

Douglas Allen



Dr. A. Rajagopal Kamath



S. Harikishore IAS

KERALA CALLING



₹ 12

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2020 OCTOBER 01

The
'Success'
Investment
of Kerala



Kerala No. 1

Kerala retained the top position in the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2019, which assesses each State and Union Territory's achievement regarding Sustainable Development goals (SDG) such as good health, quality education, gender equality, Clean water and sanitation, reduction in hunger and poverty, among others.

**KERALA HAD THE TOP RANK AMONG STATES
WITH A SCORE OF 70. LAST YEAR IT WAS 69**

BEST IN GOVERNANCE

LEAST CORRUPT

FIRST IN LAW AND ORDER

BEST IN HEALTH

LOWEST INFANT MORTALITY RATE

LOWEST MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE

BEST IN EMPOWERING THE DIFFERENTLY- ABLED

BEST CHILD- FRIENDLY STATE

TOPS THE FOOD SAFETY INDEX

**KERALA STATE WOMEN DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION WON NATIONAL AWARD**

BEST IN TOURISM

**BAGGED THE BEST STATE FOR TOURISM IN
THE STUDY OF SOS BY INDIA TODAY**

BEST IN EDUCATION

TOP TO ENSURE GIRLS' EDUCATION FACILITY

Optimistic as Always...



Life in the time of pandemic has changed the whole world topsy-turvy and we Keralites are no exclusion to date. Our fight against the Corona-threat has had its ups and downs but mostly we managed to subside the threat, at least in plummeting the mortality-rate. From a 'newnormal' to an imminent threat the pandemic, is there to live with us.

Come what may, we, efficiently and adeptly led by a determined State Government, are rallying behind with nothing but hopeful about a sunny-future. Since there are no petite ways to success, what we have initiated is a colossal task – the 100-days 100 Projects.

The unparalleled enterprise from the State Government enabled the development and welfare of the people of the State intact and sound. Now, the 100 -day project is marching ahead at the anticipated pace sans any hindrances. Every aspect of life is being positively approached and addressed through this 'inventive 100s'. From the downtrodden to the marginalised, everyone is profiting from these projects and the ongoing surge of the projects is elaborated in this month's Kerala Calling.

Meanwhile, no stone is left unturned with the inclusion of the women in Nobel Prize, Gandhi, Life of Akkitham and many more in this issue of the Magazine. Wish all readers would enjoy a splendid reading this time as well.

S. Harikishore IAS
Editor-in-Chief



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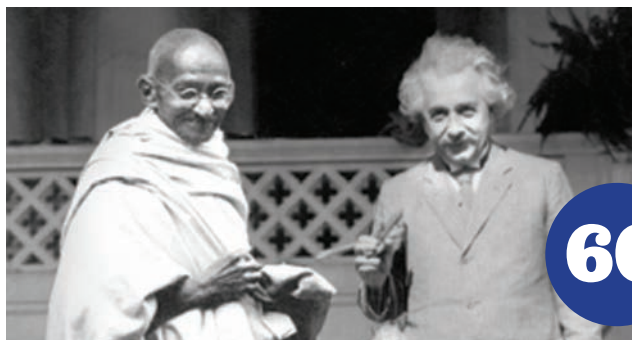
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NEW BENCHMARKS IN GOVERNANCE

Pinarayi Vijayan

Chief Minister of Kerala

In the months of September, October and December Kerala is witnessing inauguration of completed projects, launch of new projects and founding of new institutions. Had it not been for the Covid-19 pandemic this month and the coming months would have been an occasion of merry and celebration for the people of Kerala. So, to mark this special occasion where works of many months are coming to fruition as well as giving a positive vibe to Kerala we have named this special occasion as '100 Days 100 Projects'.



Oxygen plant at KMML, Chavara

This government has set new benchmarks in governance, transparency and accountability. Perhaps ours is the only state government to bring out annual progress reports on election promises. Likewise, we are in the process of creating a new benchmark of welfare and development. The 100 Days 100 Projects campaign is an outcome of such an ambitious attempt to take the project implementation culture of the state. A point must be noted that there are actually 121 projects in this with around 800 component projects in it. Public can monitor the progress and details of each project and its components in the <https://100days.kerala.gov.in/> website made exclusively for this.

In the previous issue, I had mentioned about the projects we are aiming to begin and complete during the next 100 days. We have

increased the welfare pension by Rs 100, i.e a minimum of Rs 1400. We have already begun disbursing the pension on a monthly basis. In the backdrop of Covid-19, we had decided to extend the ration kit scheme in which a monthly groceries kit will be given to each ration card of the state for till December. In yet another first, Kerala has established a Farmer Welfare Fund Board to further the social security net for farmers.

Farmers Welfare Fund members are entitled to a personal pension, family pension, sickness benefit, disability benefit, medical assistance, marriage and maternity allowance, education assistance and posthumous benefits. Farmers have to pay a registration fee of Rs 100 to become a member of the board's welfare fund scheme and a minimum monthly contribution of Rs 100. The Government will provide an equivalent share of up

to Rs 250 to the members of the Welfare Fund. Farmers who have paid their contribution for not less than five years, remain a member of the Welfare Fund without arrears and have completed 60 years of age will be entitled to a pension commensurate with the contribution paid, according to the Board Act.

In the Education sector two major events had taken place in the last one and half months. Kerala's public education system has become completely digital. All public schools in the state are now equipped with at least one high-tech classroom. The second one being the inauguration of Sree Narayana Guru Open University. It is the fourteenth State university in Kerala and the fifteenth open university in India. In September, we saw the inauguration of 34 higher secondary school buildings in various constituencies which



Kerala's general education system has become completely digital

were built at a cost of 5 crore each. In October, another 90 schools were inaugurated as part of the Centres of Excellence programme, a drive to protect the public education system in the State. We have also laid the foundation stone of 54 school buildings to be constructed as part of this campaign. Of the 90 Centres of Excellence, four buildings have been constructed at a cost of Rs 5 crores with funding from KIIFB, 20 buildings were built a cost of Rs 3 crores, 62 buildings were built using plan funds and four buildings were constructed with assistance from NABARD. 34 new school buildings would be constructed at a cost of Rs 3 crores each with KIIFB funding and 20 buildings at a cost of Rs 40 crores from the plan fund.

This is part of the Government's ambitious plans to turn one school in each assembly constituency

into a centre of excellence. Rs 3,129 crores has been set aside for infrastructure development of schools and the construction of 250 new school buildings will begin soon. Infrastructure is being developed in more than 350 schools using plan funds. Centres of excellence would be set up in all constituencies. Infrastructure development activities of Rs 5 crores each are being implemented in 141 schools with KIIFB funding. In many constituencies, KIIFB has given more than Rs 5 crores to MLAs. These schools have 7.55 lakh sq ft of high-tech classrooms, kitchen blocks, dining halls, toilet blocks, laboratories and auditoriums.

Students in Kerala can proudly say that the facilities available here are at par with the best centres anywhere in the world. We are not stopping here, we are taking steps to make all classrooms in all

schools high-tech.

Government is taking special care to provide inclusive education to marginalized sections of our society. We have inaugurated 12,250 study rooms constructed using government funds at the houses of Scheduled Caste students who did not have adequate facilities to study at home. Along with these, another 250 community study rooms for Scheduled Tribe students were also opened. We have provided Rs. 2 lakh to each SC household for the purpose. The size of each study room is 120 square feet. The construction of 48 rooms were completed in the year 2017-18. Another 5,217 were completed in 2019-20, and 4,828 in 2020-21. The government expects to complete the construction of 8,500 more study rooms by early 2021. The financial assistance has been provided to 16,000 families so far.



34 New Govt. School Buildings Inaugurated by the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

We are also improving the hostel facilities for ST students. Three new pre-matric hostels have been set up at Sholayur, Irumbpaalam and Anavai. The post-metric hostel for girls is being built in Agali. The hostel at Sholayur can accommodate 60 boys, the Irumbupalam 100 girls and Anavi 100 children. A three-storey building with state-of-the-art facilities has been constructed at Sholayur and Irumbpaalam. Anavi has a new two-story building. A state-of-the-art three-storey building is being constructed at Agali at a cost of Rs 4.74 crores. These will also have facilities to raise the academic standards of the students.

The government was considering starting new post-matric hostels for girls in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. After this government came to power, new hostels were started in Aluva,

Mannanthala and Kozhinjampara.

Our vision is not just to educate the marginalised sections but to aid them in finding jobs as well. We have also provided employment for 19,000 educated people in these categories. 1,140 persons were imparted skill development training in the construction sector. Construction work in government departments would be handed over to them. 3,170 people were trained in other occupations. The government has also been able to provide employment to 2,500 people under various schemes. 100 persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes were given employment through special recruitment. Another 125 would be appointed soon.

On the employment front although there is a general sense of gloom due to the pandemic which has created alarming unemployment

in the State. We have developed an integrated plan to address this and it is being implemented to create new jobs. 50,000 jobs were announced earlier in the non-agricultural sector as part of the 100 days 100 projects. A detailed document has been prepared on the areas in which these agencies are at the forefront of employment. Now, we have revised the target to 95,000 jobs out of which at least 50,000 jobs are guaranteed to be created by December.

Through the government and quasi-government public sector undertakings we will provide employment to 18,600 personnel. This includes permanent, temporary and contract appointments. 425 posts will be created in higher secondary schools, 700 posts in aided colleges and 300 temporary posts as part of the new courses. Appointments to 6,911 posts in aided schools



Phase 1 of Kochi Metro complete, Thaikudam to Petta stretch inaugurated

will be regularized. 700 posts will be created in medical colleges and 500 posts in the public health system. Covid First Line Treatment Centers will provide temporary employment to over 1,000 people. 500 persons from the Scheduled Tribes will be appointed as Beat Officers in the Forest department. Apart from the health and education departments, 1,717 people will be employed in other departments. Appointments in government service and in public sector quasi-government institutions will be made through PSC. The target is to recruit at least 5,000 people within 100 days through PSC.

Public Sector Undertakings: There will be 1,761 appointments in 42 PSUs, including 1,178 permanent appointments, 342 temporary appointments and 241 contract appointments. The Kerala

State Electronics Development Corporation (KELTRON) will employ 241 people. More than 100 appointments will be made in Kerala Minerals and Metals, Travancore Titanium, Kerala State Textile Corporation, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation and Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited. A total of 766 appointments will be made in these five institutions.

150 jobs will be created for the new Homco factory. 500 permanent / temporary appointments will be made in the Co-operative Department and Institutions. 1,000 persons will be recruited in KSFE here through PSC. 348 people will get employment in six agro-industrial public sector undertakings institutions. All in all, 3977 people will be recruited or created in public sector institutions within the next 100 days.

Industrial Sector: The industrial sector will create 23,100 jobs in 100 days, including 1,760 direct recruitment in public sector companies mentioned earlier. At least 2,400 MSME units and 7,200 jobs will be created in the second quarter through the district industrial centers. Under the Kerala MSME Facilitation Act, 4,053 persons have been given permission to start small scale industries. These ventures will provide employment to at least 6,000 people. Investment subsidy has been sanctioned to 700 enterprises under the Industries Department which will provide employment to 4,600 people. 17,500 jobs in the Cooperative sector and 15,441 in Kudumbasree are some of the other job creation targets of the government.

In our road infrastructure and traffic management,



Life Apartment Complex-Pandalam, Pathanamthitta

Life Apartment Complex-Poothady, Wayanad

we are undergoing massive transformation. Our government has made the national highway development possible, which was thought impossible by many. To expedite the national highway development, Kerala has agreed to bear 25% of the land acquisition costs. We have laid the foundation stones for seven highway projects worth Rs 11,571 crore and inaugurated a 27-kilometre highway project from Kazhakootam to Mukkola, built at a cost of Rs 1,121 crore. works costing Rs 19,800 crore are targeted for completion by 2024 while 30 projects of an aggregate length of 549 kilometres for an amount of Rs 5,327 crore are under implementation. In the PWD department we have dedicated 181 PWD Roads at a cost of Rs 1273 crore and KSTP roads of length 158 km built at a cost of Rs 901

crore. We have also unveiled a flagship infrastructure project to find an alternative route to the hilly Wayanad district, the Kozhikode-Wayanad Tunnel Project. It is funded by KIIFB and implemented as an SPV with Konkan Rail Corporation. With the completion of Thaikudam to Pettah line, our government has completed the entire phase one of Kochi Metro Rail Project. The construction of the Peruman Bridge at a cost Rs 42 crores across the Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam district will begin in November. The construction of 38 bridges under the Public Works Department will begin by November.

In traffic management we have introduced the e-Challan system. The e-Challan system is being introduced as part of the modernisation efforts of

the Kerala Police, especially in traffic enforcement. Earlier, there were several complaints when a fine was imposed but now traffic cameras record the traffic offences accurately and the fines are imposed without any direct contact. The road transport sector in Kerala will undergo revolutionary changes in the near future. The integrated traffic management system will be completed soon so that all major roads and junctions in the state can be viewed in real-time.

There are more such developments and achievements under the current government's sleeve in the sectors of public health, housing, sanitation, environment protection etc. I hope to share it in the next issue. Meanwhile you can log on to 100days.kerala.gov.in portal for the updates regarding all projects.

PROJECTS WITH THE SOUL 'ELEMENT'

A.K. Balan

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

Various departments under the ministry have set to achieve 7 verifiable targets under the 100 days 100 programs envisaged by the Chief Minister of Kerala. Scheduled caste Development department has one project; Scheduled Tribe Development Department has two and culture affairs four.

feet.

A padanamuri built under the scheme will be having 120 sq feet as plinth area, a built in wall - shelf for books, table and chair, a personal computer, electricity connection and other amenities. The local bodies, NGOs and CSR agencies have also put in their hand by providing furniture and computers

to the students. The department fixed a target of completing 12500 Padanamuris within the 100 days achieved the same.

Scheduled Tribe Development Department

The STDD (Scheduled Tribe Development Department) proposed to complete the construction of 3 Prematric hostels



Sree narayana Guru statue at Thiruvanthapuram and Pandit karuppan memmorial hall in Eranakulam

and a Post matric hostel and to complete the implementation of the development project for Tribal families who live scattered among the other social groups.

Pre-matric hostels and a Post matric hostel

Construction of all the four hostels have been completed; Pre-matric Hostels in Sholayoor, Anavayi and Irumpupalam and the the one at Agali.

PK Kalan ST Family Development Benefit scheme

Under the scheme, 141 families in Alappuzha Dist and 74 families in Malampuzha Panchayath in Palakad will get basic amenities and livelihood support.

Cultural Affairs Department

Four projects were included in

the 100 days programme by the department of Cultural Affairs - Installing the statue of Sree Narayana Guru in Thiruvananthapuram, foundation stone laying for Pundit Karuppan Memorial at Cherayi, Ernakulam, launching a new studio for Radio Malayalam and TK Padmini Art Gallery at Durbar Hall, Ernakulam.

The statue of Sree Narayana Guru

A statue of Sree Narayana Guru was erected at the Observatory Hills in Thiruvananthapuram under the Department of Culture. The project costs Rs. 1.90 crores which includes a garden.

Pandit Karuppan Memorial

An amount of 49 lakh has been sanctioned for the construction of a memorial for Pundit Karuppan at Cherai in Ernakulam district.

Studio for Radio Malayalam

Studio for 'Radio Malayalam' under the Malayalam Mission is another ongoing project from the Department of Culture.

T. K. Padmini Art Gallery and Museum

An art gallery in the name of the renowned artist T. K. Padmini is coming up in Durbar Hall, Ernakulam. The works of the gallery and museum are in the last stage.

50000 employment in 100 days

The Scheduled caste development department has provided employment to 21 persons. Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation will provide employment to 3060 and Kerala State Corporation for SC/ST will provide employment to 1500 persons.

ON TRACK WITH FLAMBOYANCE

E. Chandrasekharan

Minister for Revenue & Housing

'Benevolent governance is not at all a dream', proves the State Government of Kerala time and again. The ongoing 100-days 100 projects too exemplifies the determination of the Government.



It is an extensively appreciated certitude that fair distribution of land among its citizens has been the linchpin of Kerala's development story. Those notably chronicled land reforms measures initiated by various progressive Governments of Kerala are actually a spectral continuum emerging from the aspirations of millions

who have toiled hard and long in the soil for generations. The present State Government of Kerala too is committed to the promises it had made to the people.

This Government has already endowed 1,63,000 families with ownership of land. During the 100 days' action plan 10000 more

titles on land are being readied for distribution to the eligible, by the end of October 2020 itself.

The momentum of making promises deliverable was not retarded even during the peak of pandemic Covid. In all spheres of governance, long outstanding demands of the public as well as of civil service are being



Vallikunnam Smart Village Office inaugurated by the Revenue Minister E. Chandrashekaran

realized expeditiously. 16 SMART VILLAGE offices are being inaugurated during these 100 days. Foundation stones for 159 more SMART VILLAGE offices are to be laid in the coming days. 65,000 pattayams will be additionally distributed alongside.

DIGITIZATION is reaching completion with disaster response and relief disbursement being brought under RELIS software; granting access to all services offered by revenue department through a single login revenue portal facility; making all proceedings of Revenue offices, right from the Land Revenue Commissionerate to Village offices paperless, vide

an e-office system; Right to Information Act procedures to be transacted through online; and land and survey records being entirely digitized.

This Government has already created an epoch of fulfilled promises, adhering close to its perfect plans of welfare and development. The 100 Days' Action Plan is just another display of this Government's inclusive character and success. And, the best thing is that this festival of peoples' welfare, prosperity and development of the state is not to be given any pause after these 100 glorious days. Many more initiatives and accomplishments are in the offing.

During the 100 days' action plan 10000 more titles on land are being readied for issue

This Government has already created an epoch of fulfilled promises

The momentum of making promises deliverable was not retarded even during the peak of the pandemic Covid 19

FUTURISTIC EDU-BOOM

Dr. K. T. Jaleel

Minister for Higher Education, Welfare
of Minorities, Wakf & Hajj Pilgrimage

As part of 100 days programmes, 45 various projects spending over Rs. 64 Cr. is being inaugurated in higher education institutions spread across the length and breadth of the State. This includes 19 projects under Dept. of Collegiate Education, 11 under Dept. of Technical Education, 3 in Universities, 9 in IHRD and 3 under ASAP. A new College of Applied Science which runs on the cost - sharing basis was also sanctioned to IHRD, at Ayiroor, Pathanamthitta. Projects which are being inaugurated under Dept. of Technical Education mostly consist of developmental activities at various Technical High Schools across the State. Several other projects are nearing completion in all these departments/institutions.



The advent of State's first Open University is like a pearl in the crown of various developmental activities happening so far in

the higher education arena. Government considers educational infrastructure; buildings, classrooms, laboratories etc.

as crucial elements of learning environments in colleges and universities and has made meticulous attempts in developing



Sree Narayana Guru Open University at Kollam

such ecosystems conducive for higher learning.

There is strong evidence that high-quality infrastructure facilitates better instruction, improves student outcomes, and reduces dropout rates, among other benefits. Obviously, one could observe that Kerala made evidential progress at all levels of education during the last 3-4 years.

But at the same time, one could also see that developments happened in this sector in the past are not uniform across localities and regions. Some regions/districts in the State have shown remarkable

progress in education while others lagged. Such differential development may be accounted for by various micro-level factors. The Government tried to level this gap between various regions by sanctioning modern programmes, more seats, funds in abundance, recruiting teachers and staff etc. Over 1400 teachers and over 3600 non-teaching staff were recruited at various levels and at least 59 new courses were sanctioned. Several seats in UG/PG were enhanced by almost Twenty-Five thousand. The coming months will see the scintillating result of many exemplary activities undertaken in this direction.

The advent of State's first Open University is like a pearl in the crown of various developmental activities happening so far in the higher education arena

Over 1400 teachers and over 3600 non-teaching staff were recruited at various levels

Kerala made evidential progress at all levels of education during the last 3-4 years

MARCHING AHEAD WITH FORTITUDE

E. P. Jayarajan

Minister for Industries, Sports & Youth Affairs

The State Government has launched a number of schemes for the comprehensive development of the industrial and sports sectors as part of the 100-Days 100 Projects. Medical Devices Park is being set up at Life Sciences Park, Thiruvananthapuram to manufacture medical devices in Kerala. Four stadiums in Thrissur, Kannur and Palakkad districts and Palakkad Mega Food Park were constructed and dedicated to the people. The diversification of Keltron and the Alappuzha Co-operative Spinning Mill and the new oxygen plant at KMML will ensure greater efficiency.



The Government has announced reform measures to make Kerala more investment - friendly. There is also an opportunity to renew licenses and permits through

K Swift 2.0 - the latest version of K.Swift aims to expedite the issuance of licenses and other permits to initiate investment. K.Swift now has an online incentive

system for entrepreneur support scheme and a professional tax payment system. The toll-free number 1800 890 1030 was set up to answer entrepreneurs' queries.



KSIDC Life Sciences Park, Thiruvananthapuram

Investment Facilitation to assist a five-member committee to consider applications for entrepreneurial licenses.

The Medical Devices Park will be located at the Life Sciences Park in Thonnyakkal, Thiruvananthapuram. From research and development of advanced equipment, testing, new technologies and knowledge exchange the MDP aim to provide all the services required for the medical - market equipment souk under one umbrella. It is a joint venture between KSIDC and Sri ChithiraThirunal Institute of Medical Science and Technology.

The first mega food park in

Palakkad has been completed under the leadership of KINFRA. It is a large-scale project to create value-added products from agricultural resources and thereby ensure the protection of the agricultural sector. About 50 units are expected to be constructed in the food park. Land has already been allotted for 30 units here.

Infrastructure development in the field of sports

State-of-the-art stadiums were inaugurated at Kaiparambu, Kunnankulam in Thrissur district, Pilathara in Kannur district and Kannampra in Palakkad district. The 14 district stadiums and the 43 stadiums that are being set up

with to have one playground in one panchayat.

- A new oxygen plant has been set up at Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited to enhance production efficiency. Built at a cost of Rs 50 crore, the plant is energy efficient and automated. The plant can produce 70 tons of oxygen per day.

The modernization of Alappuzha Co-operative Spinning Mill will increase productivity by 20% and make the quality comparable to private spinning mills. Textile Dyeing and Printing Unit to be started at Kannur Nadukani under Kerala State Textile Corporation.

BLOOMING OF A NEVER-BEFORE BOOM

Kadakampally Surendran

Minister for Co-operation, Tourism & Devaswoms

Several projects that stand to be inaugurated spread across the 14 districts and more are in the ongoing stature. The aim is to attract tourists with a variety of tourist-friendly and attractive sites. Every possibility is explored and what awaits is a never-before tourism bloom in God's Own Country.



Thiruvananthapuram

Ponmudi - A new block with state-of-the-art facilities is being completed at a cost of Rs 4 crore. The main components are a playground for children and a seating area.

Veli Swimming Pool & Park Development

Outdoors, the Miniature Railway and Veli Urban Park will add to the attraction of Veli Tourist Village. Akkulam - Mam Ghat Development, Sasthampara Tourism Development, Neyyar Dam Tourism Infrastructure Development Project, renovation of Kanakakunnu Palace and Shankhumukham Beach parking and recreation center will be

completed and opened to the public.

Kollam

Development of Kollam Beach

Near the beach a children's park, boating facilities and aquarium have been constructed.

Pathanamthitta

Moolloor Memorial

Beautification Project

A project of Rs. 49 lakhs, was approved and administered. Construction of retaining wall and gates, planting of trees, construction of stairs, maintenance of existing roof-tile, lay flooring, installing park bench, plant medicinal plants, construction work on the lotus pond, landscaping, electrification, parking area renovation and laying of pavements have all been completed.

Kottayam

Green Tourism Complex, Pala

The Green Tourism Complex, which is nearing completion in the heart of Pala.

Idukki

Aruvikuzhi Tourism Development Project

The first phase of construction of the project has been completed. A cafeteria, disability-friendly bars, ticket calendar, arch bridge, sidewalks, parking area, landscaping and rain shelter have been constructed.

Elappara Amity Center Tourism Project

It includes a cafeteria, amenity center, toilets, parking, small check dam, seating, protection and fencing prepared for the tourists.

ChembanKolumban Samadhi Memorial

A memorial to the late ChembanKolumban who is integral to the history of the dam has been constructed.

Alappuzha

Improvement to Road by the Side of Pampa River to Facilitate House Boat Parking at Chungam-Thirumala in the Alappuzha Municipality- In the Thirumala

ward, boat jetties with basic facilities have been constructed. Ernakulam

Bhootathankettu Tourism Project

Landscaping, view tower hand-railing, water conservation methods, 2 tree houses, renovation of 2 cottages, yard lighting, pergola, open-air theatre, drinking water facilities, dustbins, benches and seating etc are some of the conveniences that have been added.

Thrissur

Thumburmoozhi Tourism Project

The project includes Diesel Generator, Children's Park, Pathway, Curtain Fronton, Foot Over Bridge, Lighting Relocation of Shops, Includes seating arrangement, toilet block, conference hall and rain shelter. At present the cost of completion of the above components is 3.30 crore.

Palakkad

Mangalam Dam Garden

Renovation and development of Mangalam Dam Park has been given the green light by the government along with an administrative sanction of Rs 4.76 crore.

Malappuram

Thunchan Memorial and Nilayoram Park are the two projects included here.

Kozhikode

Green Carpet Renovation of Vadakara Sand Banks

Stone benches, water kiosks, CCTV, Public Address System, renovation of restrooms, lifeguard equipment storage room, solar lighting, landscaping, children's

park, playground equipment security cabin, gates and fences, rain shelter, renovation of roofing, boundary fence, water and electricity connection, dustbins and seating areas have been constructed.

Kannur

Swami Math Park

Cafeteria, a compound wall with gate, interlocking pathways, landscaping, lighting, open stage, game equipment, seating arrangement, toilet blocks are part of the completed project.

Beautification of Bund Road at Choksi - As part of the project, a walkway, shop kiosk, newspaper kiosk, entrance equipped with arch, handrail, seating, dustbins, and solar lighting is provided. The Pazhayangadi boat terminal in Kannur district is ready for inauguration.

Wayanad

Chinkeri Mountain Rock Adventure Tourism

An entrance plaza consisting of a ticket counter, cloakroom, office room as well as toilet and pantry block, pergola, multi-facility block have been constructed as fundamental amenities.

Kasargode

Beautification of the arch and street to Bekal Fort

An arch, interlocking pathways, compound walls, traffic circle, waiting sheds, toilets are part of the construction and have been successfully completed.

State-of-the-art light and sound show equipment has been set up at Bekal Fort.

'STREAMING' NON-STOP

K. Krishnankutty

Minister for Water Resources

Four megaprojects of the Water Resource Department are included in the 100-days programmes of the State Government of Kerala. Three of them have already been inaugurated. The completion of the remaining projects is being done at a quick pace. The projects like the State - level inauguration of Jala Jeevan Mission Programme, installation of pipelines for the Drinking Water Project at Kadamakkudi, the inauguration of coastline conservation project has been completed.



Jala Jeevan Mission

21.42 lakhs connections are intended to be provided in the state as part of the Jala Jeevan Mission in the ongoing financial year. The government has given approval to 16.48 lakhs connections in 716 panchayats. All these are in different phases of completion.

89 small and large drinking water projects have been completed till date by the combined efforts of NABARD, State plan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme and KIIFB after this Government came into power. An extra quantity of about 416 million litres of drinking was generated.

1011 Drinking water projects were

completed via Jananidhi during the period of this Government. 8.11 lakhs people from 1.81 lakhs families availed access to drinking water through this. The comprehensive reservoir plans for 911 Grama panchayats were made as part of the Harithakerala mission Jalasamrudhi project. 8675 ponds were constructed under the mission. 9889 ponds and 4625



Kerala Water Authority exploring new possibilities

wells were renovated. 48936 wells were recharged.

Drinking Water for Everyone in Kadamakkudi

Processes of changing the old pipelines at Kadamakkudi panchayat at Ernakulam have been completed. The announcement of the completion of the freshwater distribution chain of the panchayat which comprises of 8 water surrounded islands was done. Kadamakkudi will become the first

panchayat in Ernakulam to avail drinking water through pipelines with this.

239.74 Crores for Coastline Conservation

A Coastline Conservation project in the State amounting to rupees 239.74 crores also commenced in October. Rs. 184.04 crores project has been formulated for the shoreline conservation and protection of fishermen folks of Alappuzha, Ambalapuzha and

Haripad constituencies.

Three projects amounting to 69.6 lakh rupees for the construction of temporary seawalls using geobags at a length of 475 metres at Vachakkal, Companyppady, Cheriya Kadavu areas of Chellanam panchayat have been completed.

Temporary seawalls using geobags at a length of 900 metres have been constructed at Malakhappady, Deepthi Anganawadi, Bazar, Velankanni, Chalakkadavu, Reethalayam, Puthanthodu areas. ●

THE KSEB '100' IN 'POWER-MODE'

M. M. Mani

Minister for Electricity

Electrifying pace has been achieved in the accomplishment of the 100 days' 100 projects in the KSEB. If the improved quality in service was the hallmark of the entity in the past four years, it is the widening of mega and needy projects with a futuristic approach now, redefine the power - sector prowess of this State.



Information technology plays a major role in improving the quality of power services. The KSEB has launched five new IT - based services which in turn became one of the prominent 'ones' in the 100 Days' Plan. Now, customers from those areas where manual support to assess the consumption of electricity, can apply for their own meter - readings and all other electricity services online.

Kothamangalam, Chalakudy and Kaloor 220 KV substations under the Transgrid project are included in the 100-day program; five new substations will be completed in 100 days.

Charging stations for electric vehicles are being set up in no time. Six such stations in each of the six Municipal corporations

have been completed under the auspices of the KSEB and one each in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi under the auspices of ANERT. In addition, ANERT and the EESL, a central public sector undertaking, will launch 60 electric vehicles.

Steps have been initiated to add 25 MW from the rooftop solar projects. The 92 MW Floating Solar Power Station at



KSEB Solar Projects

Kayamkulam Thermal Power Station and the 50 MW Solar Park at Kasargod are being completed during this '100' period. 167 MW of electricity will be added within these 100 days.

The Chaitanyam project undertaken by the Energy Management Center, Thiruvananthapuram Medical College, Thrissur Medical College and General Hospital, Pala is intended to be completed during this period. During this period, a pilot project for the mitigation of electrical hazards will be launched as part of the e-Safe project.

14 new substations have been inaugurated. Lakkidi Electrical Section and Nedumkandam Transmission Division started functioning.

The State Government is committed to achieving complete

electrification, power supply without power cuts and load shedding.

Projects intended to be completed before February 2020 KSEB

IT Oriented projects

IPDS Phase 2 Project - Upgradation of Power Lines in 21 Cities.

Transgrid Project

Aluva and Kundamangalam substations will be completed within the February - target.

11 substations

Pattambi, Mannuthi, Vennakkara, Edakkara, Edathala, Karunagapally, Nilambur, Nenmara, Mankada, Marayoor & Vilakulam)

Water plants

Upper Kallar (2 MW), Peringalkoothu (24 MW), Thottiyar (40 MW), Chathankottunada (6 MW) and Chenkulam Augmentation

(85 million units) have been completed.

Solar power

95 MW to be completed by November.

A Renewable Energy Datacenter will be set up in a time-bound manner

- 54 charging stations for electric vehicles will be set up on the land of the Electricity Board
- Projects worth Rs. 405 crores under Dyuthi scheme by February.
- 11 kV. Line: 1091 km
- LT Line: 2088 km
- 11 kV Reconnecting: 1227 km.
- LT Line reconditioning: 11557 km.
- ABC 11 KV: 547 km.
- ABC LT : 785 km
- U.G. 11 kV : 125 km
- Transformers: 550 nos
- Fault pass indicators: 2625 nos ●

SAFE-HARBOURING THE SEA-WEALTH

J. Mercykutty Amma

Minister for Fisheries & Harbour Engineering

The Fisheries Department is focusing on safe fishing and provides more infrastructure for the safety of fishermen. The inauguration of Koyilandy and Manjeswaram harbours marked the significance of the 100-day program. 66.07 crore was spent on Koyilandy fishing harbor and Rs. 48.13 crore was spent on Manjeswaram fishing harbour. Now, more than 35,000 fishermen will be able to go fishing comfortably.



If the seas become turbulent, ships can safely anchor in the harbor. The Muthalapozhi and Thalai ports were commissioned after the Government came to power. The construction of 16 fishing harbours has been completed and more in progress. In addition to the commissioned Koyilandy and Manjeswaram harbours, the Chellanam, Vellayil and Tanur fishing ports will be completed by

December.

During the tenure of this Government, great progress has been made in the development of coastal roads in the State. During the last four years, administrative sanction has been given for the construction of 1663 roads worth 726,298 crores as part of the State Coastal Road Development Project. Out of this, construction of

773 roads costing around Rs. 230 crores have been completed and the construction of the remaining roads will be completed soon.

The project envisioned a fair auction hall and other infrastructure. Subsequently, in 2014, the foundation stone of the project was laid. It was completed in August 2020 because of the Government's comprehensive

intervention. The government paid close attention to the completion of the project by easing the progress of permission and construction. It incurred a cost of 48.13 crores. With the completion of this project, 19000 fishermen living in the coastal areas of Koyilandy will be able to go fishing even in adverse weather conditions.

The dedication of this government to the public and to the development of this state remains strong, with its many developmental activities continuing even during the time of the pandemic.



CONSTRUCTIVE AS EVER...

A.C. Moideen

Minister for Local Self Governments

The state Government is moving ahead with the goal of building a new Kerala. The Government have decided to implement 100 days projects to speed up the developmental programmes.



Construction of 29 Apartment Complexes

As part of the 100 - days programme of the Government, LIFE Mission has initiated the construction of 29 apartment complexes in all the 14 districts of Kerala. All the housing complexes under Phase 3 would be constructed using Prefab technology to save time

and labour. Each apartment is of 460 sq. ft size and has common facilities like lift, washing area, compost plant, health sub-centre, Kudumbashree counselling centre, youth club, gender club, crèche, etc. The beneficiaries would be provided with various livelihood training programmes too. In addition to the above, construction of apartment

complexes is steadily progressing in 8 locations of the state which would be completed by the end of January 2021. Under Care Home project of Cooperative Department, another 14 apartment complexes too would be constructed soon. 15,000 houses under PMAYLIFE scheme and 10,000 houses under LIFE scheme will be completed within 100 days.



Multi level car parking , Thiruvananthapuram

Multi Level Car Parking System

The location of the structure is at Thiruvananthapuram Corporation premises, Palayam. Across seven floors, the facility can accommodate 102 cars at a time.

Integrated Local Governance Management System (ILGMS)

The Integrated Local Governance Management System (ILGMS) is a new software system developed by the Information Kerala Mission in open - source technology that incorporates the latest technologies in information technology to provide timely, efficient and transparent services to the public from the Grama Panchayats in Kerala. The implementation of the software is going on in full swing across the 150 local bodies.

Integrated plastic waste

management facility

Clean Kerala Company Limited has come with a proposal to address the plastic waste generating in the state scientifically. Steps have been taken to start the construction of the unit.

Livelihood for 15,000 people

Government of Kerala has launched 'Athijeevanam Keraleeyam- 100 Day Programme' as part of the efforts to overcome the havoc caused due to the unprecedented floods of 2018, 2019 and the problems arise due to the covid-19 pandemic, which envisaged creating livelihood opportunities for 50,000 people.

As part of this, Kudumbashree targets to create new livelihood opportunities for 15,000 people. Arrangements will be made for self-employment for those who have received skill training. People who are interested in self-employment will be identified

and extended training as well. Also, waged labor will be set up through Kudumbashree Facility Management Centres.

It is planned to arrange job for 600 people through Micro Enterprises (Rural), 660 through Micro Enterprises (Urban), 3000 through Green Enterprises, 1750 through Janakeeya Hotels, 360 through Kudumbashree Disinfection teams, 700 through Kudumbashree Agro-Value addition enterprises, 1000 through Startup Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), 2000 through DDUGKY/ NULM, 30 through Kudumbashree Marketing kiosks, 44 through Kudumbashree Marketing Outlet and Shop, 500 through Home shop, 100 through Kerala Chicken enterprises, 15 through Kerala Chicken outlets, 3195 through local job opportunities and 1046 people through Kudumbashree Facility Management Centers.

THE WOODS ARE LOVELY, DARK AND DEEP...

K. Raju

Minister for Forests, Animal Husbandry & Zoos

Despite being among the smallest states in India, Kerala has dedicated 29 percent of its geographical area for forests, and thereby caught global attention for its effective conservation and wildlife protection activities. Ours is also a State that has continued to secure third place in the country in terms of forest cover growth and wildlife protection have gained greater relevance in modern life.



The Forest Department, in the past four years has taken concerted efforts to enhance the conservation efforts and protect wildlife through its various novel and constructive projects. The department has made landmark achievements with a slew of programmes such as Rejuvenation of natural forests, Environmental restoration, “Nagaravanam”, ‘Vidya Vanam’ and Coir root trainer (non-plastic

seedling containers) apart from declaring Karimpuzha as the 18th Wildlife Sanctuary of the State. Ambitious ventures such as Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Thiruvananthapuram and Zoological Park at Puthoor in Thrissur district that are getting ready with international standards are poised to take State’s repute to greater heights globally.

Elephant Museum in Konni

The elephant camp at Konni features an elephant museum that sheds light on the nitty-gritty of jumbos, an elephant ride facility, a file board manufacturing unit using treated elephant dung, bee-keeping unit, medicinal herbs garden, eatery, and a parking lot. A refurbished elephant museum



Elephant Safari, Konni

complex and the section of the old museum will be inaugurated soon.

Restoration of natural forests

The ambitious project of transforming plantations into natural forests assume greater dimension in the backdrop of the natural disasters that have ravaged the State in the past three years. Kerala, undoubtedly, has emerged as the first in the country to undertake the job of converting man-made plantations into natural forests on a massive scale.

Voluntary Relocation Project

The forest department mooted the 'Voluntary Relocation project'

for the benefit of non-tribal communities living in the deep interior of forests. In the first phase, 108 families from the colonies of Channamala, Mathrakarikkakom, Vattakarikkakom in Thiruvananthapuram district will be resettled.

Gandhi Smrithi Vanam

Purakkad village, with its rich share of 600 acres of wetland, blessed with Kerala's indigenous biodiversity, has played a vital role in improving the ecological balance of the State, and Alappuzha district in particular.

The region is closely interwoven with the lives of diverse segments of people. A lot of livelihood

options can be generated for the local people through the better management of this area. Hence the government proposes to declare the 'Gandhi Smrithi Vanam' as a reserve.

Declaration of Peringad Reserve

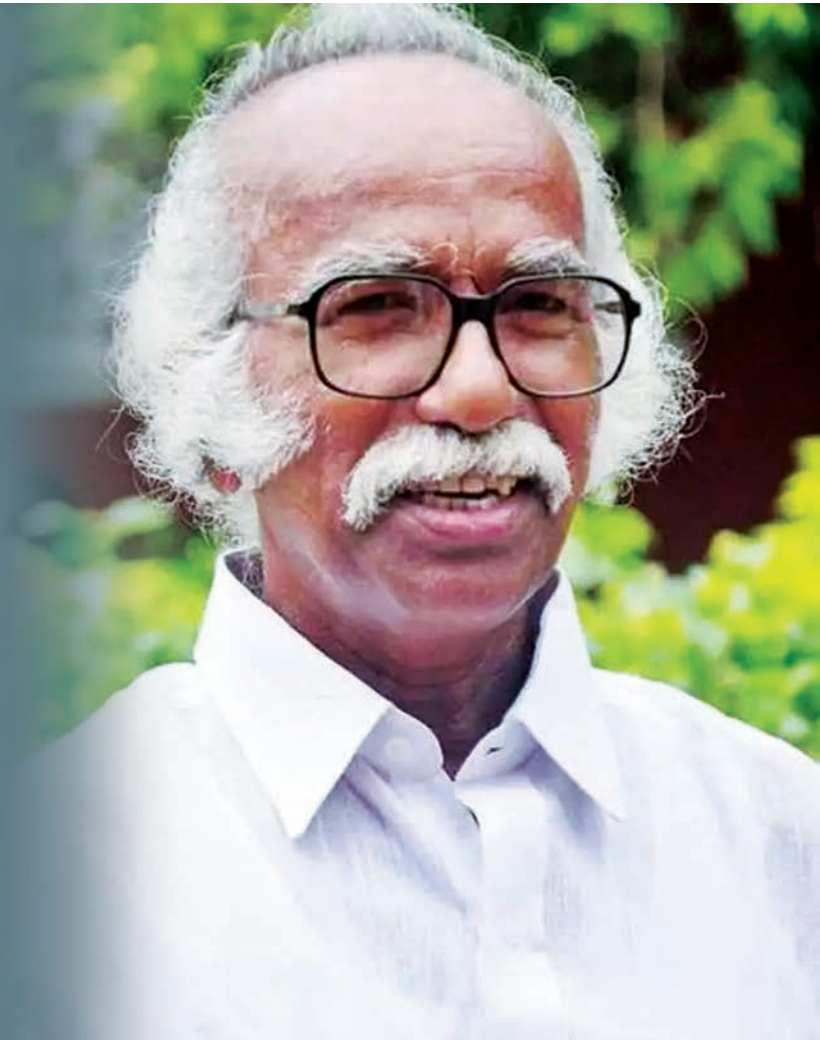
The Kole wetlands that sprawl 13,600 hectares in Thrissur and Malappuram districts hold a predominant place in the landscape of Kerala. The authorities are exploring the options of converting the area comprising Peringad river and the adjoining wetlands into Peringad Reserve with options for improving the livelihoods of local people.

BOUNTIFUL INITIATIVES...

Ramachandran Kadannappalli

Minister for Ports, Museum, Archeology & Archives

Earnest and sincere efforts have been made in the departments of Ports, Museum, Archaeology and Archives in shaping and executing development activities by implementing modern methods and technologies. Under the Department of Ports the dream project - Vizhinjam International Seaport works are in full swing. Proximity to International shipping route is the main advantage of this seaport. The works connected to the breakwater is in progress. Port operation Building, an integral part of the Port project has been materialized. Azhikkal Sea Port project in Kannur District is another major project. Developmental activities are in full swing in all non-major ports too.



100 DAYS 100 PROJECTS

- Vizhinjam Port Operation Building started functioning.

- Provided facility for crew Construction of various components of the Port such as container Berth, Power station and water supply scheme are

- nearing completion.
- Construction of breakwater is in progress.

Vizhinjam Port - works in progress



REPLICATING HISTORY...

T.P. Ramakrishnan

Minister for Labour, Skills and Excise

Within the last four years, both the Ministry of Excise and the Ministry of Labour and Skills in the State carried out various programmes which are milestones in the development history of Kerala. Now, through the 100-days 100-projects initiative the ministries are out there to replicate history.



- Up - gradation of 10 industrial training institutes on par with international standards with the financial support of KIIFB.

The benchmarking needs to be done to raise the standards in terms of Infrastructure

- Machinery
- Adoption of latest technology
- Pedagogical skills
- 3DM and visual classrooms
- Industrial tie-ups
- Production centers
- Provision of basic and sports

amenities.

- Improvement of overall ambience and aesthetics.
- Startups and innovation centers
- Introduction of the dual training system
- Tie - ups with Internationally and globally recognized institutions to provide additional certification
- ISO Certification

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project has been approved with a total financial outlay for an

amount of Rs 82.498 Crores.

Features of the Upgradation Project

- Specific need to upgrade the Institute and change the approach and methodology followed in the Institute to create a paradigm shift in training.
- The trades of ITI's are to be upgraded by incorporating up to date technology, introducing most modern sophisticated equipment that is available and



New Building for Govt. ITI Vettikavala, Kollam

also providing the necessary infrastructure for training.

- Change the ambience of the Institution in appearance and facilities
- New Workshops areas that can double as training labs for the trainees and production centres for major national/international companies. With this the concept of 'Earn while Learn' can be effectively implemented.
- Renovation of old buildings - The buildings are being renovated to match the requirements of an International ITI.

Addition of new buildings for campus expansion

- New buildings are also being constructed and additional furniture being provided.
- Smart Classrooms - Classrooms are to be upgraded as full-fledged smart classrooms with internet connectivity and audio

system

Status of the Project

1. **ITI Dhanuvachapuram** – Project construction work is in progress on site.
2. **ITI Chandanathope** –The work is tendered in e-tenders portal of Kerala Government.
3. **ITI Chengannur**– Letter of Award was released to the lowest bidder.
4. **ITI Ettumannur** – Construction Work is in progress.
5. **ITI Kattappana** –Letter of Award was released to the lowest bidder.
6. **ITI Chalakkudy** - Letter of Award was released to the lowest bidder.
7. **ITI Malampuzha** – Work is in progress
8. **ITI Koyilandy** – Work is in progress.
9. **ITI Kannur** – Work is in progress.
10. **E.K. Nayanar Memorial Govt. ITI Kayyur** - Letter of Award

was released to the lowest bidder.

- Setting up of residential facility to guest workers engaged in various labour sector in Kerala

Guest Workers Friendly Residence is aimed to provide safety, sanitation and cleanliness facility in the rented accommodation for Guest workers.

- Inauguration of five excise offices are included under the projects of the Excise department.

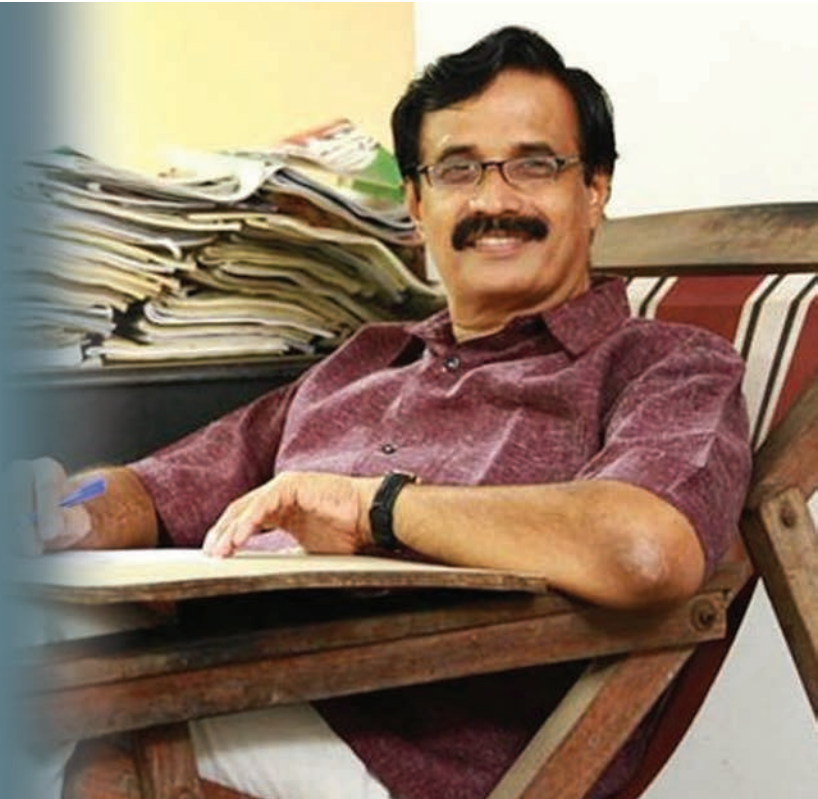
Modernization will be accelerated as a part of strengthening the excise army. The construction of Cherthala, Idukki Thankamani, Udumbanchola, Mananthavadi, Badiadukka and Mattannur exchange range offices are the projects included in 100 days 100 programs. Construction work of all these projects completed within the targeted time frame and has been inaugurated.

THE HI-TECH-DAYS OF LEARNING...

Prof. C. Raveendranath

Minister for General Education

Kerala has become the first fully digital state to make all schools technology - friendly. Since more students are opting the general education as their only choice these days, the department is determined to enhance the facilities in every school. With this noble cause aimed, most-modern facilities are provided in schools. *Pothu vidyabhyasa samrakshna yajnam* has become a proven mission and more support will be provided to schools to make them modernised in an unparalleled manner.



Equipment deployed in schools

- 119055 Laptops
- 100473 USB speakers
- 69944 Multimedia projects
- 23098 Screens
- 4545 Televisions
- 43250 Mounting kits
- 4611 Multi-function printers
- 4720 HD Webcams
- 4578 DSLR cameras

SCERT is fully solar powered

As part of the State Government's 1000 MW power generation goals

- A solar power plant with a capacity of 130 KWP was installed at SCERT with the help of ANERT.
- The project was launched on September 16, 2020.
- The solar system will be

extended to all possible schools in Kerala.

Encouraging reading-habit amongst students

- SCERT Reading Cards
- 300 reading cards aimed at students in grades 5,6,7
- Pilot Project in Aspirational District will be



Inauguration 45,000 High-Tech Classrooms

introduced in Wayanad.

Akshara Vriksham project in India Book Records 2020

- A scheme to rehabilitate children who are forced to stay home during lockdown days
- Children's stories, poems and essays will be published in 10 volumes.

E-booklet for online trainers

- Those who wish to provide digital and online

training services will be guided by this booklet

- Training Assistant for Online Trainers developed by CMAT.

Digital training for all AEOs

- Meticulous training was given to AEOs in the period of the pandemic. Top officials in the field of education, planning and health experts led the classes.
- 'Related Learning Support Guide' for Digital Classes

- Variety of activities that are conducive to the mental well-being of school children.

Reading cards for children

- Reading cards for kids in grades 1 and 2
- Reading cards that take the children of 1st and 2nd class into the world of 'free -reading'
- 2 sets of 22 reading cards in each set
- Comprehensive education is being delivered to the homes' of children

PACESETTER BY ALL MEANS...

A.K. Saseendran

Minister for Transport

Transport Department is also a part of the 100 days 100 projects. The Department intends to complete three major projects under this initiative.



- Inauguration of 5 new Sub Regional Transport Offices, namely, at Chadayamangalam, Kondotti, Pathanapuram, Payyannur and Ramanattukara.
- Completion and induction of Catamaran Boats and Water Taxis in Water Transport Sector
- Formation of Kochi

Metropolitan Transport Authority.

The number of vehicles in Kerala is increasing rapidly. The traffic density in the State is at the rate of one vehicle per every three- person. Many services such as registration and re-registration of vehicles, issuance of driving license, renewal of license, issuance of duplicate

driving license and issuance of permits are required to be made available through the transport offices. With the proliferation of vehicles, the rate of road accidents is also on the rise.

Existing Regional Transport Offices are finding it very difficult to provide a convenient service



Garuda Maharaja - KSRTC Luxury Bus

and safe journey to the people. Therefore, more offices are needed to cope with the increasing demand. Hence, it was decided to set up Sub-Regional Transport Offices at least in all the taluks in the State with the objective of bringing the services of the Transport Department closer for convenient services to the people.

When this Government came to power, there were 55 Sub-Regional Transport Offices in the state. To

achieve the above aim, Government sanctioned 13 more Sub Regional Transport Offices - Kattakkada and Varkala in Thiruvananthapuram District, Chadayamangalam and Pathanapuram in Kollam district, Konni in Pathanamthitta district, Thriprayar in Thrissur district, Kondotti in Malappuram district, Nanmanda, Perambra and Ramanattukara in Kozhikode district, Payyannur and Iriti in Kannur district and Vellarikundu

in Kasargod district. The Sub RTO's at Kattakkada, Varkala, Konni, Thriprayar, Nanmanda, Perambra, Iriti and Vellarikundu has already started functioning. The remaining five offices are included as one of the items under Transport Department in the Government's 100 days 100 projects scheme. Out of this, Chadayamangalam, Pathanapuram, Payyannur and Ramanattukara Sub RTO's were inaugurated by the Chief Minister. ●

UNSURPASSED HEALTH CARE AT ITS BEST...

K. K. Shailaja Teacher

Minister for Health, Social justice & Woman and Child development

With a foresight regarding the health sector in the State, the health department is implementing projects in a time-bound manner. State-of-the-art facilities and associated infrastructure is provided with a purpose to enhance the development in the health sector. The 100 days 100 programs virtually helped the department in speeding up its novel projects. Every project, even those with a touch of new-age technology is being initiated at a faster pace than usual.



- Vellinezhi and Uzhamalakkal Family Health Centers
- 10 District / General / Taluk Hospitals
- New ICU - District Hospital, Nedumangad,

- Thiruvananthapuram
- New IP Block - Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Neeleswaram, Kasaragod
 - Cath Lab - General Hospital,

- Thiruvananthapuram
- Dialysis Unit - District Model Hospital, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram
 - Casualty, Administrative Block



Tata Covid Hospital, Kasaragod

- Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Vaikom, Kottayam
- Renovated Casualty - District Hospital, Pala, Kottayam
- Casualty Block, MCH Block - Taliparamba Taluk Hospital, Kannur
- Dialysis Unit - Mangalpady Taluk Hospital,

- Kasaragod
- Renovated Casualty- Perambra Taluk Hospital, Kozhikode
- MCH Block, Emergency Department - Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Punalur, Kollam
- 6 projects at Malabar Cancer Center

- 7 projects at Kottayam Medical College
- Advanced Casualty at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College and RCC
- OP Department at Konni Medical College
- Tata Covid Hospital, Kasaragod

GOAL-SPECIFIC DEVELOPMENT

G. Sudhakaran

Minister for Public Works & Registration

The Public Works Department has a number of plans to execute and initiate construction within 100 days from September 2020 to December 9, 2020. Out of the target of 181 roads to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 1273 crores, 145 works were completed by October 15.



The construction work of 158 km of roads under the supervision of KSDP at a cost of 901 crore has been started in various districts. Construction of Alappuzha -

Changanassery Semi Elevated Highway at a cost of Rs. 901 crores have been started as part of the Chief Minister's Rebuild Kerala Initiative. Necessary steps have

been taken to achieve the goal of creating the Badar Tunnel that will connect the Kozhikode and Wayanad districts.



Alappuzha Bypass Aerial View

The project announcement of the Wayanad tunnel commissioned as Konkan Railway Special Purpose Vehicle has been announced with the financial assistance of KIIFB. Construction began on 7 of the 41 roads to be built with KIIFB funding. Out of the target of completing the construction of 21 bridges, 6 have been completed. The building of 5 Sub-Registrars' Offices and four Public Works Department Rest Houses have been completed.

The construction of the Alappuzha

Bypass, a cherished dream of the residents of Alappuzha, is progressing rapidly. Once the junction renovation and tarring works are completed as part of the bypass construction, the bypass will be open to the public. Construction of Kundannur and Vytila flyovers is 95% complete. During the tenure of this Government, the Public Works Department has formulated and is implementing activities with the objective of making the Public Works Roads in Kerala '100%' up to standards.

During the tenure of this Government, the Public Works Department has formulated and is implementing activities with the objective of making the Public Works Roads in Kerala '100%' up to standards.

FOR A MUCH GREENER KERALA

V. S. Sunil Kumar

Minister for Agriculture

Kuttanad International Backwater Agriculture Research and Training Center, Kollam with the assistance of the Department of Environment (Bio Saline Agriculture), has opened a Water Farming Project at Monroe Island Panchayat, Peringalam.



Kerala is a country where the impact of global warming can be clearly seen. Climate change and sea - level rise in Kerala, which has a coastline of 590 km will have

serious repercussions. The rhythm of the monsoon is clearly changing.

It is important to study the effects of climate change in the unique

setting of Munroe Island as well as studying the effects of flooding and the loss of life and land. It is hoped that this project, which is being



Regenerative agriculture

implemented by the Backwater Agriculture Research Training Center in collaboration with the Department of Environment, will be a success.

Kuttanad is one of the few places in the state where agriculture and livelihood activities have been developed at sea level. The region's coastal handicrafts, cola, pookkali, and traditional farming methods developed during the period of

climate change are very relevant for adventurous farming. Ancient farming methods used here have combined agriculture and biodiversity in an environmentally friendly way, more so than modern farming methods.

The Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environment is spearheading this program. This is an ambitious project - Orchard Water Paddy Cultivation, Cage Irrigation and Mangrove

Conservation.

For the first time in the country, the Farmers' Welfare Fund Board has been established in the state of Kerala for the welfare and upliftment of farmers. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture constituted a special committee to prepare the rules and schemes required for the Kerala Agrarian Welfare Fund Act. The new board is the Farmer's Welfare Fund Board.

EVEN DISTRIBUTION SANS STAY...

P. Thilothaman

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

The State Government of Kerala ensures sufficiency in 'supplies' and the same is being materialized sans delay all through the years' of this Government's tenure. Even in the time of the pandemic, the ministry concerned has been on alert to provide supplies to the needy on time. The 100-days programme added impetus to the already unstoppable supply-chain initiation from the concerned department. Umpteen numbers of projects are implemented towards the welfare of all and the 100 projects are envisaged towards the accomplishment of the same.



Distribution of Kit containing essential items to all ration cards

It has been entrusted Supplyco to distribute kit containing essential items to all ration cardholders

in the state for the month of September, October, November and December 2020 as a solace to the Covid Pandemic. The items provided in the Kit are as shown below...



Supplyco suburban mall, Piravom

Sl.No.	Item	Quantity
1	Bengal gram	750 gm
2	Sugar	1 kg.
3	Atta	1 Kg.
4	Coconut Oil	1/2 ltr.
5	Chilly Powder	100 gm.
6	Salt	1 Kg.
7	Green gram	750 gm.
8	Toor dhal	250 gm.
9	Cloth bag	1 no.

The distribution of Kit for AAY and PHH category has been done and for NPS category, it is progressing. 33 lakhs kit has been distributed to date.

Piravom Sub-Urban Mall Project

The construction work completed on 36 cents of land

provided by the Piravom Municipality and the Mall was inaugurated.

Valiyathura Godown Project

The construction work is completed and the godown was inaugurated.

Renovation of Outlets

20 Outlets have been renewed.

State - level Online Registration Portal for Multi-Level Marketing/ Direct selling Companies

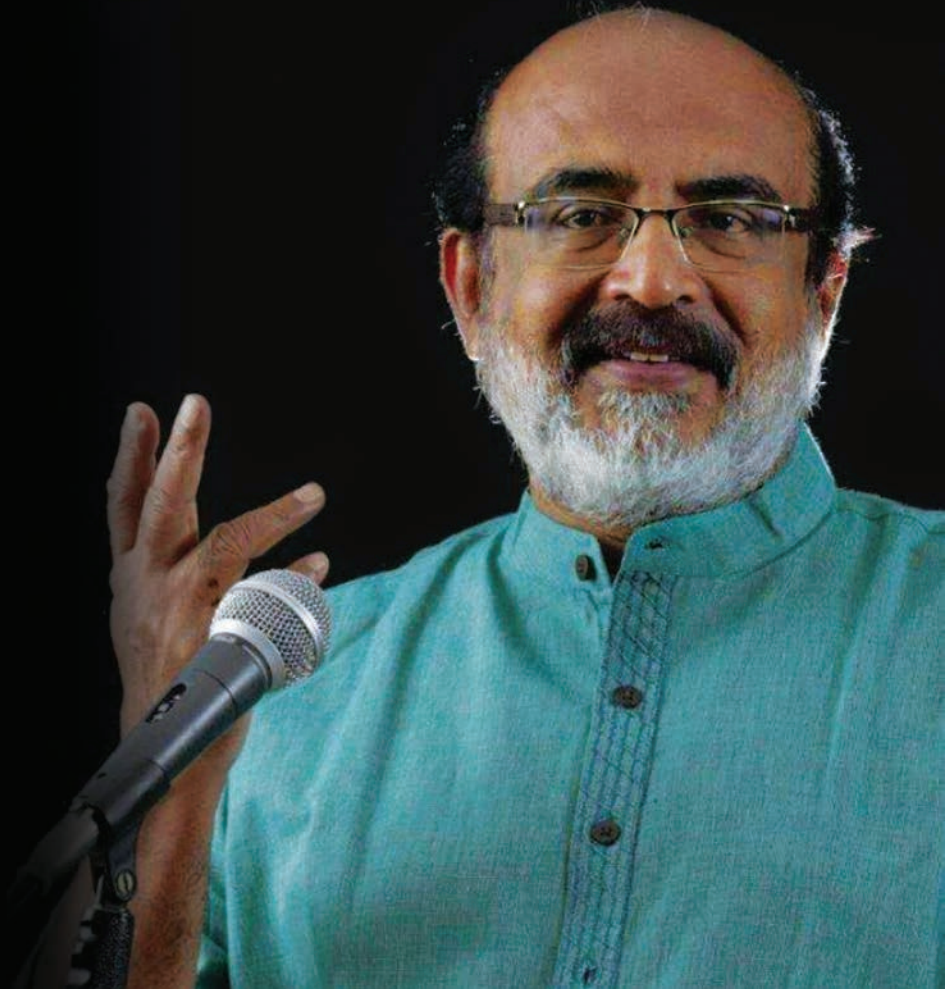
As part of the 100-days programme the Department of Consumer Affairs planned to set up a State - level Online Registration portal for Multi-Level Marketing/ Direct Selling companies functioning in the State. The inauguration of the state - level online portal as part of the scheme was conducted already.

SUCCESS-100%

Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac

Minister for Finance & Coir

Overall development-oriented programmes have become the hallmark of this Government and financial backup for all the needy developmental projects has been allocated in a time-bound manner since the inception of this Government. The 100-day programmes envisaged and being materialized by the Government is provided with the same kind of support all through and the same will continue sans any hindrance.



Product Storage

With a procurement of Rs. 120 crore by November 30, the target of 105 crores has been achieved. The target of installing 1000 automatic spinning machine is on the move and 850 installations are over. It has been announced that ASM will be set up in 100 groups and 50 are being inaugurated.

43.20 more coir mills need to be completed to reach the target of 200.

KFC

The organisation has lent to 365 small enterprises and created 1467 jobs.

One prominent proposal was included in the 100 days projects

of the Government. The same is for enabling Kudumbasree members in the state to get Laptops at a reasonable price for supporting online learning process of their wards.

Laptops to Kudumbasree members

The Government had accorded sanction to launch the



Taluk Head Quarters Hospital, Punalur(KIIFB Project)

micro-savings scheme by KSFE to procure laptops costing Rs.15000/-by Kudumbhasree members. MOU was signed with Kudumbasree.

- KSFE has launched a micro scheme named KSFE Vidyasree scheme. So far 8507 Ayalkoottams with a total number of 30929 persons have enrolled in the scheme. An amount of Rs.1,50,65,850 is remitted by the Ayalkoottams in 324 KSFE branches. The remaining members of kudumbasree Ayalkoottams are being enrolled in the scheme.

- The technical specifications of the laptop were finalised by KITE and IT Department entrusted to invite expression of interest for empanelment of OEMS for the supply of student laptops.
- New appointment letters were issued to 662 Junior Assistants and 101 office attendants. Appointment procedures for posting 66 PTS are progressing.
- As per online VidhyaSahayi Scheme, 5304 TV sets were granted to various panchayath - authorised Ayalpakka

Pathana Kendrams, for online education. For this purpose, RS.5,14,44.231/- h. as been sanctioned

- Started 17 new branches during this financial year.
- New scheme Aswas-2020 is introduced for settling RR Accounts with attractive concessions.
- Chitty payment through newly implemented online payment mechanism improved considerably.
- TIE-UP Loan schemes are progressing.

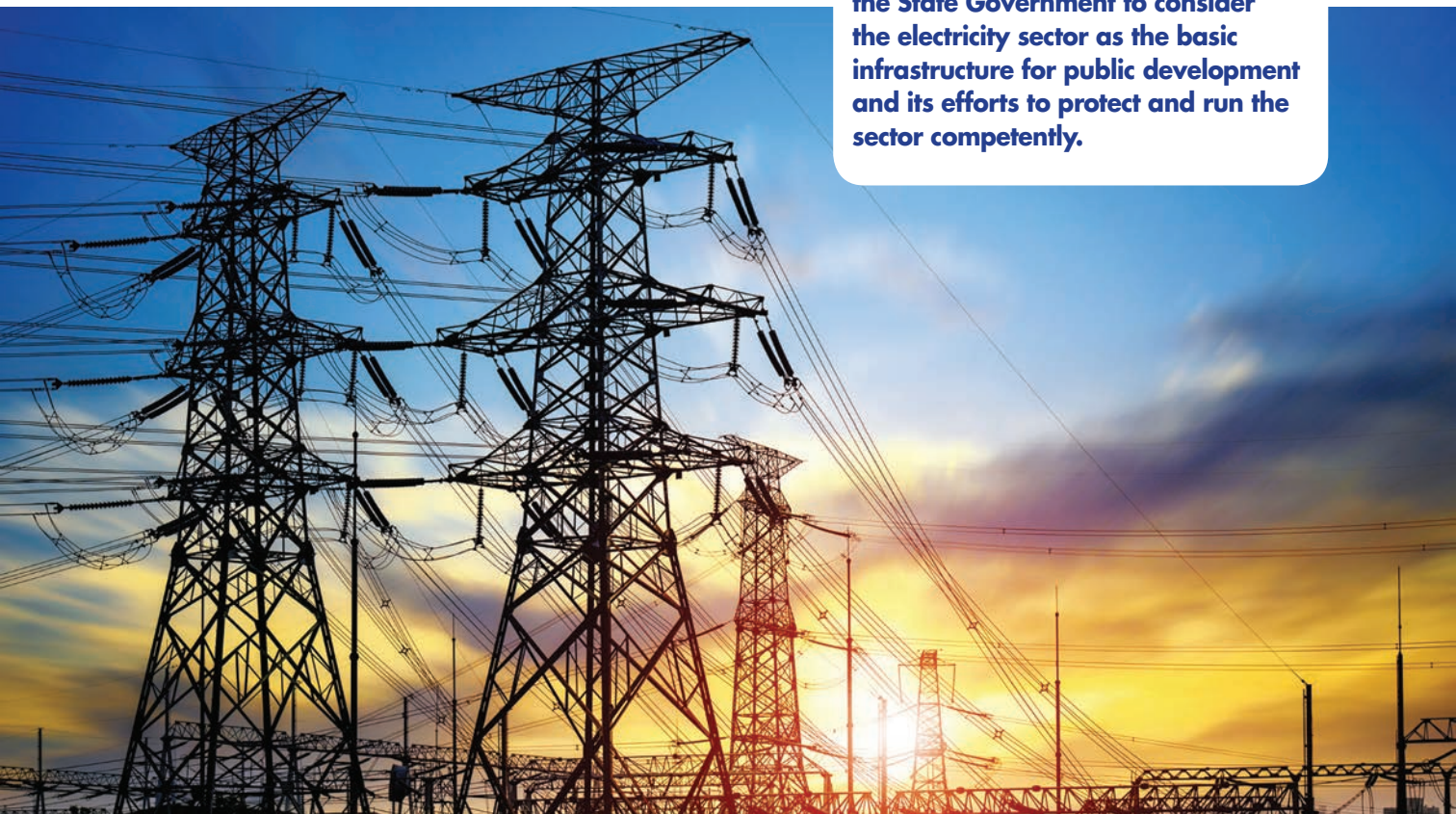
SPECIAL

The 'Will' that Powered Kerala



M.G. Suresh

The power sector in Kerala is a model for India in many aspects, including total electrification of all households, unrestricted power supply, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and more. The reason for this success is nothing but the policy of the State Government to consider the electricity sector as the basic infrastructure for public development and its efforts to protect and run the sector competently.



There are ups and downs in the history of power development in Kerala. With the commissioning of the Idukki Hydroelectric Project in 1976, Kerala became a power surplus state. This was due to the fact that the

power consumption of the State was very low. If we consider the progress during a decade after commissioning of Idukki, it can be seen that no other project has been taken up except the Idamalayar commissioned in 1985.

Power consumption was gradually increasing during this period. By the late eighties, the growth in consumption got accelerated.

The power sector was the main

When looking back to that period one can easily understand that such a leadership at the helm of affairs in the Electricity ministry, laid the foundation for the 'rosy - future', the power sector of Kerala now cherish with assurance.



topic of discussion in the 1996 Assembly elections. For the then State Government that came to power, the power sector became the focal sector to be intervened. The present Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was the Minister in charge for the Power department in the 1996 Kerala State Government. When looking back to that period one can easily understand that such a leadership at the helm of affairs in the Electricity ministry, laid the foundation for the 'rosy - future', the power sector of Kerala now cherish with assurance.

At that time, the only power surplus area in the country was the eastern region, including the state of West Bengal. It was practically impossible to bring electricity from there to Kerala directly. However, a plan had been drawn up to overcome these limitations by transferring power from Bengal to Kerala through the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu on a displacement basis. Thus, Kerala was able to avoid power cuts by November 1996 and load shedding by early 1997. These steps became a reality, thanks to the visionary-mode intervention from the

electricity minister - Pinarayi Vijayan.

1088 MW of power was added to the Kerala grid during 1996-2001. This is still the biggest achievement during any government's tenure. When Pinarayi Vijayan took over as the Minister of Power, the KSEB was in a state of disarray in the power distribution and transmission sectors as well.

Every Tuesday, review meetings were held under the chairmanship of the minister with the participation of the board members and the power secretary. All these reviews had played a major role in enhancing the efficiency of KSEB.

Despite the increase in the number of consumers and consumption of electricity with the addition of new connections, the condition of Kerala's power network was deplorable. The voltage shortage was severe in the northern districts of Kerala. Then, the Government has made a huge intervention to upgrade and strengthen the power transmission and distribution lines. It was also during this time that the sub - transmission network of 33 KV lines was introduced with the financial

assistance of R.E.C., which helped a lot to resolve the voltage - crisis.

During the tenure of Pinarayi Vijayan as the minister of power, there were many interventions in the field of energy conservation, including the establishment of the Energy Management Center and the Hydel Tourism Center to develop tourism activities in the project areas.

Every initiative that is being identified as part of the Kerala model in the power sector was actually initiated by the State Government from 1996-2001. It was on this basis that in 2007, Kerala started the process of total electrification. Although Kerala has not been able to become self-sufficient in electricity, it has been able to supply power without load shedding or power cuts for the last four years. The inspirational leadership of the Minister for electricity, M. M. Mani once again comes handy in the noteworthy development in the power sector, which continue to initiate novel projects sans delay. But one cannot forget the man behind these achievements and incidentally, the same individual is leading the State with the same robustness. ●

A Matter of Life and Death

E. Chandrasekharan

Minister for Revenue & Housing

World Habitat day is observed on the 5th of October. This is a movement to reflect on the future of cities and towns.



The theme of this year's World Habitat day is 'housing for all: better urban future'. The selection of the theme could not have been more befitting as 95 % of the reported cases of the Covid-19 are in the urban area. In the context of the spread of Covid-19, U N habitat observes that 'having an adequate home is, now more than ever, a matter of life and death'.

As Covid-19 has been spreading, we are told to stay at home safely. But this measure is not possible for a large section of the people who do not have an adequate house. Now the house is not just a roof over one's head. It is an embodiment of safety and security and also a mark of sustenance of living, working and learning. Housing is one of the key factors

that influence health outcomes which determine vulnerability to diseases.

India is witnessing a rapid increase in the urban population. As per 2011 census and UN reports, 30% of the Indian population live in cities. It is expected to grow by 50% by 2050. Kerala is a different state with peculiar geographical



Life Mission Project

So, now the house is not just a roof over one's head. In the LIFE mission, the State Government adopted an integrated approach to enhance quality of houses

The present State Government has re-engineered a new model- the total housing scheme called the LIFE MISSION

features and high population density. Because of these, Kerala is congested with cities and towns. This has posed many challenges in the housing sector.

Before the '70s, the condition of the housing sector in Kerala had been below the national level in many a respect. A spurt in house construction was witnessed in the '70s, in Kerala because of many socio-economic factors like gulf remittances and economic upliftment in the plantation sector etc. Several housing schemes were implemented by subsequent governments.

Kerala has made great advancement in the housing sector quantitatively and qualitatively. According to the 2011 census, the growth of residential buildings in Kerala is three times against two times at the national level during the span of the last fifty years. Kerala is far ahead in arranging basic housing amenities in comparison with the rest of the

country. Thus 2011 census reveals that 95% of houses are electrified and have private toilet facilities. Around 80% of houses in the state are perfect ones with sustainable roof and wall and 92% with at least two rooms. Another important thing is that 77% of houses have easy accessibility to drinking water facilities.

The present State Government has re-engineered a new model- the total housing scheme called the LIFE MISSION. It has been envisaged as a one-time programme with an aim to provide housing for all with a view to providing the residence with the same comfort and facility that a typical middle-class family enjoys.

In the first phase of the Life Mission, it is decided to complete the construction of houses of those beneficiaries who availed loans and grants from various schemes but could not complete the construction. Life mission spent 676 crores of rupees to

this category and completed the construction of 54000 houses and handed over to them. The second target was to rehabilitate one lakh people who have lands but no houses. Around 82000 houses were built and handed over to this category. The Life Mission has also completed around 92500 houses with the aid of various departments and central schemes. Even in the hard times of Covid- 19, it is proud to say that the State Government succeeded in completing around 227000 houses so far.

The third target is to rehabilitate the landless and the homeless. The construction of 29 housing complexes, coming under this category, is in full swing. It is expected to construct and hand over 3 lakh houses so that the housing shortage can be solved to a big extent. In the LIFE Mission, the State Government adopted an integrated approach to enhance quality of houses and ensure time-bound completion of the projects to achieve the state Government's vision of housing for everyone. ●

Gen-Next 'Tech- Uprising'



A. Shajahan I.A.S

Secretary, General Education

Technological advancement to enhance and inspire the learning process is the 'success- premise' of the era and the Government of Kerala virtually materialises the same in the general education sector.



The first day of June is a joyous and festive day for all Keralites. Schools usually reopen this day with 'Enrolment Festival' (Pravesanotsavam) welcoming students amidst songs and colorful

activities. This academic year even the covid-19 pandemic has not changed the education calendar of Kerala as students took their first lessons in the comforts of their homes amid the lockdown with

"First Bell" online classes telecast by the KITE Victers channel of the Government of Kerala. More than 41 lakh students of Kerala are now fully immersed in learning through the KITE VICTERS in the days of the

pandemic.

The Government of Kerala has been successful in bridging the digital divide with the massive support of people and ensured access to all children to attend the online classes. The 1.2 lakh laptops, 70,000 projectors and 4545 televisions supplied to schools by the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) were used in areas where there had been a lack of infrastructure.

ICT Integrated Education

The public education system in Kerala has become hi-tech loaded with state-of-the-art digital features and gadgets ensuring topnotch learning experience for children attending government and aided schools in the state. The Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), formerly IT@ School has transformed 45000 high school and higher secondary classrooms in the state into hi-tech ones. Each Hi-Tech classroom is equipped with the Laptop, Multimedia Projector, HDMI Cables and Faceplates, Whiteboard / Projection Screen, USB Speakers, High - Speed Broadband internet and access to Samagra Resource Portal. KITE also set up hi-tech labs in 9, 941 primary and upper primary schools.

Samagra e - Resource Portal is an online learning platform completely developed by KITE, under the Public Education Rejuvenation Mission of the State Government of Kerala. Samagra has digital resources for all subjects from Std 1 to 12. All e-Resources available in Samagra can be downloaded from anywhere.

The First Bell

The 'First Bell' online classes are broadcast on KITE-run Victors

channel and web-streaming platform according to a timetable. The sessions are held on weekdays for classes I to XII. In a downloadable format, classes can be viewed a number of times by all students in Government and Aided schools of Kerala. The online classes are delivered by expert teachers who are well versed in content and pedagogy. They plan the script of the classes in advance incorporating teacher talk, activities, presentations, thought - provoking questions, songs, animations, videos, talk by experts etc. At present, augmented reality and virtual reality are being used as much as possible, which would be expanded in due course.

Fully Digital in Public Education

Kerala has become the first state in the country to make the public education sector fully digital. Under the project, all government schools in the state have become hi-tech with smart classrooms. Though Rs. 793.5 crores was allocated from the KIIFB for the project, it was completed with Rs 595 crore.

Two lakh laptops were distributed by KITE as part of the project. The state has saved a sum of ₹3,000 crore by using free software in 2 lakh computers distributed to schools.

Other Digital Initiatives

'Little KITEs' IT Clubs is a unique initiative of KITE, which feature over 1 lakh student members. The High school 'Kuttikootam' programme, which was part of the Public Education Rejuvenation Mission of the State Government, through which students were given intense training in 5 areas such as Animation, Cyber Safety, Malayalam Computing, Hardware and Electronics, has been structurally upgraded in Student



Police Cadets model, thus becoming 'Little KITEs IT Clubs'. MOOC training to teachers through KOOL platform, School Wiki linking more than 15000 schools, Sampoorana, Sametham, Sahitham, Samanwya, etc like e-governance projects enabled to bring the academic and infrastructure data of all schools to a single platform. As part of the Public Education Rejuvenation Mission, enormous changes have taken place not only in the infrastructure development of public schools but also at the academic level.

The state Government of Kerala has been successful in bridging the digital divide

Enormous changes have taken place not only in the infrastructure development of public schools but also at the academic level

Reorienting People's Planning in Kerala



K.N. Harilal

Member - Planning Board

We are currently in the Silver Jubilee year of the People's Campaign for Participatory Planning in Kerala. The last five years have been quite remarkable in addressing the lessons learnt from the first two decades.



The first year of the 13th Plan witnessed some major changes in the guidelines for formulation and implementation of the Local Government Plans. An important objective of the new guidelines was

to simplify the procedures so that undue delays can be avoided. The introduction of new guidelines, which simplified the procedures, resulted in the early submission of Plans.

1,147 Local Governments in the State could complete the process of formulation of Annual Plans for the year 2018-19 before April 1, 2018, leaving a full year, for Plan implementation. Early start of the



plan implementation resulted in higher expenditure besides solving the problem March bunching of expenditure.

The 13th Five-Year Plan of the State places special emphasis on the issues arising due to rapid urbanisation in Kerala. It recognises the importance of developing appropriate strategies and programmes for coping up with challenges and opportunities thrown up by the process of urban growth.

Another notable initiative introduced in 2017-18 is the preparation of District Plans by District Planning Committees (DPCs). All the DPCs in Kerala could complete this task, following the detailed guidelines issued by the State Government.

From the beginning of the People's Plan, it was stipulated that a fixed percentage of the plan grant in aid

(under General sector) should be set apart for the productive sector. The experience in the first four years of the 12th Plan was reviewed by the present Government when it assumed office in May 2016 and a decision was taken to restore the mandatory minimum allocation of 20 per cent for the productive sector, for the Annual Plan 2016-17. This was again revised at the beginning of the 13th Plan and the mandatory minimum ceiling for the productive sector was enhanced to 30 per cent in the case of Grama Panchayaths, Block Panchayaths and District Panchayaths. In the case of Urban Local Governments it was fixed at 10 per cent.

In order to give higher priority to the development of special needs groups it was decided, at the beginning of the 13th Plan, to increase the allocation up to 10 per cent and to

include the transgender community under special groups. Now, Local Governments have to earmark 5 per cent for the development of children, the physically and mentally challenged and transgender, and another 5 per cent for the welfare of the elderly and the palliative care projects.

Scope of subsidies that can be disbursed through Local Government Plans has been broadened by including more items

The introduction of new guidelines, which simplified the procedures, resulted in the early submission of Plans

Dignity, Respect and Income

The Interview with **S. Harikishore**,
Executive Director Kudumbashree, Director I&PRD



N.V. Ravindranathan Nair

Senior Journalist

Kudumbashree, the State Government's poverty alleviation and women empowerment movement which has turned out to be the hope of hundreds of thousands of women from the marginalised sections are making giant leaps. The crises like Floods and Covid pandemic have in fact invigorated its efforts to cross over the challenges through innovations and experiments. Kudumbashree is not only empowering its over 40 lakh members, but it is also turning out to be the guardian for sustaining their dignity. **Kudumbashree's Executive Director S. Harikishore IAS** speaks about the silent revolution in an Interview given to **N.V. Ravindranathan Nair** for **Kerala Calling**.



Excerpts of the interview
You have been leading probably the world's largest women organisation meant

for women empowerment for over four years. How do you evaluate this experience?

My four years stint with the Kudumbashree has been a fulfilling experience. Being a vast system, sustaining its

momentum was important. We have 3 lakh neighbourhood clusters, 43 lakh members, over 1000 CDS chairpersons, 20,000 ADS chairpersons and 3 lakh Neighbourhood presidents.

Kudumbashree got the opportunity to be part of the operations of Kochi Metro, probably the only metro being run by women in the world. Our steps in waste management, efforts to rehabilitate destitute families, finding jobs in Buds Schools, Agri and Animal husbandry sectors were all challenging tasks.

Now we are training women in 20 states. We went to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan & Uganda to train women. Some African countries have sent their people to get trained here. We are the Nodal agency for 7 Central-Government projects. We are also into Geriatric care. Our members constitute the Haritha karma sena. Management of railway parking, KSRTC ticket booking - our foot prints can be seen in several sectors. Kudumbashree is contributing to the hopes of thousands. It makes us happy.

Kudumbashree has been part of the poverty alleviation programmes for over two decades. How do you see this journey?

We have succeeded in attaining many of our goals. Our network is our strength. Our connect with the Local bodies have been mutually beneficial. If a panchayath decides to become fallow land free, their immediate resolution is entrusting the task with the Kudumbashree.

The 825 'Janakeeya hotels' we started during lockdown are providing meals at Rs. 20. Here 5,000 people find work. As part of women empowerment initiatives like 'Snehitha' centres are focusing on the protection of women in

distress with giving them counselling and short - stay facility. Being the National Resource Organization, Kudumbashree mentors go to other states to train the people there.

As part of evolving into an organization which can deal with future challenges, we are converging with 30 Government departments.

During the Covid pandemic, the role played by Kudumbashree has widely been appreciated. Could you explain the activities you have undertaken these days?

When there was a scarcity for masks, 70 lakhs cloth masks were arranged through 350 tailoring units. Out of the 1300 community Kitchens opened during the lockdown we were managing 1100 of them.

Under the Government's 100 days programme, Kudumbashree is finding job for 15,000 people. In association with the KSFE, we plan to bring laptops at Rs.15, 000 to each family.

Under the Chief Minister's "Sahayasthanam" scheme 25 lakh women have availed the loan of Rs.8 ,000 each. Under the Rebuild Kerala initiative also we could avail Rs.250 crore for rehabilitation. During the flood we implemented Rs.1600 crore loan scheme. "Muttathemulla" was another scheme to bring money to the beneficiary's door steps to help save women from private money lender's exploitation. Rs.300 crore was disbursed as loans.

Kudumbashree's own Plan fund has grown to the size of Rs.600 crore. Since the outbreak of Covid, we started 300 Buds schools. 9000 mentally challenged children study there.

Kudumbashree is also a neighbourhood bank. What

is its net worth? What is the percentage of repayment on the loans?

For us, women empowerment includes economic empowerment. Our Neighbourhood's savings in bank amount to Rs.4,000 crore. We have Rs.12,000 crore worth internal lending. Live bank linkage is Rs.5,000 crore. Rs.2000 crore loan sanctioned during Covid time at 4 per cent interest or for no interest has economically empowered the women to a certain extent. The repayment on bank loans is 98 per cent.

Adding to one's dignity is integral to the real empowerment. How do you plan to empower educated women?

While finding local jobs through self-employment, many of the youngsters are for wage-jobs. For them, we plan 150 job-oriented courses under Centre's DDU -GKY. Already we have funds for skilling 30,000 or more people. Already 1 lakh members have enrolled for these courses.

Political empowerment happened among Kudumbashree members these years is remarkable. 7000 of the 20,000 elected local body members are from Kudumbashree. 330 Local body chairpersons out of 1000 are Kudumbashree members.

Kudumbashree got the opportunity to be part of the operations of Kochi Metro, probably the only metro being run by women in the entire world

Now we are training women in 20 states. We went to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan & Uganda to train women

Gandhi's Concept of Modern India



Douglas Allen

Professor of Philosophy, The University of Maine

For Gandhiji his life itself was the message he could convey. So, reinventing the legend – the Mahatma becomes more than relevant in the tumultuous ‘time’ everyone is going through...



How would Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi regard “Modern India” with its “Modern Indians” and their “Modern Civilization” today? With the increasing domination of modernism in post-Gandhi

India, Gandhi’s formulations of the characteristics of modern India and its modern values and culture, along with his anti-modern/post-modern alternative values and perspectives are more relevant in October 2020

than during his lifetime.

As the most profound proponent and practitioner of ahimsa, Gandhi analyzes modernism, modern India, and modern civilization as

multidimensionally, structurally, and essentially violent. For Gandhi, the current dominant hatred, divisiveness, and dehumanization of others as essentially other is violent; economic and social inequality between the haves and have-nots is essentially violent; humanly created and maintained poverty is violent; the construction of the immoral and untruthful modern ego-defined individual, with its ego-desires and attachments and possessiveness is essentially violent; xenophobic state nationalism is violent; the dominant, hierarchical, institutionalized economic, political, social, cultural, media, religious, class, caste, gendered, educational systems are multidimensionally and structurally violent. They reject the inclusivist, interconnected, egalitarian, decentralized, substantively-democratic, multisided-tolerant, dharma-based, moral, and truthful basis of Gandhi's vision, teachings, and practices for 2020.

As this article is being written in the first half of September, the coronavirus pandemic is raging in India, as the number of reported COVID-19 cases in India is now second in the world and growing at an alarming rate. As in the USA and as revealed by Gandhi's insightful perspectives, COVID-19 renders transparently clear the relational nature and functioning inequalities of the modern healthcare system, modern medical technologies and access to available treatments, and the social, economic, political, and other contexts of modern India. As in the USA, the super-rich live in safe environments, have access to the most advanced modern medical resources, and the billionaires and the insurance, pharmaceutical, and other huge corporations

accumulate record wealth and have made a financial killing during the coronavirus pandemic.

Who suffers the most and dies the most from COVID-19? As Gandhi repeatedly emphasizes, it is the poor, the exploited workers, the oppressed minorities, and others who are the most disadvantaged, the have-nots, those with the least material, moral, and spiritual swaraj, freedom, and self-determinism in modern India.

In summarizing Gandhi's concept of modern India, he would interpret the dominant non-Gandhian and anti-Gandhian expressions as those of the corporate and financial capitalist elite, modern scientists and engineers and medical experts, those promoting fossil fuels and military and nuclear domination, and those with the power shaping mass media and the dominant culture. Today these modern human beings identify with neo-liberal corporate capitalism, profit maximization, globalization, ego-driven materialism and consumerism, worship of technology, militarism, multidimensional forms of violence, and the exploitation and domination of nature. For them and their worldview, Gandhi is at most a minor irritant, can occasionally be used (misused) for their modern purposes, and is basically irrelevant in their modern world.

Gandhi not only offers a theoretical analysis and critique of such a dominant modern India. In his dynamic, open-ended, contextualized, action-oriented approach, Gandhi challenges us to raise our transformative consciousness about Indian and global modernism, to mobilize unifying nonviolent, moral, and

truthful resistance, and to create positive, Gandhi-informed, contemporary alternatives.

In this regard, Gandhi not only challenges modern Indians, but he also challenges many traditional admirers and devotees who view him as an idealized, extolled, hopeful, and comforting Bapu, Mahatma, and perfected exemplary presence. As during his lifetime, Gandhi's legacy today is to serve as a catalyst, to make us deeply uncomfortable with dominant modern life, so that we are motivated to reimagine, reconceptualize, recontextualize, creatively and selectively reformulate and reapply how to live nonviolently, morally, truthfully, and sustainably in India and the world of 2020 and the future.

As in the USA and as revealed by Gandhi's insightful perspectives, COVID-19 renders transparently clear the relational nature and functioning inequalities of the modern healthcare system

Gandhi not only challenges modern Indians, but he also challenges many traditional admirers and devotees who view him as an idealized, extolled, hopeful, and comforting Bapu

The Significance of Being a Woman



Dr. A. Rajagopal Kamath

Writer

Three women Nobel laureates a year in science is not common. Andrea Ghez won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Physics and Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer A. Doudna in Chemistry.



Prof. Andrea Ghez



Emmanuelle Charpentier



Jennifer A. Doudna

Andrea Ghez of the University of California, USA the fourth woman in the history of the Nobel Prize in Physics, with Reinhard Genzel discovered that an invisible and extremely heavy object governs the

orbits of stars at the centre of our galaxy. They shared half the prize money with Roger Penrose who found that the formation of Black hole is an inevitable consequence of General Relativity, a revolutionary

concept put forward by Albert Einstein. A super massive black hole is the only currently known explanation for this.

Since the early 1990s, the researchers

have focused on a region called Sagittarius A at the centre of our galaxy. The orbits of the brightest stars closest to the middle of the Milky Way have been mapped with increasing precision. The measurements of these agree with finding an extremely heavy invisible object that pulls on the stars, causing them to move around at high speeds. An object with around four million solar masses is there in a region no larger than our solar system.

The question of the existence of black holes resurfaced with the discovery of quasars, the brightest objects in the universe. Using the world's largest telescopes, Genzel and Ghez developed methods to see through the huge clouds of interstellar gas and dust to the centre of the Milky Way. They developed new techniques to compensate for distortions caused by the Earth's atmosphere. This has opened a new area in the study of compact and super massive objects. These exotic objects pose many questions that require answers and motivate future research. Even though we cannot see the black hole, it is possible to understand its properties by observing how its gravity influences the motions of the nearby stars.

Our galaxy is shaped like a disc about 100,000 light years across, it consists of a few hundred billion stars. From Earth, enormous clouds of interstellar gas and dust obscure most of the visible light coming from the centre of the galaxy. Initially infrared telescopes and radio observations allowed astronomers to see through the galaxy's disc and image the stars at the centre. Taking the orbits of the stars as indicators, Genzel and Ghez produced the evidence for an invisible super massive object. A black hole is the only possible explanation. Recent

observations of nearby galaxies reveal that such super massive black holes are not unique to the Milky Way. The formation of such a large black hole and how it affects the evolution of its host galaxy are not well understood.

The 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded to Emmanuelle Charpentier of the Max Planck Unit for the Science of Pathogens, Germany and Jennifer A. Doudna of the University of California, USA for the development of a method for genome editing. This is the first time two women share the Chemistry Nobel. Since Charpentier and Doudna discovered the CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors in 2012 their use has increased. The genetic scissors have taken the life sciences to new heights and, in many ways...J.D. Watson and F.H.C. Crick reported the molecular structure of DNA in 1953, and ever since, scientists have tried to develop technologies that can manipulate the genetic material of cells and organisms. With the discovery of the CRISPR-Cas9 system, an effective method for genome engineering has now become a reality.

Researchers can use these to change the DNA of animals, plants and microorganisms. The work that eventually led to the discovery began with the identification of repeated genome structures present in bacteria and Archaea. When the researchers started investigating the immune system of a bacterium, they expected to develop a new antibiotic. But, they discovered a tool that can be used to make precise corrections in genetic material, making it possible to easily change the genetic code itself. These genetic scissors have reshaped the life sciences. Biochemists and cell biologists can now easily investigate the functions

of different genes and their possible role in the progression of disease. In plant breeding, researchers can give plants specific characteristics, such as the ability to withstand drought in a warmer climate. In medicine, this gene editor is contributing to new therapies and attempting to cure inherited diseases. This technology has revolutionised the molecular life sciences, brought new opportunities for plant breeding, is contributing to innovative cancer therapies and may make the dream of curing inherited diseases come true. The development of this technology has enabled scientists to modify DNA sequences in a wide range of cells and organisms. This technology is used widely in basic science, biotechnology and in the development of therapeutics. With extremely high precision, just in eight years of the finding the researchers were successful in getting the most coveted prize in science.

The orbits of the brightest stars closest to the middle of the Milky Way have been mapped with increasing precision

Genzel and Ghez developed methods to see through the huge clouds of interstellar gas and dust to the centre of the Milky Way

Just in eight years of the finding the researchers were successful in getting the most coveted prize in science

The Low-Mortality Tempo Spring Hope...



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Senior Resident, Community Medicine,
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Dr. Chintha S.
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Govt Medical College, Trivandrum & State PEID
(Prevention of Epidemic and Infectious Diseases)
Cell Co-ordinator

Preventing or curtailing deaths owing to the pandemic is no mean achievement, especially while the pandemic spreads like wildfire. The determined health-care system alongside the 'effective' leadership which manages every challenging situation once again evoke positive vibes of recovery among the populace.

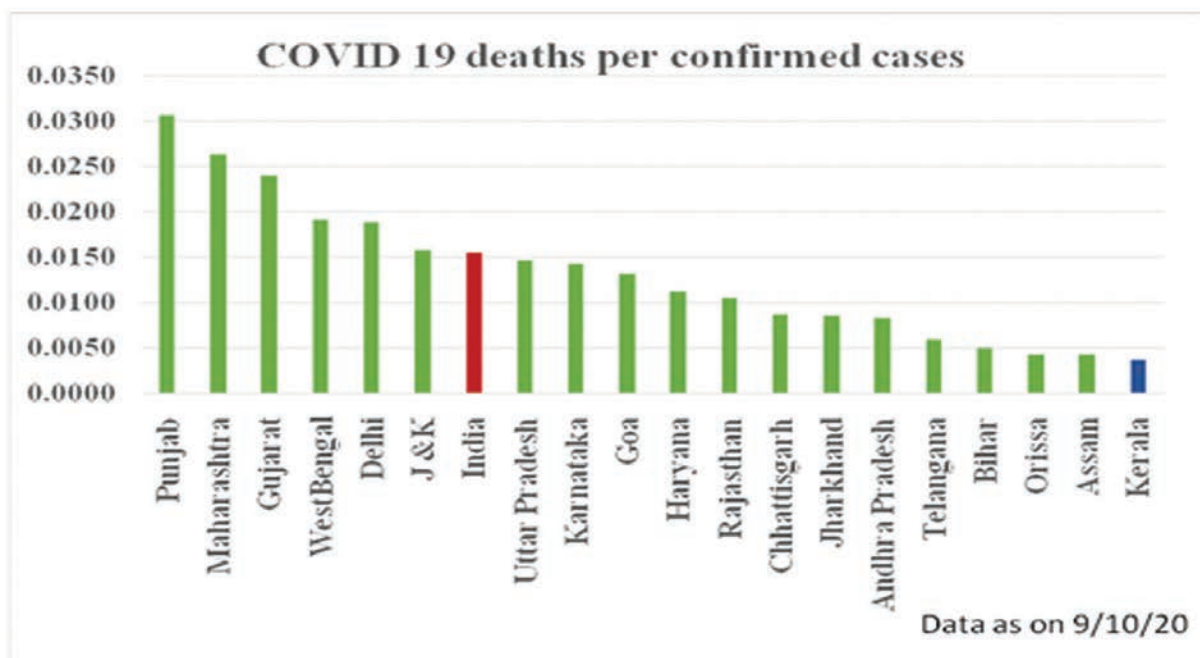


Kerala was the first state in India to identify a positive case of COVID 19. This was in the last week of January 2020. Despite having a surge of returnees from affected countries in the early part of the

epidemic, Kerala could do very well in the initial 100 days. The reported cases touched the baseline by the beginning of May. Later, subsequent to massive outbreaks in several states of India and inflow of returnees

from all these states and opening up of economic activities which was inevitable, there was an increase in the number of cases since May.

In spite of aggressive preventive



measures, cases have been increasing and by the first week of October, the daily numbers have gone above 10,000. However, the COVID 19 death rate in the state has been commendably low, reporting a fatality of 0.35%, compared to the national case fatality of around 1.5% in early October. So far, in the background of high proportion of the elderly population and high prevalence of Non Communicable diseases, preparedness behind the low mortality rate is a learning experience for us and for other settings with varying resource levels.

*Case Fatality Rate (CFR) is the number of deaths per 100 cases. The figure shows deaths per hundred cases of COVID 19 in Kerala, India and worldwide combined. While the CFR has reached as high as 7% on an average worldwide in May, the value has never crossed 4% in India. Kerala holds a notable achievement in consistently maintaining a CFR value below 1% over the months.

The low mortality rate in Kerala is

a multi-dimensional achievement for which the foundation had been laid long before. The efficient and receptive health system with its wide distribution and integrated actions up to the primary care level may be called the backbone behind this achievement. Comprehensive planning, evidence-based protocols and guidelines for prompt management of cases and the good infection control practices have been contributors.

Reverse quarantine has been an important strategy to protect the vulnerable and thereby reduce the mortality rate. Further, proactive screening and testing strategies to detect as many cases as possible would have avoided an apparently high mortality depiction. When the daily reporting of cases started to pick up a rising trend, institutional preparedness was ensured by setting up tiers of COVID management centres including the COVID hospitals, COVID First Line Treatment Centres (CFLTCs), COVID Second Line Treatment

Centres (CSLTCs) and COVID - care centres (centres for institutional quarantine) to prevent a compromise on case management.

Timely referrals ensured appropriate resource utilization and prevention of burn out. Along with the medical professionals, the hospital field staffs, community health workers, local self-government departments, police, fire force, disaster management authority and several NGOs have all had their role in ensuring control over COVID mortality in the state.

Kerala is going through a very critical phase of this epidemic. Hence we need to focus both in upgrading the treatment capabilities and at the same time strengthening prevention in all age groups, with special focus on the elderly and those who have co-morbid illnesses such as obesity, heart disease and kidney disease. A collective effort of the community with the prevailing effective leadership and comprehensive planning is where the hopes are pinned.

When Covid Gave in Before Aliyamma



Dr. Aparna Ajith

Asst. Professor, SNCW Kollam

**“Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter”,
- Mark Twain.**

The kind of support provided by the State Government of Kerala to the Covid – struck elderly is reaping rewards. Aliyamma Mathai’s ‘recovery’ chronicle is the telling example of this.



Aliyamma Mathai hailing from Mannarakulanji village of Pathanamthitta district was tested COVID positive in September. She contracted the disease from her grandson, Adv. Johny K. George. He

got infected through a colleague and the former’s family members were also subjected to the test. When the rest of the family members tested negative, unfortunately, Aliyamma’s results turned out to be positive.

Her willpower and positivity towards life did not budge an inch in this scenario is something more than noteworthy...

Johny was all set to provide



every kind of assistance to his grandmother. He arranged home isolation facilities. Johny and the grandmother were asymptomatic. Though the cases are overwhelming in the state and recovery of the elderly from this dreadful disease is a demanding task, Johny was confident that he could give a better treatment for his 'Valyammachi' at home. So, he made the arrangements to isolate himself and his grandmother in the same room. This grandson-grandmother duo then fought the disease fearlessly and emerged triumphantly.

The unwavering support given by Johny and his family to his grandmother enabled her results to be negative within seven days. Aliyamma leads a healthy lifestyle and was never been hospitalized as far as Adv. Johny could recollect. Her success story is a combination of her hale and hearty lifestyle, sheer determination, and the caregiving system backed by her affectionate family.

Johny's wife, Remya who is a

qualified nurse also played a remarkable role in Aliyamma's recovery. According to Johny, "Kerala Government's health system is efficient and the attention they pay for the COVID patients is commendable. Their daily follow up deserves special mention. The health officials of our state have taken the matter with grave concern and it really did boost my confidence to help her recover".

Care and cure goes hand in hand and Aliyamma's case is a testimony to this fact. Aliyamma's ease was accentuated even in these gruesome days of COVID -19 disease just because of the warmth of her grandson and family. She was free from the shackles of comorbidities even at this age. This throws light on her healthy way of life always and in all ways. For her, sitting idly makes one a patient and the process of rest will convert everyone to a state of corrosion. She wishes to do all the routine activities by her own and the smiling faces of her great - grandchildren bestow a vitality to her entity. Putting an end

to the much - awaited compulsory quarantine, she is gearing up for her normal life brimming with the eternal childlike curiosity and enthusiasm. Aliyamma is an epitome of hope for the health workers as well as the elderly fighting against this global crisis, thus reminding everyone that recovery is always possible and age is not at all a deterrent.

"Kerala Government's health system is efficient and the attention they pay for the COVID patients is commendable"

Her success story is a combination of her hale and hearty lifestyle

Recovery is always possible and age is not at all a deterrent

Kerala- the Safest Haven for the Elderly



Dr. Anju Angel Alex

Assistant surgeon, Dept. of health services

Decrepitude didn't spell doom over the covid - struck people in Kerala. The timely and state- of- the -art medical support has been behind this unique feat - testifies an expert from the medical fraternity.



68 Year old Latheef (name changed to preserve anonymity) wondered if he was more surprised than scared. Two young men in his neighbourhood had tested positive for Covid -19. A day later their

families followed the suit as well. Before he had realized, there were people from the nearby Health Centre swarming all over the place and conducting camps to collect swabs to test for Covid -19. He

wondered why they fussed more with the ageing and ailing as though they were babies. But 10 days after being shifted to a CFLTC (Covid First - Line Treatment Centre) he returned home, cured and thankful



to the 'system'. He had joined the club of happy elders that included octa and nonagenarians who recovered from Covid19 in Kerala. The case of Asma Beevi, 105, the oldest yet is the living proof of the success of the system.

Latheef is one among Kerala's much valued 70 lakh who are being cared for, thought about and treated with a purpose, right from the beginning of the pandemic. In the words of Dr. Alwin Antony, Assistant Professor in Community Medicine, GMC Kalamassery, Kochi - "We have always given priority to our senior citizens when it comes to hospital admissions. With the CFLTCs around, we can now prioritize further, meaning, we end up saving the best for them."

In the times of Covid, the social restrain advised to our elderly included cessation of visits to the Health Centre for their aches, pains and regular medications. It was fine as they knew that the friendly 'ASHA' would get the medicines home for them. With around 15% of the State's population being senior citizens, Kerala had in fact foreseen that it had to be a step ahead of the rest in taking measures to prevent the pandemic hitting the elderly,

real hard.

As the 'developed' West was throwing up its hands and choosing the younger Covid patient over an elderly 'afflicted one' to ventilate, Kerala was planning and implementing ways to not bring its elderly to that plight.

Not much was known to many about the calls that are being made on a daily basis from January 2020. From the Control rooms and Peripheral institutions to vulnerable groups like- the quarantined elderly, the bed-ridden elderly or the elderly with psychological issues - in order to dispel their many worries and queries.

As they all were first locked down and then reverse quarantined, the elderly gloomily watched their sons and daughters go to work. The other side to this gloom though, is reflected in the words of Uma, a 70 - year - old retired banker "In the initial days, though I had felt a little depressed, I am glad, I never dared to venture out because I believe that these norms have kept me safe to date".

As time progressed, it became evident that Kerala's reverse

quarantine strategy worked wonders. By early September, the incidence of Covid among the elderly was not as high as it would have been, if the strategy had not been followed. The safety of around 20,000 inmates in 619 old - age homes across the state was ensured.

When our elderly dropped their heads in gloom, the Government, through its various departments, became a shoulder to lean on. To quote Radha (name changed to conceal identity), a lawyer when her 70 - year - old father tested positive - "The attitude of our Government and the health system towards the elderly is very comforting. They do not trivialize my father's illness or brush it aside as being not worth it!" In the time of Covid, Kerala became the safest haven for the elderly. The same will continue, as long as we do not throw the caution to the wind.

Kerala had in fact foreseen that it had to be a step ahead of the rest in taking measures to prevent the pandemic hitting the elderly

In the times of Covid, Kerala became the safest haven for the elderly.

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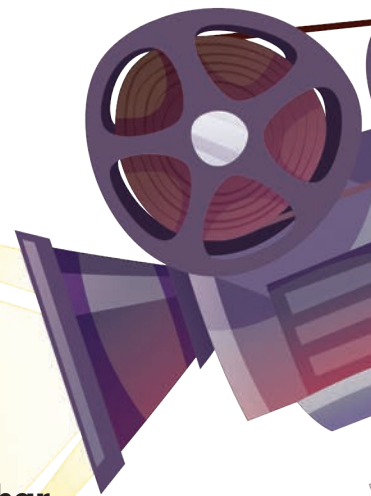
The Beginning of Another 'New-Wave'



A. Chandrasekhar

Writer-Journalist-Film Critic

Accolades befall on the deserving, like always in the form of The Kerala State Film Awards. When new entrants get those mementoes another era of excellence begins.



What makes the declaration of the State film awards for the year 2019 is that it is unique in recognising real talents amidst stiff competition. This could be easily established by analysing the top awards in the main

categories itself. Lijo Jose Pellissery has been acknowledged as the best director even in the IFFI 2018 for the movie Jellikettu, which is of no doubt, a specimen for directorial brilliance. It is a film made with

an intricate weave of dark humour and realism intertwined with a risky structure that is at the same time impish as well as aesthetically challenging. For Lijo, who has proved himself to a filmmaker par excellence



അമ്മ
A RAHMAN BROTHERS CINEMA
VASANTHI

CHINATOGRAPHY ABILASH SANKER
SOUND DESIGN & MUSIC RAJESH MURUGESAN
PRODUCTION DESIGN SURESHTHI GOONKALU ABILASH BALAN
COSTUMES SUNITHA SOUND EDIT SURESHTHI SREENIVASAN SOUND MIX GANESH MARRA
COLORIST LEELU PRABHAKAR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR EURESH KUTTYRAMAN
PRODUCTION MANAGER KCHU ALEKKAU STYL PHOTOGRAPHY RAJESH MATSARAN ANOOP KURUVILA
PRODUCTION SUPPORT JACQUELINE JOY RATHESH RAHACHANDRAN SHARAF U DHEEN
PRODUCED BY S IJU WILSON
WRITTEN, EDITED & DIRECTED BY SHINOD RAHMAN & SHAJAS RAHMAN



QR CODE
ANDROID KUNJAPPAN VERSION 5.25



second only to T V Chandran's Susanna. But unlike Susanna, Vasanthi is entwined with a complex structural framework blending the possibilities of an evening street-play along with the multi-layered, non-linear narrative of movie - making. It is indeed a visual experience that on one side denies the Brechtian theory, and at the same time uses the Theory of Alienation for a better cinematic experience. Vasanthi's script skillfully uses the dramatic elements brilliantly to create an effective visual treatment. The film tickles the pseudo morality and hypocrisy of the Kerala society across all differences, coming to issues like gender equality and safety for women. The film deserves a standing ovation for its brilliant craftsmanship and execution and

The film tickles the pseudo morality and hypocrisy of Kerala society

.....
His identity as an actor reminds us of the golden era of Bharat Gopi and Nedumudi Venu
.....

It is indeed a visual experience that on one side denies the Brechtian theory

in his previous movies like Ea Ma Ou and Aamen, Jellikettu is much ahead than all these, in terms of conceiving and execution.

Vasanthi is one important decision

that illustrates the jury's aesthetic sincerity and transparency. An off-beat movie produced by actor Siju Wilson, scripted and directed by Shinod Rehman and Shajas Rehman is one of the most feminist movies

hence the state award could be admired too.

This is the second time that Suraj Venjaramoodu is grabbing the award for the best actor and I am

CINEMA



sure there won't be any difference of opinion regarding the same. Both as the Bhaskara Pothuval, the elderly widower, who lives for his son in the village hamlet who is forced to become friend with an android-robot and as Eldo, the real - life differently - abled who became an unfortunate victim for cyberbullying in the movie Virkrithi, Suraj has literally done a kind of taking -into-himself kind of acting methodology. In both the films, Android Kunjappan Version 5.0 and Vikrithi one could not find at least the physique of Suraj but only the characters. His identity as an actor reminds us of the golden era of Bharat Gopi and Nedumudi Venu who did such great character portrayals for movies.

As for Kani Kusruthi, who bagged the award for the best actress, the competition was a little more rigid. Her portrayal of Khadeeja, a Muslim lady who has to pursue an alter-life amidst the male chauvinistic society, was not only daring but also challenging. It wasn't a single - layered simple character. On the contrary, it was extremely complex and sensitive and above all was so demanding for its nudity etc. But of course, anybody who has watched Sajin babu's Biriyani would wholeheartedly acknowledge the pivotal mind blowing out of the box performance of Kani Kusruthi in it.

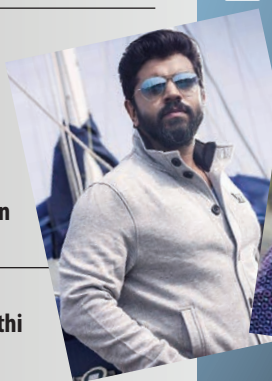
Discussing about on - screen performances, no review of the state awards will be complete without mentioning the outstanding performance by Swasika as the title role of the sex worker in Vasanthi. It is indeed a surprise package for sure in which Swasika has established her to be a versatile actress second to nobody in Malayalam.

KERALA STATE FILM AWARD 2019

Best Film	Vasanthi Producer : Siju Wilson Directors : Rahman Brothers
Second Best Film	Kenjira Director, Producer : Manoj Kana
Best Director	Lijo Jose Pellissery Film : Jellikettu
Best Actor	Suraj Venjaramoodu Films : Android kunjappan version 5.25 Vikruthi
Best Actress	Kani kusruthi Film : Biriyani
Best CharacterArtist(Male)	Fahad Fasil Film : Kumbalangi Nights
Best CharacterArtist(Female)	Swasika Vijay Film : Vasanthi
Best Child Artist(Boy)	Vasudev sajeesh Marar Film : kallanottam,sullu
Best Child Artist(girl)	Catherine Biji Film : Nani
Best story writer	Shahul Aliyar Film : Vari –The Sentence
Best cinematographer	Pratap P. Nair Films : Idam,kenjira
Best Screenplay Writer	Rahman Brothers Film : Vasanthi
Best screenplay(Adaptation)	P. S. Rafeeqe Film : Thottappan
Best Lyricist	Sujeesh Hari Song : Pularippoopole chirichum Film : Satyamparanjal viswasikuvo
Best Music Director	Sushin Shyam Songs : All Film : Kumbalangi Nights
Best Background Music Director	Ajimal Hasbullah Film: Vrithakrithiyilulla chathuram
Best Male Playback singer	Najim Arshad Song : Athmaville... Film : Kettiyollanente Malakha
Best Female Playback singer	Madhusree Narayanan Song : parayatharike... Film : Kolambi
Best Film Editor	Kiran Das Film : Ishq



Best Art Director	Jyothish Sankar Film : Kumbalangi Nights
Best Sync Sound Film	Harikumar Madhavan Nair Film : Nani
Best Sound Mixing Film	Kannan Ganapathi Film : Jellikettu
Best Sound Design Films	Vishnu Govind Sreesankar Gopinath Films : Unda, Ishq
Best Processing Laboratory/colourist	Liju Film : Idam
Best Makeup man	Ranjith Ambadi Film : Helen
Best Costume Design	Asokan Alappuzha Film : Kenjira
Best Dubbing Artist (Male)	Vineeth Radhakrishnan Film : Lucifer Marakkar : Arabikadalinte Simham
Best Dubbing Artist (Female)	Sruthi Ramachandran Film : Kamala
Best choreograher	Brinda Prasanna Sujith C Film : Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham
A Special Award for the Best Malayalam Film with aesthetic quality and popular Appeal	Film : Kumbalangi Nights Madhu C. Narayanan Producers (Film:Kumbalangi Nights) Fahad Faasil, Nazriya Nazim Shyam pushkar, Dileesh pothen
Special Award ForDebutant in Direction	Ratheesh Poduval Film : Android kunjappan version 5.25
Best Children's Film	Nani Director: Samvid Anand Producer : Shaji Mathew
Special Jury Award For the Lead Visual Effect Supervision	Siddharth Priyadarshan Film : Marakkar Arabikadalinte Simham
Special Jury Mention Actor Male	Nivin Pauly Film: Muthoon
Female	Anna Ben Film : Helen
Female	Priyamvada Krishnan Film: Thottappan
Special Jury Mention Music Director (songs)	Dr: V Dakshinamoorthi Film : Syamaragam



Eternally Ubiquitous & Mellifluous

Anamika

Freelance Journalist

There are singers and then there is SPB. Quite a cliché, but there are situations when all epithets and superlatives fall short. A voice that launched a thousand melodies, a man who endeared himself to all generations and an icon who leaves behind a legacy very few vocalists can ever dream of.



All music lovers, at least in the South, know SPB's journey, the magic he weaves, his versatility and the way he moulds his voice to suit different actors. There was godliness in his music yet SPB was no celestial

singer. Despite his towering status in musical circuits, he remained an epitome of everything humane and down-to-earth.

He indulged in all genres of music,

rendering an array of evergreen hits with his dedication, talent, and range. Nothing was off-limits to him and his technique was matchless and solid that left no space for any value addition. In front of the

camera, he was a bundle of energy and disarming sweetness that you couldn't help falling in love with his personality.

A Padma Bhushan awardee, recipient of six National Awards and numerous other accolades, SPB started his music career in Telugu, his mother tongue. He made his debut with the 1967 film Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna singing a duet with P Susheela. Within a couple of years, he started singing Tamil songs, first for MGR's Adimai Penn following it up with some other superstar films featuring Sivaji Ganesan and Gemini Ganesan. It was just the beginning as he went on to record a whopping 40,000 plus songs in a career spanning over half a century, most of them Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi and Malayalam.

He collaborated with an array of brilliant composers like M. S. Viswanathan, K. V. Mahadevan, Ilaiyaraaja and A. R. Rahman over the years leaving behind a treasure trove of immortal tracks.

He along with Ilaiyaraaja created a long playlist of soulful songs including Nilaave Vaa Sellathe Vaa, Ilaiya Nilaa Pozhikirathe, Sundari and Keladi Kanmani. For the next generation he was the one who delivered A.R Rahman chartbusters like Kaadhal Rojave, Thanga Thamarai Magale, Azhagana Ratchashiyae and Anjali Anjali.

His voice perfectly fit Kamal Hassan, a kind of honeyed baritone in which he rendered several songs so beautifully and evocatively. He was also the voice for Rajinikanth's introduction numbers in a slew of superhits like 'Annamalai', 'Muthu', 'Baasha', 'Arunachalam' and some others.



He burst into Bollywood with a volley of romantic numbers, love anthems that remain popular. While he bagged his second National Award for his first Hindi film 'Ek Duuje Ke Liye', he sang nearly all early hits of Salman Khan including 'Maine Pyaar Kiya', 'Hum Aapke Hain Kaun', 'Love' and 'Saajan'.

He also rendered several popular numbers in Telugu and Kannada is also one singer who picked National Awards for his songs in four languages that include Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi.

Not a formally trained singer, SPB was also the first singer to introduce the intricacies and nuances of classical music to masses. For many of his fans, he is still the Sankarabharanam singer who rendered Carnatic music with unimaginable ease and later made it a staple in mainstream cinema. He sang every song in the 1980 - film that fetched him his first National Award and later continued to deliver classical hits in films like Sagara Sangamam and Rudraveena.

He also acted in films, playing main roles like the widower in Keladi Kannmanii and in Kadhalan we saw him as the father of Prabhudeva and

dancing with him to a dynamic A. R. Rahman number oozing charm, a feat only SPB can achieve. The singer was also a voice actor, who lent his voice in Telugu for over 100 Kamal Hassan films.

The stages and studios will miss S.P Balasubramaniam, but the vocalist leaves behind an incredible discography cutting across genres and languages. Coming generations will continue to relish SPB songs that throb with life as he could infuse something very personal in each of them.

There was godliness in his music yet SPB was no celestial singer

The vocalist leaves behind an incredible discography cutting across genres and languages

He remained an epitome of everything humane and down-to-earth

Akkitham- Empathy Personified



Bhaskaramenon Krishnakumar
(Athmaraman)

Biographer of Akkitham

Njanpith Award winner Akkitham passed into the eternal sleep leaving behind sublime poetry for generations to come



Man, as I am,
Even my breasts swelled up
And flowed towards all living
beings
This is quintessential Akkitham.
Love towards all things great and

small has remained his ideal. After
all, he was barely twenty-five when
he wrote-
**Absolute love would,
In course of time, turn into a
strength.**

**This is beauty, this alone is truth
And practising it one's utmost duty.**
Many are such revelations in
Akkitham's poetry. But Akkitham
averts that he never consciously
strived for such insights, they always

visited him. Indeed, he claims it is not he who writes, but someone within. No wonder, his poetic career spanning over seventy years is not easy to evaluate.

Akkitham is his family name. There were no issues in this ancient family of Vedic scholars and he was born as a result of propitiating many gods. He was named Achyuthan. Patriarchs of the family naturally wished that Achyuthan would turn into a great Vedic scholar. When he was eight, he was initiated by his father into learning Rigveda. Amazingly, he started writing Malayalam shlokas in Sanskrit metres around that time. But his heart lay in sketching and painting – a skill he would put to great advantage in his writing later. He joined the college after passing the matriculation examination, but could not continue his studies further.

Poetry sustained him all through these years. But it was his meeting with the legendary poet Edasseri Govindan Nair (1906 - 74) that gave a new direction to his poetic pursuits. Akkitham gratefully regards Edasseri as his mentor and maintains that it was Edasseri's ruthless tutoring that helped him grow as a poet. His first collection of poems came out in 1946. Three years later he got married; he celebrated the event with another book of poems.

Predictably, he started writing against the evil practices of his community with a reformatory zeal. Those were the days when communist ideology was taking roots in Kerala. E.M.S. Namboodiripad, with whom he had long-standing familial ties, was writing primers on socialism and communism. Akkitham was initially drawn to communism by these



writings. But, curiously, it was the Rigveda that reaffirmed his faith in communism. Akkitham asserts that the Samvaada Sookta of Rigveda which talks about the communion of minds is proto-communist literature. He turned a fellow traveller and remained so for nearly seven years – 1943 to 1949.

Akkitham had by then established himself as a poet of repute. He had published many books of poems including a narrative poem depicting the story of an agrarian struggle – “The Wet Clod”. It was easy to graduate from Samvaada Sookta to communism.

“Light, O young one! is sorrow; Darkness is pleasurable”. Arguably again, this is one of the most quoted couplets from modern Malayalam poetry. For the poet's detractors, it has come in handy as a stick to beat him with, as an evidence of his alleged regressive socio-political stance.

Sex, parenthood, family—every aspect of life is a cause for celebration in Akkitham's poetry. He embraces both the farmer's slang and the heightened Sanskritised poetic diction of the Vedas. Both folk tunes and intricate Sanskrit metres occur to him naturally. So, do sonnets and

Muktakas (independent shlokas). Some of the finest children's verse in Malayalam is written by Akkitham. We can also find some of the best allegoric contemplative poetry in his oeuvre. Judge him in terms of verbal felicity, ease and abundance or by the parameters of copiousness, variety and subtlety, Akkitham would score on all counts.

Indeed, the teardrop, around which he has woven new myths, is a major motif of his poetry. Tears are nothing but life-giving water. Water, and not fire, is Akkitham's basic element. It cannot be otherwise with a poet who wrote about the failure of a much-acclaimed revolution.

Indeed, the teardrop, around which he has woven new myths, is a major motif of his poetry

Sex, parenthood, family—every aspect of life is a cause for celebration in Akkitham's poetry

Water, and not fire, is Akkitham's basic element

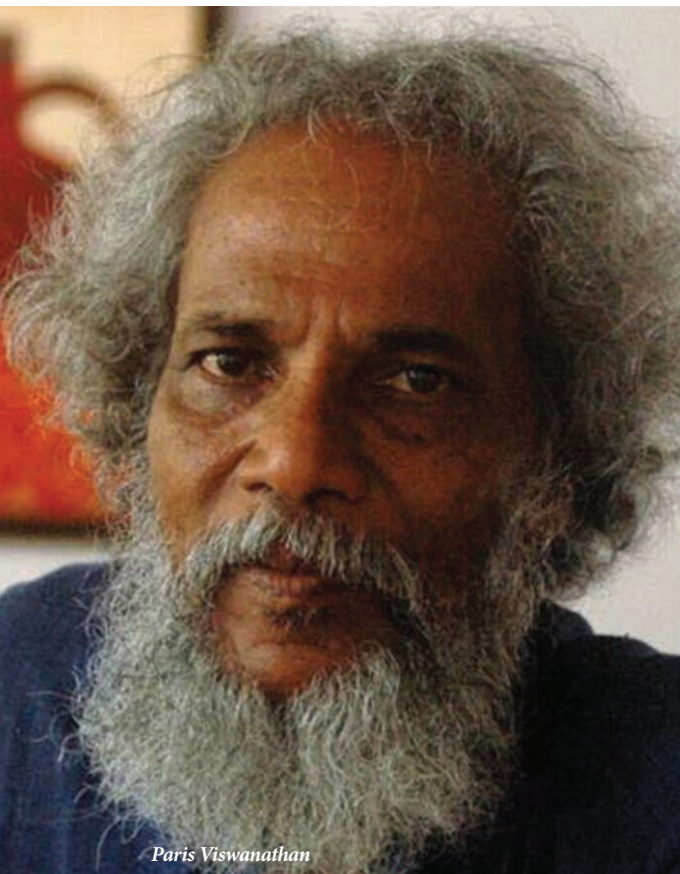
Modernists with their Distinct Styles...



Johny M.L

Art Critic

Imagination knows no bounds in the brush-handles of 'real' artists. Accolades fall upon them for what they have immortalized through their medium of expression.



Paris Viswanathan



BD Dethan

Noted painters Velu Viswanathan aka Paris Viswanathan and B.D. Dethan aka Dethan Mash are the recipients of the Raja Ravi Varma Puraskaram, the prestigious award for life time achievement in the field

of visual arts instituted by Kerala Lalithakala Academy for 2018 and 2019 respectively. While Paris Viswanathan, as his name suggests enjoys international popularity as an Indian modernist, B.D.Dethan is

hailed to be a 'regional modernist' whose creative endeavors have been pivoted in the city of Trivandrum. Both these stalwarts have been approaching art with the same philosophical verve of modernism



that often aspired to generate a novel visual sensibility, drawing from different sources of inspiration.

Paris Viswanathan studied under the legendary art teacher and modern painter, K.C.S.Panicker, at the Madras College of Art and left for Europe in late 1960s, after securing his place at the Cholamandal Artists' Village, an artists' cooperative initiated by K.C.S.Panicker himself. He travelled all over Europe, encountering epiphanies of life and art, and settled down in Paris, earning his honorific. Constantly renewing his connect with nature and cultures, he painted the experiential values that he gained over the years in a language perfected by practice and passion. Known as a colour-field abstract artist, his works, mainly done in casein, a colour pigment on canvas evoke aerial visual sensations of terrestrial planes below and deep spiritual anchoring.

B. D. Dethan is an eclectic modernist whose ability to wade through various styles and approaches has now become a thing of our modernist cultural lore. The images and nascent narratives in Dethan's works do carry the sensibility of internationalism without

underlining his adherence to the canonical definitions of modernism. His famous series titled 'Kali' (Rage) captures the turbulent times of the 1970s and 1980s though the artist had given visual expressions to the same in the early 1990s. A home-grown Expressionism has been definitive for Dethan in his visual experiments though in the 'Botanical Fantasies' series he has engaged more with the Surrealist visual lingua.

Paris Viswanathan, apart from earning an international standing for himself in the field of art, has been an exponent in experimental cinema, a regular in the international film festivals held in various cities, including those in India, and has directed full-length experimental movies based on the Five Elements. Travelling along the Indian shores he had filmed various hues of sands, sounds, rituals, natures, habits and habitats of people. A closer look at his cinematic outing and the still photographs would reveal how the same international abstract language based on spiritual feelings and sensations functions as the foundational aesthetics of his transdisciplinary artistic productions. Paris Viswanathan is also one of the celebrated

Cholamandal artists who are hailed to be Neo-Tantric artists, but has shown the ability to transcend the Panicker school of abstract art.

A relentless practitioner of the art, B. D. Dethan is a classic example of a modernist whose comfort zone is his studio filled with paraphernalia for painting. He could also be called a reluctant portrait artist. Dethan enjoys painting expressionist portraits of imaginary people, who he considers as phantom creatures but more real as they open up the emotions that otherwise living people hide cleverly in their double-edged daily lives. Dethan also takes up Tagorean poems for making spontaneous drawings as he likes the poetic evocations, without attempting illustrating the same. Though eclectic in style, B.D.Dethan is successful in establishing a hallmark style which is difficult to miss even if they are seen on a public mural or in a private gallery or drawing - room.

Noted painters Velu Viswanathan aka Paris Viswanathan and B.D. Dethan aka Dethan Mash are the recipients of the Raja Ravi Varma Puraskaram

Paris Viswanathan studied under the legendary art teacher and modern painter, K.C.S.Panicker

B. D. Dethan is a classic example of a modernist whose comfort zone is his studio filled with paraphernalia for painting

Of The Muse's Endearing Voyage

K.G.G. Nair

Senior Journalist

A poet amongst journalists and a journalist amongst poets and that is none other than Ezhacheri Ramachandran.



In his career spanning more than 50 years of service, he has excelled himself as a committed journalist and has amused with imageries and words as a gifted poet. An orator who has delivered talks and

speeches during the same period, Ezhacheri has carved an iconic figure in his followers' minds.

Ezhacheri's verses are not skin deep. It portrayed the life of

commons; it portrayed the beauty of Nature and also focussed upon the intricacies of spiritual life. While upholding the dialectics of world order, he tries to explore the emotional inner self of human

beings and it is of no doubt that the Vayalar Award bestowed to him recently very well deserves to his poetic sensibility.

Ramachandran hails from a village hamlet Ramapuram near Meenachil Taluk at Kottayam district. He did his schooling at SVNSS School, Edanad and secured his M.A. followed by a Bachelor of Education degree. Started penning poems since his school days, he established himself as a lyricist for professional theatre plays, for which he has won the state award for the best lyricist thrice. Later, Ramachandran turned his career as a journalist with Deshabhimani and soon became the editor- in- charge of its weekend magazine.

He has to his credit, a collection of notable poems including Ardrasamudram, Kavadichinthu, Neeli, Kayyur, Enniloode, Gandhamadanam, Akalenygo Idimuzhakkam, Ammaveettil pakshi, Mazha Varakkunna Guhachithrangal...etc. Uyarum Njan Nadake and Kattu chikkiya Thelimanalil (memoirs) are a few among his prose writings. He has also written many books for children including Thankavum Thaimavum.

Popularly known as Ezhacheri, he has won many accolades including the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award for his poem Enniloode in the year 2008, State Institute of Children's Literature Award in the year 1995, Ulloor Award, Asan Smaraka Kavitha Puraskaram, Abu Dhabi Shakti Award, Mooloor Award, A. P. Kalaykkad Award, Sambasivan Award, S. B. T. Literary Award, Ezhumangalam Vamadevan Award, Pandalam Kerala Varma



Award, I. V. Das Award etc, to name a few. His Oru Verginian Veyilkkalam fetched him the prestigious Vayalar Award for the year 2020.

Ezhacheri has proved himself to be a successful lyricist not only in theatre but also in movies too. The most popular film song that strikes one's mind when we hear the name Ezhacheri is the much - celebrated melody "Chandana Mani vaathil paathi chaari" which he has penned for the movie 'Marikkunnilla Njan' directed by P. K. Radhakrishnan, composed by ace musician Raveendran and sung by G. Venugopal. He has also penned lyrics for almost 50 songs including Maarikkar Meyuunna, Elelam Kilimakale, Sathyame (Meenamaasathile Sooryan), Balikudeeragal (Rakthasakshikal Zindabad), Neela Nethram (Kanal Kannadi), Sooryamahasnehacharutha (AKG) etc.

Apart from being the state - level office bearer of Purogamana Kala Sahitya Sangham, has served as the executive member of the Kerala Sahitya Academy, Kerala State

Chalachitra Academy, President of the Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakaran Sangham and member of Kumaranashan National Institute, Thonnakkal.

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Aiysha's Unique Feat

This is the proud moment for the public education sector in the state since S. Aiysha from Koyilandy in Kozhikode district secured the 12th rank in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) 2020 for admission to undergraduate medical and dental courses.

Aiysha, who studied at the Government Vocational Higher secondary school at Koilandy bagged the 12th rank in the All India - level exam and the state topper with 710 marks out of 720. 11 other students from the state figured among the first 100 in the NEET exam.



Dakshayani's New Life in a flat



Dakshayani hailing from Paravur, is allotted with an apartment, since her wards applied for a safe shelter under the LIFE scheme. This is the first time in the state that a flat complex is being provided for a single - family under the Government housing scheme; the flat built at a cost of Rs. 25.25 lakh.

Dakshayani's children applied for a house via the Life Mission Scheme. Rs. 4,25,000 has been allotted to each family to build a 450 square feet house. But it was not practical to build 6 houses in 5 cents of land. But the local self- government office bearers, Kudumbasree executive director S. Harikishore intervened and decided to provide the apartment to the applicants. The flat houses 6 apartments. Dakshayani's children Sasi, Rajesh, Kannan, Selvan, Premkumar, Vijaya and Rajan together own the flat. Dakshayani will stay with them. Each apartment has all facilities including 2 bedrooms, kitchen, hall, and bathroom.

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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