it, we become better people. Take care of each other.

Which photograph has inspired you recently?

My photos of wildlife like birds and whales inspire me. I enjoy the outdoors and photographing nature's gifts to us as much as I enjoy photo-journalism.



Nick Ut with Kamala Harris



Nick Ut with Kim Phuc

I've experienced nothing but good from everywhere I visited

Kerala is a beautiful area with good, friendly, strong and resilient people

My photos of wildlife like birds and whales inspire me



The relentless spread of the pandemic reminds everyone to live the future with a new normal. The importance of being loyal to nature by preserving it and the hunt for novel avenues to earn have become imperative. **Subhiksha Keralam** – the initiative from the State Government definitely aims the above said aspects and an array of articles are there in the following pages that throw light into the significance of nature conservation and more...

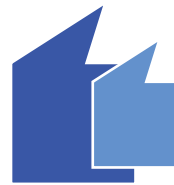


NATURE



Dr. Sheeba V.T.
Asst. Professor,
Dept. of Economics
NSS Hindu College,
Changanacherry

FOR A BETTER CLIMATE TO SURVIVE



One has to think beyond 'normal' when it comes to the climate since it is changing rapidly, unfortunately to the disadvantage of mankind's survival.

The enhancement of quality of life and a sustainable future is the ultimate goal across nations today. New planetary ethics is the need of the hour as far as sustainable earth is concerned. The predictions have become real and the haunting effects of climate change are at our doorsteps. Asia's centrality to global warming and climate change lies in its high density of population and the great majority of potential victims. In the quest for economic growth and development, there has been the intensification of energy use. Higher the use of energy, larger the amount of waste generated.

The corona pandemic is an opportunity to re-analyse our food system. The disease is said to be zoonotic - that it got transferred to humans from animals. Animal husbandry has moved from backyard operations to large industrial facilities resulting in intensive use of antibiotics leading to the development of anti-microbial resistant bacteria according to WHO sources. Human welfare is intricately connected to

animal welfare.

Ecological conservation and preservation of water bodies undoubtedly demand top priority especially because it is directly linked to our food security. Water and food security have to be complemented by sustainable air quality. A report by the International Energy Emissions Agency stated that India's per capita emissions were about 40% of the global average and contributed 7% to the global carbon dioxide burden. The U.S which is the largest emitter contributed 14%. India has promised to reduce emissions intensity by 2030 compared to 2005 levels. It is

committed to having 40% of the energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Climate crisis is at our doorstep and will affect every individual in every country. Accelerated ice melt will produce a destructive rise in sea levels, lead to cyclones, extreme waves and rainfall. We need to change our relationship with nature. Biodiversity loss, global warming and climate change are the real “Global Epidemics” which have been endangering mankind for a long time.

To ward off the climate catastrophe, the need to integrate natural and social sciences has become imperative since it will help to generate multi-dimensional knowledge. Our sustainable future can be ensured only through adequate policy responses and action to confront the climate crisis.

Asia often referred to as “Continental Cradle of Civilizations” should mediate exchanges for climate action and India, the inheritor to one of the richest and oldest civilization should pave the way for an ecological civilization. We need to remember that nature provides for our need but not for our greed. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

We need to remember that nature provides for our need but not for our greed.

Climate crisis is at our doorstep and will affect every individual in every country.

The corona pandemic is an opportunity to re-analyse our food system.

NEWS SCAN

OVERCOMING COVID-19 WITH COURAGE AND CONVICTION



Maharashtra native Mohammed Azharuddin, 26, says he “will never forget the 50 days” – spent at Ukkinadukka Medical College after being diagnosed COVID positive. Azharuddin’s life is the living proof to the dedication of the doctors and nurses at the medical college.

He lives at Kumbala Thazhakodiyamma, was diagnosed with the disease on May 25th and was promptly hospitalized for 50 days. In the meantime, 13 PCR tests and one rapid antigen test was performed. Since it took a long time to recovery it was the doctors and nurses that gave him confidence to survive the emotional upset.

“Kerala is heaven. There is proper awareness and patient care here. But the situation is different in Maharashtra. The sad fact is that even when the disease is acute, the people are not aware of it,” said Azharuddin. He went Maharashtra for a job interview and on his return journey he became Covid positive.

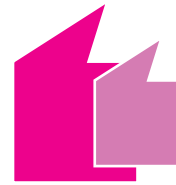
NATURE



Dr. P.K. Shaji
Environmental Resources
Research Centre

Dr. T. Shaju
Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical
Botanic Garden and
Research Institute

PRAGMATIC CONSERVATION IMPERATIVE



Changing climatic conditions which lead to disastrous mishaps virtually demand nature-conservation. But the conservation activities should be prioritised with utmost care as random selection would be of no use.

Restoration of riparian vegetation is vital to river protection and therefore essentially involves scientific scrutiny of species that thrive spatial and temporal patterns of river flow and allied habitat conditions. The physical settings and dynamic processes of our rivers have been altered dramatically during the past few decades, owing to a multitude of factors - both natural and human-influenced, from terrain modification and associated land-use changes in the catchment areas to extremely varying rain pattern connected with climate change. With the result, many of the rivers/streams have been transferred from free-flowing water-course to a string of pools in the lean months and an object of flash floods causing much havoc during the rainy season.

The combined effects of physical and hydrologic alterations have affected the composition and extent of riverine/riparian habitats, which normally support unique flora with characteristic species composition, functions and adaptations.

Importance of riparian vegetation

Riparian zones (the fringes of rivers or streams) represent the interface between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The riparian forests differ from other types of forests in that they are usually linear, following the line of river/stream course, while their width is defined by the landscape, geomorphology, contours of the river course, and drainage characteristics.

Riparian vegetation plays important roles for humans including protection of land



from erosion, provision of a windbreak for crops, and providing materials for consumption and trade.

Riparian vegetation in Kerala's river basins

Kerala, with 44 rivers originating from the Western Ghats has a complex web of riverine belts manifesting remarkable species richness and diversity. The characteristic plants in the riparian assemblages are mainly specialists which exploit the water resources associated with frequently disturbed river courses. Such species are typically resilient to frequent and intense disturbances. Their specific adaptations include those related to withstanding flooding, sediment deposition, physical abrasion, and stem breakage. The riparian trees are characteristically evergreen, irrespective of its contiguous vegetation.

Loss/degradation and its impacts

Removal and modification of vegetation in the sensitive riparian areas have been a common land management practice in the past and has had significant impacts

on the health of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Construction of dams, clearing for development of plantations and croplands, encroachment, and other anthropogenic interferences have drastically modified the riparian belts.

Removal of bank vegetation and woody debris affects flow rate so that water flows faster, which potentially lead to flooding and downstream erosion, destabilisation of stream banks leading to an increase in stream width and gully erosion.

Prospects of restoration

Restoration and re-vegetation of riparian belts present a major challenge in the river management. The first and foremost recommended action in managing riparian vegetation is to protect existing remnant vegetation. Subsequently, degraded stretches can be targeted and re-vegetated following supplementary planting. Both scenarios require planning and organized action with a participatory approach.

(i) explore and map the riparian belts of the river. (ii) selection of appropriate species for planting in tune with the specific landscape features. (iii) location - wise and species - wise design of planting in the river stretch and preparation of segment wise maps for the convenience of monitoring and management (iv) collection and maintenance of plant propagules/ seedlings (in nurseries), at suitable locations (v) planting of seedlings in predetermined locations, and (vi) post-planting monitoring and care including weed control.

Use of geotextiles (coir-mat/roll barriers), plant/wood roll revetments (e.g. coconut wood logs) may also be considered in erosion-prone locations. Growth and establishment of seedlings, leaf area index (canopy cover) and carbon storage value (through non-destructive measures) may be assessed periodically and documented. ■



Dr. C. Madhu
Director – Department of
Animal Husbandry

ANIMAL WELFARE TO ENSURE POST-COVID SURVIVAL



The proliferation of COVID-19 is the cause of a global crisis and in all walks of life. Efforts are there from every official platform to tide over the crises and the department of animal husbandry has envisaged many initiatives towards this end.

Although there have been other epidemics in human history, there has never been a disease that has had such far-reaching effects. The department of animal husbandry is attempting to overcome these crises through the opening - up various sectors to enhance business.

Through the Subhiksha Kerala scheme, a livelihood assistance scheme is being implemented for the farmers in the Animal Welfare sector to increase food production. Rs.383 crores have been allocated to the implementation of various projects. Out of these 250 crores is for Local Self Government, 56 crores are for State Plan outlay and 77 crores are for Kerala Reconstruction Project (Rebuild-Kerala) livelihood assistance schemes. Besides, the Kerala Chicken Project is being implemented by the department for 63 crores out of its share of the Rebuild - Kerala Project.

▪ Rebuild Kerala Initiative: Livelihood Assistance Scheme

- **Cow Raising Initiative:** 10000 benefactors will receive ₹60,000 to buy and raise two cows.
- **Rejuvenation of Empty Stables:** ₹25,000 will be offered to 5000 beneficiaries.
- **Fodder subsidy:** 6650 benefactors will receive a subsidy of ₹1000 per month, for six months.
- **Dairy Farming Mechanization:** 100 benefactors will receive Rs. 1 lakh as assistance.
- **Grass Farming for Grazing Animals:** ₹30,000 will be paid per hectare.
- **Goat-Raising Initiative:** 1800 farmers



will receive ₹25,000 to purchase 5 female and 1 male goat.

- **Pig-Raising Initiative:** 100 benefactors will receive ₹50,000 in assistance per unit of 10 piglets.
- **Scientific Calf Raising Initiative:** ₹12,500 will be allotted per person.

Current Projects Across The State

- **Govardhini Project:** 42,410 benefactors under this scheme will be given ₹12,500 to inculcate scientific-rearing methods in cow farming.
- **Bull-Calf/ Buffalo-Calf Raising Initiative:** 2000 benefactors will be given ₹10,000 as assistance.
- **Garden-Raised Goats in Rural Areas:** 1000 benefactors will be granted ₹59,400 as a subsidy under this scheme.
- **Goat-Satellite Unit (5+1):** 800 benefactors will receive ₹25,000.

Projects In Collaboration With Local-Self

Governments

- **Cow-Raising Initiative:** ₹60,000 - for buying 2 cows.
- **Improving Stables:** ₹25,000.
- **Goat-Raising Initiative:** A maximum of ₹10,000 to one benefactor under this project.

Mobile Tele-Veterinary Units

To provide state-of-the-art care for animals, mobile tele-veterinary units have been deployed in the median and northern regions of Kerala.

Fodder Allotment For Captive Animals

As a result of the lockdown, captive elephants have been placed in a stressful situation. For these elephants, the government will provide ₹400 for 40 days. 252 elephants have already received this assistance.

In addition to this, the government has promised assistance to care for the cattle of farmers that have been quarantined due to the pandemic.

Veterinary services at night have been made assured in 105 block panchayats, with 152 more on the list who will have the same advantage soon. The Animal Welfare Department is focused on providing quality veterinary care and ensuring the quality of life for captive animals. Various projects have been instituted in this regard. Even in such adverse conditions and a pandemic to combat the department is providing all possible assistance with those who are in the animal - rearing arena.



Dr. B. Ajith Babu
Asst. Director, Department of
Animal Husbandry

POULTRY FARMING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Poultry farming is one of the major commercial sectors in animal husbandry field throughout the world. India is currently the fourth largest poultry producers in volume-terms. Domestic poultry industry can broadly be divided as broiler meat and table egg with other poultry meat including ducks and quails forming marginal proportion of overall market.

Even though Kerala is a leading State in egg and broiler meat consumption, commercial poultry production is not that common owing to several factors. High human - population density and unavailability of raw materials for feed are the major reasons. So, Kerala is currently dependent on other states for its supply of egg and meat.

The poultry sector is headed for a crisis as rumors and fears associated with novel corona virus (Covid-19) hit consumption of chicken meat and eggs, resulting in a price crash. That the farmers are incurring a loss of Rs. 100-130 on every bird (yielding two kg of chicken) reflects the gravity of the situation. As a result, the supply of the products is not matching with the demand. In this situation the State needs to be self-sufficient in producing good quality egg and meat so as to be prepared for any eventuality in the future. The government has formulated numerous projects for the revival of the sector.

Back Yard Poultry Scheme

According to the census data majority of the eggs produced in Kerala is from backyard farming. So, the Government has given stress to promote backyard poultry farming in rural households.

A project has been formulated for the supply of 5 chicks each to the beneficiaries. Objective of the project is to enhance the egg production in rural households and to attain self sufficiency production. Moreover the birds after production can be utilized for meat - purpose. A total of 25000 farmers will be selected for the scheme. A subsidy of



Rs. 500/- will be allotted for each beneficiary.

Duck- Rearing Scheme

Duck - rearing is a lucrative poultry enterprise which gives livelihood to farmers in Kerala, especially in Alappuzha and Palakkad districts. A project has been formulated to supply 10 ducklings to 16500 beneficiaries with a subsidy of Rs. 1200 per head. The ducklings will be supplied by Government Duck Farm, Niranam, Alappuzha.

Intervention In Broiler Farming

The Government has formulated a mega project, Kerala Chicken Project which aims to encourage broiler industry and to ensure fair price to the producers. Rs. 63 crores has been envisaged for the conduct of the project. Department of Animal Husbandry, Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation, Meat Products of India, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and Bharmagiri Development Society are the stake holders of the project. Kudumbashree members will be selected for the farming activity and technical support will be given by AHD authorities. The project aims to supply superior quality poultry meat.

Projects Through Department Of Local Self Government

A range of poultry projects are implemented through LSG's throughout the State. Supply of ready to lay birds and layer - chick distribution are the major projects undertaken. These in turn will definitely benefit those engaged in farming even in these turbulent times and in future too.

The present status of Indian poultry scenario

Yearly turn over	Rs. 120000 crores
Yearly growth rate	6-8%
Production of broilers	400 crores
Production of eggs	9300 crores
Per capita consumption of poultry meat	4.25 kg
Per capita consumption of eggs	72
Direct and indirect employment in poultry	2.75 crore

A total of 25000 farmers will be selected for the scheme.

Supply of ready to lay birds and layer - chick distribution are the major projects undertaken .

Duck - rearing is a lucrative poultry enterprise which gives livelihood to farmers in Kerala.



Dr. T.V. Sankar
Principal Scientist
ICAR-Central Institute of
Fisheries Technology

‘FISH’ FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



The COVID-19 pandemic is devastating the world economy and the public health in an unpredicted way and is recognised as the most crucial global health calamity of the century. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the resultant total lockdown impacted negatively the livelihoods of people across all sectors but the effect is more on the fishing communities across India. The absence of job creates such a situation, disrupting the livelihood of the vulnerable population in the worst possible way.

The entire marine production is almost totally affected and the export is stopped. According to ICAR- Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, the Covid-19 lockdown has put the country’s marine fishery sector in a difficult situation, inflicting a daily loss of ₹224 crores.

In the case of aquaculture, a different scenario was observed. Of late, aquaculture has become a means of alternative livelihood for fishing communities whose traditional source of income has been adversely affected by the over-exploitation of coastal fishing grounds. The introduction of small-scale aquaculture in many a such areas has been shown to create employment and improve the socio-economic status of subsistence fishermen.

In the fishing sector, which needs the support of large groups, social distancing is an issue. Besides, the post - production industry needs a unique cold chain to keep the material in superior condition and

the contribution of all stakeholders is absolutely essential besides the trust and consumer confidence in the safety and availability of food. In this context, some of the measures suggested by FAO are worth considering for managing sustainable fisheries and aquaculture.

- Designating registered artisanal fishers and aquaculture sectors as essential service as they supply fish (nutrition) to the Nation
- Restricting fishing activity for larger fishermen through a quota system or fixing duration of fishing and quantity.



- Providing compensation to the owners and fishers fully affected by the absence of fishing activity
- It is also possible to have a consultation with the concerned stakeholders for effectively redrawing a production- distribution – selling – buying mechanism for the proper management of the fisheries and aquaculture sector for the benefit of both the producers (fishers) and buyers (Consumers).

The entire marine production is almost totally affected and the export is stopped.

Of late aquaculture has become a means of alternative livelihood.

The fishing sector which needs the support of large groups, social distancing is an issue.

NEWS SCAN

THE 'AFFORDABLE' ONAM



Diversification has become the hallmark of Consumerfed's success these days. A bunch of products under the brand name Triveni is being introduced to ensure good quality. Since Triveni notebooks proved a successful presence in the market, Coconut oil, Tea powder, Atta, Maida, and Rava are launched under the same brand name. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the launch of these products. These products will be available in Triveni super markets and Neethi stores.

Quality coconut oil is produced at Kodoor coconut complex in Malappuram. Triveni notebooks worth Rs. 27 will be a perk with Triveni coconut oil for the first 3 months.

Thankamani service co-operative bank is entrusted with the production of Triveni tea powder. The tea powder will be available in different flavors – premium, extra-strong, premium hot –blend, leaf tea, bulk tea etc.

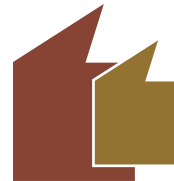
Sale of crushed wheat and chakki fresh wheat flour is an added advantage, since all new products are reasonably priced. These items will be available at the Consumerfed outlets. Products like Atta, Maida, Rava will be primarily available from 500 gm to 5 kg packets. All products will be available during Onam days and after.



Dr. B. Ashok I.A.S
Chairman &
Managing Director

SPECIAL

SUPPLYCO'S 'FAIR' ONAM AGAIN



Even in the midst of several constraints owing to the spread of Covid 19 pandemic, Supplyco as the responsible agency of the Government for intervening in the market is organizing Special Onam District-fairs in 14 Districts of the state. In addition to District Onam fairs, taluk level fairs, Onam markets etc will be conducted.

Taluk Fairs, Onam Markets and Onam Mini Fairs

- This year, taluk fairs and Onam Markets will be conducted in by attaching to prominent outlets
- The period of taluk fairs, Onam Markets and Onam Mini Fairs will be for 5 days
- The Maveli Stores, during Onam, will function continuously without a lunch break.
- All the covid - precautionary measures will be followed in the fairs.
- The Green protocol will be followed in all the fairs.

All District/Taluk Fairs, Onam markets and Mini fairs will function from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM without break on the scheduled dates.

- All District Fairs will have separate Vegetable Counters.
- The selling price of vegetables will be less than that of open market rates.

Home appliance counter

Supplyco has opened home appliance divisions in 65 selected Super Markets / Peoples Bazaars / Hyper Markets. In taluks where home appliances sales are being done, a counter will be opened in the nearby detached Onam Fairs also for attracting more customers. In such counters, a minimum area will be used for exhibiting home appliances such as kitchen utensils, electrical appliances etc. The price advantage to customers (a comparison between MRP and Supplyco selling price) for each item will be exhibited in the counter.

BOOK



Dr. Ophira Gamliel
University of Glasgow

THE STORY OF THE '99 FLOODS



When the floods hit Kerala in 2018, the generosity and unselfishness of the people, especially the heroic fishermen, touched the hearts of many. Stories of survival and resilience showed Keralites supported one another regardless of social status or religious affiliation. The havoc wreaked by changing monsoon patterns is now exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the urgent need to bring back home safely work - migrants stranded in the Gulf. The way people organize in response to disasters deserves scholarly attention, especially when it is documented in literature and culture, such as Mundambra Unnimammad's Vellappokkam.

Vellappokkam describes the '99 Floods that hit Malabar, as it was still licking the wounds inflicted by the political turmoil of 1921-1922. The poet, Mundambra, voices the subaltern, while documenting in sweet Mappila tunes the flooded landscape, sketched by water gushing forward, running over orchards and fields, damaging structures of stone and wood, entering many houses, shops, markets, and sacred spaces, while sparing others from its wrath. He writes that "the flood water came roaring like a fierce ocean terrorizing everyone". But this devastated landscape is also densely populated with rich and poor, merchants and laborers, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and Jews, women and men, young and old, humans and animals.

Vellappokkam requires efforts for deciphering innovative linguistic formations. The poet must have trusted his audience would follow with ease; his readership must have been skilled enough to follow his language tricks.



The Cover of the Malayalam edition of Vellappokkam, illustrated by Ashique Aboobacker

The importance of Vellappokkam for research on resilience is evident at the outset. It is a poetic journey along the flooded Chaliyar taking off from

Nilambur Thirumulpad, a “flower from the ruling flowering tree”. His support of the people affected by the flood is praised. In Nilambur, they say, the king generously extended relief to the people; He beautifully showered eternal charity upon so many people. Present there as in other places, his fame resounded.

Mundambra depicts the support of the ruling family as an act of good governance, while distancing it from the colonial regime that brutally oppressed his Mappila community, just a couple of years earlier.

According to Prof. A. Nujum, the poet viewed the flood water as an allegory for British colonialism.

Mundambra’s ‘99 Flood story is little known compared to, say, Thakazhi’s Vellappokkathil, as it is composed in Arabic Malayalam, a language hybrid comparable to Manipravalam, with Arabic loanwords conjugated as if they were Malayalam.

The earliest known Arabic Malayalam poet, Qazi Muhammed of Calicut, describes his poetic craft, the Muhyideen Mala (1607), as weaving “a garland of pearls and rubies”, where Malayalam is the ruby and Arabic is the pearl (a common metaphor for Arabic, according to the Arabist Ines Weinrich).

Arabic Malayalam poetry has also Sanskrit loanwords conjugated with archaic Malayalam morphemes. This hybrid language developed from trans regional cultural networks in precisely the kind of collaboration required for tackling global challenges.

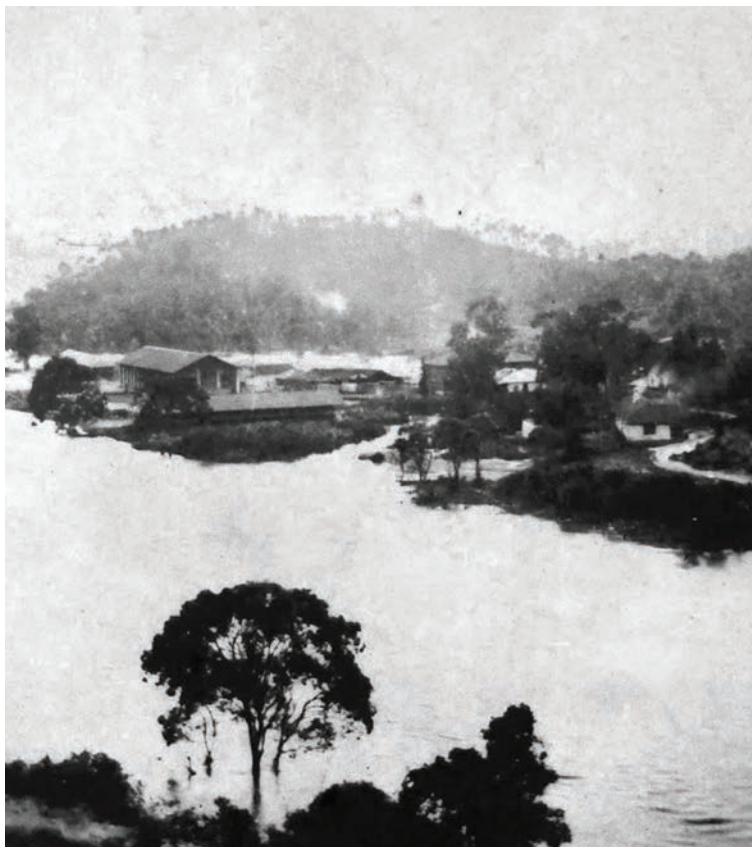
Mundambra’s Vellappokkam can teach us something about the way people organize in response to disruption. Social cohesion is instrumental in responding to and recovering from floods in Kerala. The Hindu-Muslim-Christian solidarity in Kerala against religious fundamentalism and exclusion is highlighted as beneficial for overcoming crises and surviving disasters. Mundambra’s Vellappokkam can teach us something about the history of diversity and inclusion at the face of

environmental disasters, as well as the role of governance in the many places described by Mundambra along the gushing Chaliyar in 1924. Vellappokkam can teach us something about how to organize our societies and remain human and resilient, in India and beyond.



Illustration by Ashique Aboobacker

Dr Ophira Gamliel is a lecturer in South Asian Religions at the University of Glasgow. Her book A Linguistic Survey of the Malayalam Language in Its Own Terms was published earlier this year (Otto Harrassowitz). She specialized in the language, literature, culture, and history of Kerala Jews, and published several articles on various aspects related to Kerala culture and literature.



The great flood of 99 (1924 flood)



Dr. Aparna Ajith
Freelance Journalist

INTERVIEW

ENDEARING ELIKUTTY AND HER FASCINATING MALAYALAM



When Malayalis are so much obsessed with English language, here comes the American – born English teacher, Elizabeth Keytonaka Elikutty with her insatiable appetite for Malayalam language. She has blazed the trail by beginning an Instagram account, 'eli.kutty' to whet her linguistic drive and to dive into the depths of the language of Kerala. Her YouTube channel 'Learn Malayalam with Elikutty' with her avalanche of grammar patterns and learning tips serves as a resource guide to multitudes including Malayali diasporas.

Besides this passion for the language, one can see her adoration for Kerala manifested in her love for its culture, art, music, cuisine, movie, hill stations, greenery, scenery and what not. This daughter-in-law of Kerala is all set to nurture the exuberances of the land as well as the language. Here is Elikutty in an online conversation with Dr. Aparna Ajith for Kerala Calling.

How did the idea to begin a channel 'Learn Malayalam with Elikutty' pop up?

Initially, Elikutty was just my place to create little lessons to help me keep in touch with the language. There are many American Malayalis like me who don't know how to learn Malayalam. I draw some picture, make some notes and put them online. Being a teacher, I know how to analyze language and the terminologies related to grammar and linguistics. I was finding the patterns between Malayalam and English and making in a way easy for others to understand. Also, whenever I put something online,

people would give me corrections. It was more or less like me sharing notes rather than teaching. I thought only people like me (westerners and non- Malayalis) were looking for my content. Parents started reaching me saying their kids really love my videos. I was touched.

Tell me something about your solo trip to Kerala?

I have been to Kerala thrice and the third one was a solo trip. I went to Kasargod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Thrissur, Kottayam, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram. I came across a lot of things, people and places. Through my social media account, I had



friends in every district I visited.

How would you describe Kerala in a single phrase?

In one phrase? *Enikkvayya* (laughing).
 “Kerala is a land of history, culture, communal harmony and tolerance”.

What is your observation on the COVID-19 situation in Kerala?

When the coronavirus first happened, I felt that Kerala was prepared as they had already dealt with an infectious disease, the Nipah virus. I knew how quickly the health and other departments of Kerala joined hands together and prevented as many deaths as possible.

Your comments on the state’s Health Department?

Kerala’s Health department is being run by really knowledgeable people. The Health Minister has appeared on the BBC news and she has become an epitome of leadership at the time of the COVID -19 crisis.

Your reflections on the recent mishaps at Calicut and Idukki?

Both the unfortunate events happened on the same day. There is a pandemic, a flood, and a landslide. Now, on the top of all these, there happens a plane crash. It is really inspiring to see how Keralites are helping one another and thinking for each other.

Have you explored Malayalam literature and movies?

I am a big fan of K.R. Meera. I have read the translations of *Aarachar and Yudasinte Suvishesham*. I have read Benjamin’s *Goat Days* and *Jasmine Days*. Cinema is a rich way to learn Malayalam culture. What I like about Mollywood movies are they are based more on reality. For instance, “Uyare” and “Kumbalangi Nights”.

As Onam is fast approaching amidst the pandemic, what message do you like to pass on to the Malayali community?

Onam is the time to celebrate the return of something good as Mahabali comes every year to see you all. Let this Onam be a minimal celebration. During these tough times, staying away is the best way of helping each other tackle the calamity.





A. Chandrasekhar
Film Critic – Senior Journalist

REMINISCENCES OF A MELLIFLUOUS LYRIC...



Even after 'hitting' the hit charts constantly what the lyricist could maintain was nothing but verse...

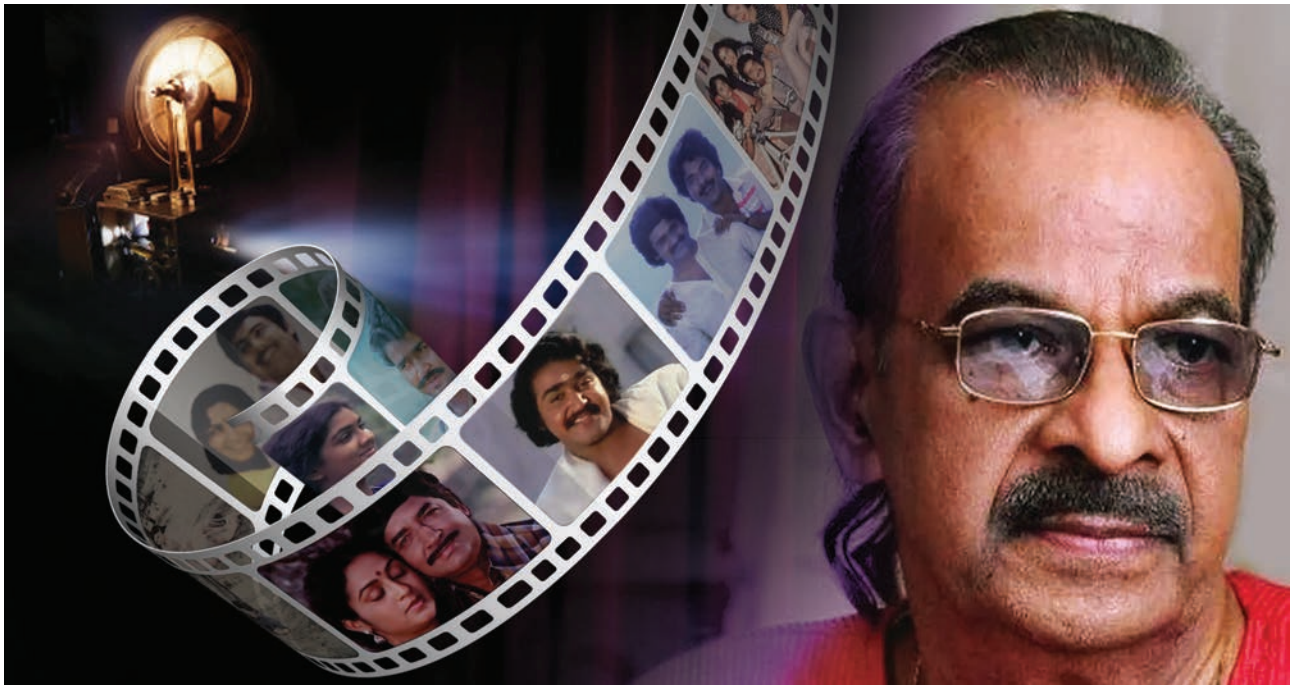
When you 'google' for the name Chunakkara Ramankutty, the first page suggested by the mother search engine on the internet says that he is an actor! True, in his 50+ years of a creative career, he has enacted a role in the movie Kapalika in the year 2013, but it does not mean that he should be remembered as an actor. On the contrary, Chunakkara Ramankutty was a seasoned as well as talented poet and lyricist who will be remembered forever for his undying film songs.

Unlike the celebrated lyricists in Malayalam, Ramankutty's songs bear some peculiarities which made almost all of them instant hit! The idioms, images, and vocabulary that he has imbibed in his writings made it so appealing to the majority. It did not have the Sanskrit hangover or far-fetched imagery that could distance the common man from understanding it. Perhaps the most noteworthy fact that is worth mentioning about his career is his robust combination with ace music director Shyam alias Samuel. The duo successfully produced evergreen

melodies and popular- peppy fast numbers which still invokes the interests of film - music lovers. But until the end, the poet remained to be in a low profile, natural but quite unassuming, whereas his songs were in the top-list across generations.

Ramankutty was born on Karimulakkal, Chunakkara, a village hamlet in Alappuzha district on January 19, 1936. Born to Karyattu Krishnan and Narayani, Ramankutty completed his graduation in Malayalam from the NSS College, Pandalam.

He started writing poems that were



published in periodicals as well as the college magazine. He was actively involved in Theatre. He penned songs for drama troupes like Kollam Assissi, Malankara Theatres, Kerala Theatres, National Theatres and Kollam Gayathri. Later, he started his own drama group 'Malayala Vedi'. After penning songs for nearly 100 popular dramas, his major break was the lyrics that he wrote for the light music aired through Akashavani.

It was in his forties, in the year 1978, his first-ever film album got released, which was from the movie 'Ashramam,' directed by K.K. Chandran. The song "Apsara Kanyake" sung by Jayachandran and set by M. K. Arjunan was only an average one. But his major breakthrough happened in the year 1982 in the movie 'Oru Thira Pinneyum Thira' along with the combination of music director M. G. Radhakrishnan. Both the songs "Oru thira..." and "Devi, Nin roopam.." became super hits. This was followed by super hit songs from the Chunakkara-Shyam duo, like 'Sindoora Thialakvumayi' and 'Mullavallikkudilil' from 'Kuyilinethedi', "Sharatkala Sandhya" and "Devadaaru Poothu" (Engane Nee Marakkum). He wrote lyrics for the first few movies of Priyadarshan including Poochakkoru Mukkithi (Pandorikkal

oru karimpoocha) Kannane kandu Sakhi (Odaruthammava alariyam). Chandanakkuriyumaayi (Oru Nokku Kaanan), Neeyarinjo Melemanath (Kandu Kandarinju), Madhavamasam (Nale njangalude Vivaham), Oru Malarthoppile (Love Story), Ambarappoo Veedhiyile (Irupatham Noottandu), 'Nishagandhi poothu chirichu' (Nanni Veendum Varika), Shyamameghame nee (Adhipan), Hridayavaniyile (Kottayam Kunjachan)...etc. are among the best from him.

He penned more than 200 songs for around 75 movies, mostly of hitmakers like Priyadarshan, Joshy and Sajan. In 1984, he set a record by writing 30 songs for various films. Most of them were written to the pre-set tune and was so appealing, simple and easy-to-recite, that made it so much popular. In 2015 he received the Gurushreshtha Award instituted by Sangeetha Nataka Akademi.

Ramankutty's songs bear some peculiarities which made almost all of them instant hit!

His songs were in the top-list across generations

In 1984, he set a record by writing 30 songs for various films



NOT OF AN AGE BUT FOR ALL TIME

SPORTS



Sabin Iqbal
Author - Journalist

The first thing that caught the eye was the gladiatorial strut down the track to lift the Pakistani fast bowlers over the head. Fearlessness was writ large over those strokes. Having been used to watching sedate batting for some seasons, one thought this young man brought some measure of adventure to the batting crease.

It was way back in 2004. And, the young man with a mane of hair, a pair of powerful hands and a fearless heart was called Mahendra Singh Dhoni. It was in Kenya, and Dhoni was playing for India A. And, soon he was picked for Team India, and began what would become a Dhoni-shaped chapter in Indian cricket history.

Ever since Sir Viv Richards hung his illustrious willow, one had been longing for someone to swagger to the crease and evoke fear and respect in the heart of bowlers. That disdain for reputations, line and length and speed; that folkloric power in the arms. It was heartening to see an

Indian youngster, that too an unknown, callow youth with hinterland blood in his veins, clobbering fast blowers all around the park.

It wasn't a game for him. It was a battle. In fact, all through his 15-year-long career Dhoni played the game as if he was marching into a battlefield. Someone said he walked to the middle of the ground as if the whole Jharkhand was walking with him!

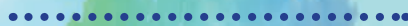
Dhoni was no cricket pundit's joy. Copy book was no sacrosanct religious text for him. In an age where batsmanship was more of positioning of the feet and the head, he knew one thing—the most important thing—to win matches for his team, that too from the jaws of defeat.

He came to the party in his fifth innings, and never looked back.

After Sachin Tendulkar carried the hopes of an entire nation in the 90s, with it's over a billion cricket-crazy people, and gave reasons for the Middle Class to hope for better things in life, Dhoni came on and opened the gates of opportunity to a whole generation of youngsters from the dusty, rustic hinterlands of the country. He picked players out of nowhere and backed them, and asked them to bowl the final over in a T20 World Cup with the title itself at stake. Dhoni asking a Joginder-Who-Singh to bowl the final over against Pakistan in the 2007 T20 World Cup final defined the man and his making.



**That disdain for reputations,
line and length and speed;
that folkloric power
in the arms.**



**Dhoni does not bend
for the ball. The ball bends
for Dhoni.**



**Dhoni was someone who
combined the superhuman
qualities of Spiderman,
Superman, Batman
and Iron Man.**



If Tendulkar caught the imagination of the men in their 20s to believe in a changing India, Dhoni was a legend in the making for the kids, who believed that he drank four litres of milk every day. Dhoni was someone who combined the superhuman qualities of Spiderman, Superman, Batman and Iron Man. His massive sixes and that 'helicopter shot' were akin to the superhuman feats of the legends.

There is an element of mystic heroism in him. "Even his wicketkeeping style seemed pointedly his own. Most wicketkeepers are artisans, below-stairs figures tied to their scullery. Dhoni kept wicket as an act of command, stopping the ball with pads, knees, any available part of the Dhoni presence. Dhoni does not bend for the ball. The ball bends for Dhoni," writes Ronay.

While Dhoni as a batsman became less explosive (he still has an average of 50 in ODI), his captaincy attained maturity both in handling situations and winning titles (he is the only captain to win ODI, T20 World Cups and ICC Championship). Dhoni the wicketkeeper just got better with every passing summer, and he whipped off bails faster than batting of an eyelid.

As he retires from international cricket with the same nonchalance with which he entered it, Dhoni leaves us to live in, as Ronay calls it, a 'Dhoni-shaped world'.

DO NOT NEGLECT THEM!

When we assemble to battle the COVID-19 virus, we must remember the vulnerable amongst us. The needs of the elderly population should not be neglected when we raise our defences against the pandemic. All of us have the responsibility to support them as they are placed in reverse-quarantine.

Well-lit rooms with good ventilation should be selected for those entering reverse-quarantine.

- Necessary medicines should be stockpiled.
- Magazines and newspapers should be provided for recreational purposes.
- They should be provided with a healthy, balanced diet.
- The elderly should be assisted in availing of telemedicine and Sanjeevani services for continuing any treatment they are undergoing.
- Family members should also try to do daily exercises with them.
- If possible, make sure they have access to a TV, mobile phone, laptop and other devices for communication.
- Anyone with a cough, cold, fever and those who are at risk of infection should NOT come in contact with those undergoing reverse-quarantine.
- It is very important to provide the elderly with love, care and unconditional support as they go through this period.

Don't forget to follow



Social distancing, Mask, Soap!

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