

DR. CHERIYAN KOSHY ■ K.S. CHITHRA ■ DR. S.S. SANTHOSH KUMAR

# KERALA CALLING

₹ 12

[prd.kerala.gov.in/publication/keralacalling](http://prd.kerala.gov.in/publication/keralacalling)

2020 JULY 01

*Kerala is lucky to have one of the  
best Governments  
in the World  
- K.S. Chithra*



## IN THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GEAR

# 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**

---

# IF WINTER COMES, CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?

The fighting spirit of the State against the deadly pandemic COVID 19 has become a paragon to the entire world. We displayed the same spirit when the deadly Nipah descended upon us unexpectedly. But it lasted for a short time and we were able to tame it. This time it is a pandemic that has claimed millions of lives globally. We as a unified community sans differences have taken up every step with utmost care. Being a pandemic of such magnitude, since the disease claimed a significant number of lives globally, our State not only has been successful in limiting the casualties to the minimum but has to have such an able Government with a brave captain as well.

Though clusters have been formed, we are in the war front without losing the fighting spirit. The Government has focused its attention on providing adequate means to maintain a decent living to those who are in dire straits. Containment zones have been declared in a well thought-out manner. Cluster-based restrictions have helped in maintaining the smooth 'flow' of life.

Despite the chaos created by the COVID 19, the Government has never been on a back foot when it comes to the developmental activities of the State. The Government is entering its fifth year and there are many people-oriented programmes to be completed by the end of the tenure. These programmes are of such a great scale that each is planned according to the want of the State with a post-COVID recovery mode in its hub. Each department's

projects which are due to be completed this year and more are elaborated in detail in this issue.

With a mindset to comply with the instructions from the State authorities in containing the pandemic and the determination to overcome any calamity, Malayalis once again can batter the onslaught of Corona Virus with virtual ease. Living with the troublesome Virus has become a reality. So, it is time to turn to self-reliance. We have to revive our agrarian-life once again. If there is a will to toil hard, another green revolution is not a distant dream. A special section instilled with articles which throw light into the significance of nature conservation and the importance of farming promises an informative and interesting reading.

Articles from the world of Cinema, Art and Books are included in this issue with a purpose – to enlighten and to soothe the mindset of everyone – in the time of Corona. I am sure the days of gloom will soon fade into oblivion for nothing can stop the blossoming of spring in all its splendour. Let us remember the famous lines written by the English poet P.B. Shelley in his poem *Ode to the West Wind*

*If winter comes, can Spring be far behind?*

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

## KERALA CALLING JULY 2020

- 06 Covid-19 and Shaping Kerala's Future**  
Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala
- 10 Appealing Development**  
A.K. Balan, Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes, Law, Culture and Parliamentary Affairs
- 12 For a Better Tomorrow...**  
E. Chandrasekharan, Minister for Revenue and Housing
- 14 Higher Goals**  
Dr. K.T. Jaleel, Minister for Higher Education and Minority Welfare
- 16 Beyond the Testing Times...**  
E.P. Jayarajan, Minister for Industries, Sports and Youth Affairs
- 18 Affirmative Transition**  
Kadakkampally Surendran, Minister for Co-operation, Tourism and Devaswoms
- 20 Flawless 'Flow' to Continue...**  
K. Krishnankutty, Minister for Water Resources
- 22 Powerful Modification**  
M.M. Mani, Minister for Electricity
- 24 With a Foresight to the Future**  
J. Mercykutty Amma, Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry
- 26 Covetous Hop in the 5<sup>th</sup> Gear**  
A.C. Moideen, Minister for Local Self Governments
- 28 Projects with a Vision**  
Adv. K. Raju, Minister for Forests, Animal Husbandry and Zoos
- 30 When Dreams Turn Real**  
Ramachandran Kadannappalli, Minister for Ports, Museums, Archaeology and Archives
- 32 Unwavering Development**  
T.P. Ramakrishnan, Minister for Labour and Excise
- 34 Tech-Driven 'Edu-Remodelling'**  
C. Raveendranath, Minister for General Education
- 36 Keeping Pace with Time**  
A.K. Saseendran, Minister for Transport
- 38 As Compassionate as ever...**  
K.K. Shailaja Teacher, Minister for Health, Social Justice and Woman and Child Development
- 40 Constructive Best Forever**  
G. Sudhakaran, Minister for Public Works and Registration
- 42 Fruitfully Yours'**  
V.S. Sunil Kumar, Minister for Agriculture
- 44 Supply for One and All**  
P. Thilothaman, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies





- 46 **Steering the State to Fiscal Safety**  
Dr. T. M. Thomas Isaac, Minister for Finance and Coir
- 48 **Kerala Maintains an Extensive Testing Strategy**  
Dr. Anish T.S. & Dr. Hariprasad T.
- 50 **'Situations in Maharashtra and Kerala Cannot be Compared...'**  
S. Shyama, Assistant Information officer, Kerala Calling.
- 52 **To Achieve Food Security ...**  
Kavitha Martyn, Freelance Journalist
- 54 **Kerala is Lucky to have One of the Best Governments in the World – K.S. Chithra**  
Balagopal Kent, Editor, ukmalayalee.com
- 56 **Success Inimitable...**  
Aparna Sreevalsan
- 58 **The Vaccine 'Hope', Not Far Away**  
Balagopal Kent, Editor, ukmalayalee.com
- 61 **A Unique Green Initiative Through the Khaki**  
Ignatius Pereira, Senior Journalist
- 63 **Sustainable Agriculture Models in Covid - Time.**  
Dr. T.P. Sethumadhavan, Director, UL Education, UL Cyber Park, Kozhikode
- 65 **A Borough for a Spice - The Unknown and Known Story!**  
Dr. B. Sasikumar, Researcher, Agricultuaral Scientist
- 67 **'Punarjeevanam' -The Revival Surprise!**  
P.M. Prabhu, Asst. Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Thrissur
- 69 **The Inimitable 'Sathyan Effect'**  
Anamika, Freelance Journalist
- 71 **Tale Of Friendship, Love and Seeking Identity**  
Adarsh Onnatt, Literary Critic
- 73 **Decalogue of a Pandemic**  
Johny M.L.

Editor-In-Chief	:	U. V. Jose I.A.S.
Co Ordinating Editor	:	K. Santhosh Kumar
Deputy Editor In Chief	:	K. P. Saritha
Editor	:	C. Rajesh
Assistant Editor	:	L. Hemanth Kumar
Assistant Information officer	:	S. Shyama
Circulation Officer	:	A. C. Abhilash
Cover Design & Layout	:	Anil D. Prakash
Printing	:	St. Joseph's Press Thiruvananthapuram
Photo Credits	:	I&PRD Photography Division V.V. Biju C. Suresh Kumar

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

**ENQUIRIES**

Editorial	:	0471 251 8648
Subscription	:	0471 251 7036

**TO SUBSCRIBE**

Send Rs. 120 as money order to The Director, Information & Public Relations Department, First Floor, Secretariat Annexe, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001

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

**RESPONSES MAY BE SENT TO MAIL:**

keralacalling@gmail.com  
facebook.com/Kerala Calling

**EDITORIAL MATERIALS**

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



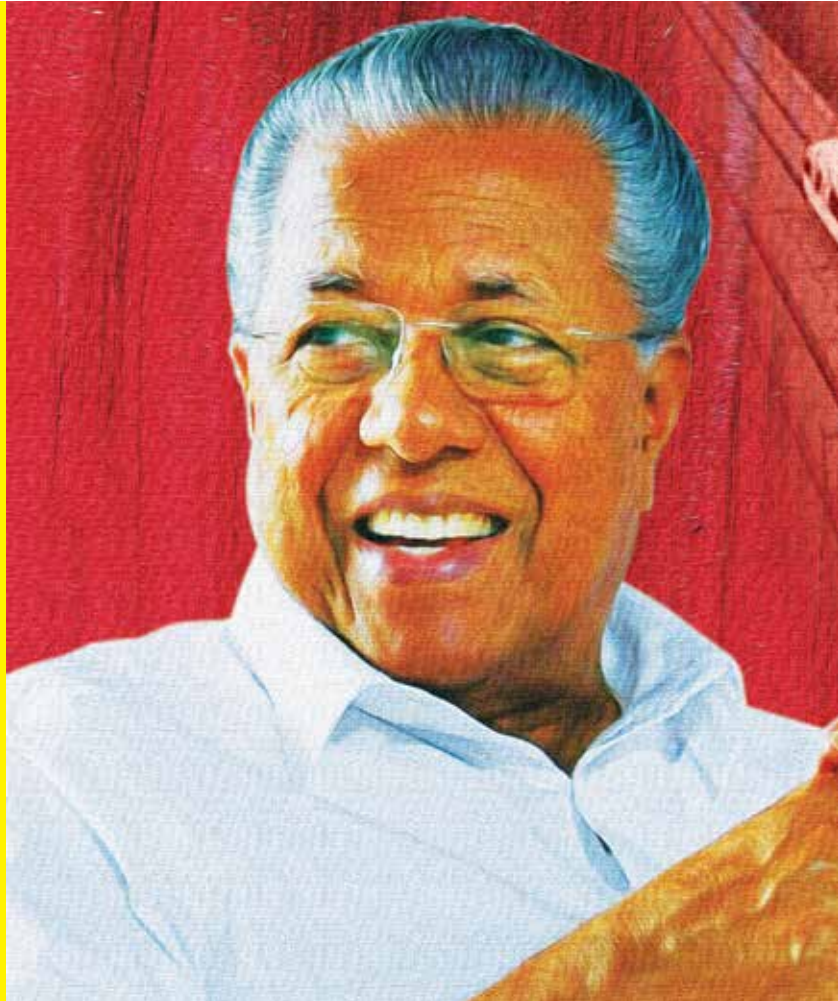
**Total number of pages: 72 + Cover**

# COVID-19 AND SHAPI

## PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Chief Minister of Kerala

**S**ix months ago India's first COVID-19 case was reported in Kerala. Since then we have been engaged in the fight against the pandemic. Over the past 7 months, COVID-19 has affected more than 1.6 crore people around the world and caused nearly 7 lakh fatalities. During one of the daily press conferences, I have recently said that fighting the COVID-19 pandemic is not like running a 100 meter or 200-meter race. It is like running a marathon. We need to complete it without falling along the way. In a marathon, what matters is our physical strength and mental endurance. And as a society, we need to have both, to fight this battle, to its very end.



We can be proud of the fact that Kerala's COVID-19 response is considered a model in itself and was scientific at all stages. We had many major vulnerabilities regarding the epidemic. Our population density is 860 persons per sq km, which is more than double the national average of 382 persons per sq km. Having a high life expectancy rate, the number of elderly citizens in the State is quite high. The prevalence of secondary and tertiary health problems that cause comorbidities is also high in Kerala. Yet, we were able to flatten the curve in the first phase and keep the death rate at one of the lowest levels

in the world. We have learned a lot since the onset of the disease and adapted to the emerging situation in our ways.

In this second phase, we have seen a spike in the number of positive cases. Kerala's test positivity rate is 2.34 whereas the national test positivity rate is 7.96. At 0.32, our case fatality rate continues to be among the lowest in the country and the world. These figures vary slightly daily. As time goes by, our knowledge about the disease has improved. Newer tests like antigen tests and newer drugs are available now. We have made use of the valuable time we have got till now, to set up the required infrastructure and get better prepared for case management. As of 19 July, 28 COVID hospitals and 187 COVID First Line



# NG KERALA'S FUTURE



Treatment Centers (CFLTCs) have been set up across the State. There are 20,404 beds in those CFLTCs. Through district administration and Local Self Government institutions, more CFLTCs are being set up. 742 CFLTCs are expected to be ready by the end of July and this will increase the number of beds to 69,215. Small and medium private hospitals are also being allowed to provide treatment for COVID-19.

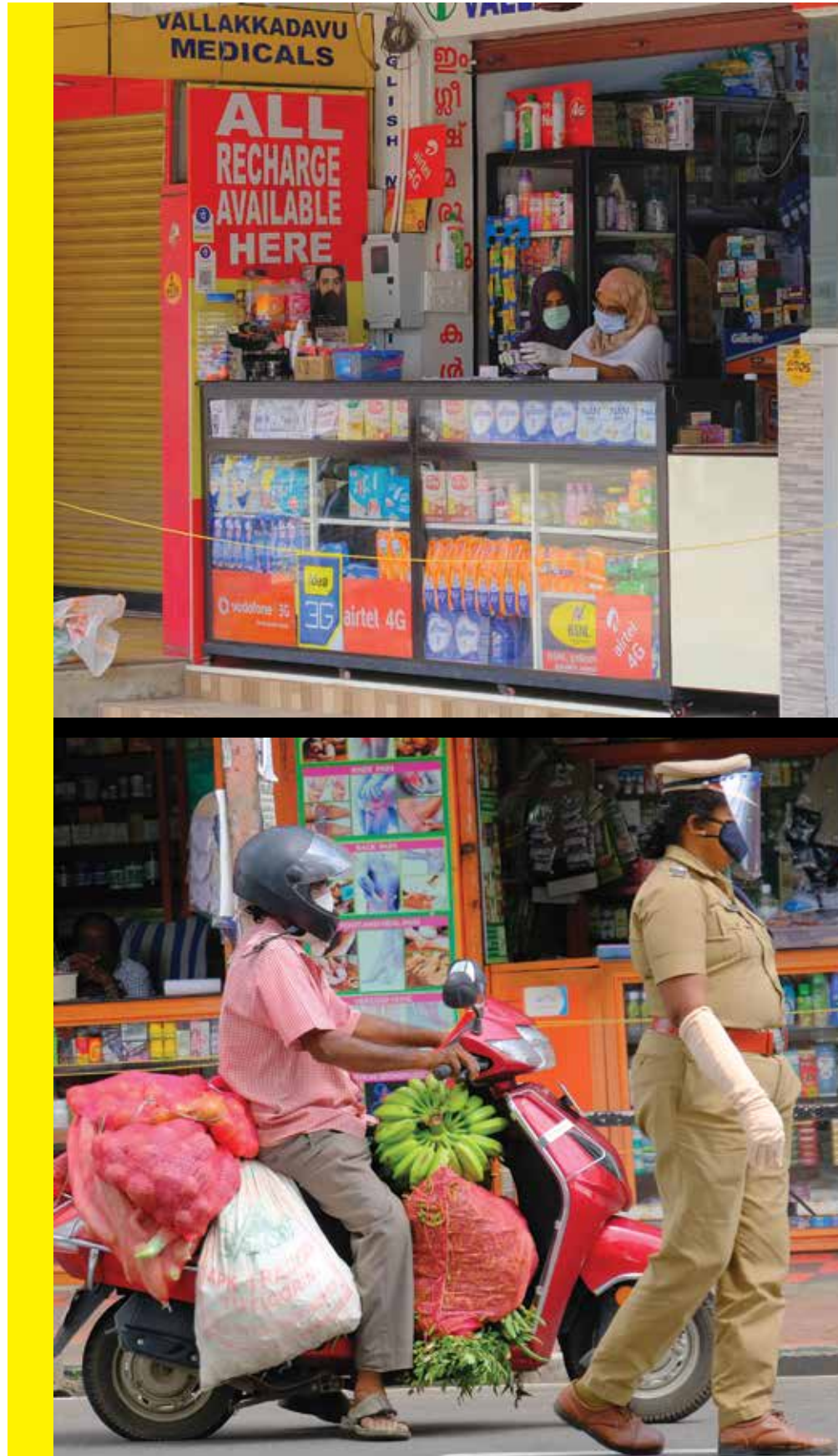
While the State is battling to save the lives and livelihoods of the people, we are also planning ahead for our future. The Government has ensured that welfare and development activities shouldn't be impaired by

the pandemic. On the economic front, we have faced certain setbacks such as draining up of many revenue-generating options. The GST collection has gone down due to the lockdown and its aftermath. The general economic slow down is costing jobs in the State and around the world. Pravasi Keralites, the backbone of the State's economy are returning to Kerala. We expect a slump in the remittances from abroad for the next few quarters. The tourism sector, which is another major contributor to the State's economy, has come to a standstill. Apart from the COVID-19 challenges, the state is also facing challenges due to global warming and climate change.



Certain factors, such as the trust people have in the government, a decentralised and efficient government, effective inter-departmental coordination and so on, have helped us in our fight against COVID-19. A robust public health system which was aided by private healthcare providers has played a pivotal role in this fight. Our welfare net covering the vast majority of the vulnerable population, high digital penetration and literacy are also some of the other factors that have aided us in this fight.

It is certain that from now on, the world won't be the same as before. The way in which we all go about our daily lives has changed already. A vaccine or a panacea which will be available and affordable for the masses is away at least by a year. While we wait for such scientific breakthroughs, to live with COVID-19 we need to make major changes in our attitude, behaviour and lifestyle. During this period, the primary objective of the government will be to contain the epidemic in such a way that both the lives and the livelihoods of our people are safeguarded. Accordingly, the government is implementing programmes tailor-made to tide over the challenges that we are facing now, and are likely to face in the immediate future. 'Subhiksha Keralam' which is being implemented to ensure our food security, has already started bearing fruits. The support announced for MSMEs through 'Vyavasaya Bhadratha' is saving employment and helping in the sustaining of skilled labour. Although schools are shut, the education







process is continuing through televised and online classes.

Social welfare pensions are being regularly disbursed to the weaker sections, and monetary or food grain assistance has been provided to all sections of the society.

In the coming months, many projects will come to fruition. Big projects like the

GAIL pipeline is ready for commission. The first phase of Vizhinjam Port is likely to be completed by Onam. The entire first phase of Kochi Metro Rail is completed and ready for inauguration. K-FONE will be commissioned in 6 months, making every house and office digitally connected.

We are looking forward to the implementation of the industrial corridor and petrochemical park. All these projects will enhance employment generation in the State, and both our skilled youngsters and return migrants will benefit from them. The good work that this government

has done in the past four years in the fields of agriculture, education, health, housing, infrastructure, technology is there for all to see. Having emerged as an investment and business-friendly State, Kerala will be in an advantageous position as we overcome the

COVID-19 threat.

The interventions we are making now will shape Kerala's future. Our top priorities are to become self-sufficient in agricultural production and future proof in innovation and industry. Amidst these uncertain and challenging times, Kerala is looking at a bright silver lining in the clouds.

Our opportunities in a post-COVID-19 world are immense and we have a strong foundation on which we could build a stronger and resilient Kerala. ★  
★  
★  
★

# APPEALING DEVELOPMENT

## A.K. BALAN

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



- Two Model Residential Schools at Peringome in Kannur District & Thonnakal in Thiruvananthapuram District
- Pre- Examination Training Centre at Azhikode in Kannur District
- New block for Industrial Training Institute at Vettikkavala in Kollam District
- New Post-Matric Hostel for Boys at Aluva in Ernakulam District & at Kozhinjampara in Palakkad District
- Building for the Pre-Matric hostel for boys at Kadirur in Kannur District
- Working Women's hostel at Peroorkada in Thiruvananthapuram
- A new Model Residential School for Girls at Maruthonkara in Kozhikode District
- Building for Community College at Vadakkencherry in Palakkad District
- A modern Rice Mill at Kalleppully in Palakkad District
- Hospital (Clinical) block at Govt Medical College (IIMS) Palakkad
- Building for Vadakkencherry Food Craft Institute in Palakkad District



4815 houses, 6738 Study Rooms will be provided by the Scheduled Caste Development Department.

## CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

- ▶ The Diamond Jubilee Fellowship Scheme.
- ▶ Construction of Renaissance Cultural Complexes in all the 14 Districts
- ▶ The Rural Art Hub Project
- ▶ Kerala Culture Museum and the Networking of Existing Museums
- ▶ Gaming, Animation and VFX – A Centre of Excellence
- ▶ Development of Memorials for the Eminent Men of Art and Letters
- ▶ Development of Chitranjali Studio into a Film City
- ▶ Construction of Film Theatre Complexes across the state
- ▶ Construction of the International Film Festival Complex
- ▶ Sree Narayana Guru Statue at Kanakakunnu
- ▶ Mappila Kala Academy at Nadapuram
- ▶ Re- construction of the Sabari Ashramam at Akathethara, Palakkad.

## SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

- A new pre-metric hostel at Badiadukka in Kasaragod District.
- ITI block at Nadukani in Idukki District.
- New hostel building for PMH Kootikal in Kasaragod District.
- New post-matric hostel at Kodalippara in Idukki District.
- 150 community study centers in various Districts
- New hostel building .PMH (Boys) at Sholayur in Palakkad District
- New hostel buildings . PMH (Girls) at Sholayur in Palakkad District
- New hostel buildings .PMH (Boys) at Irumbupalam in Idukki District
- New hostel buildings .PMH (Boys) at Mullankolli in Wayanad District
- New hostel buildings (Girls) at Arlam in Kannur District



- Ambedkar Settlement Development Scheme:- Implementation started in 91 settlements will be completed.

## NEW SCHEMES

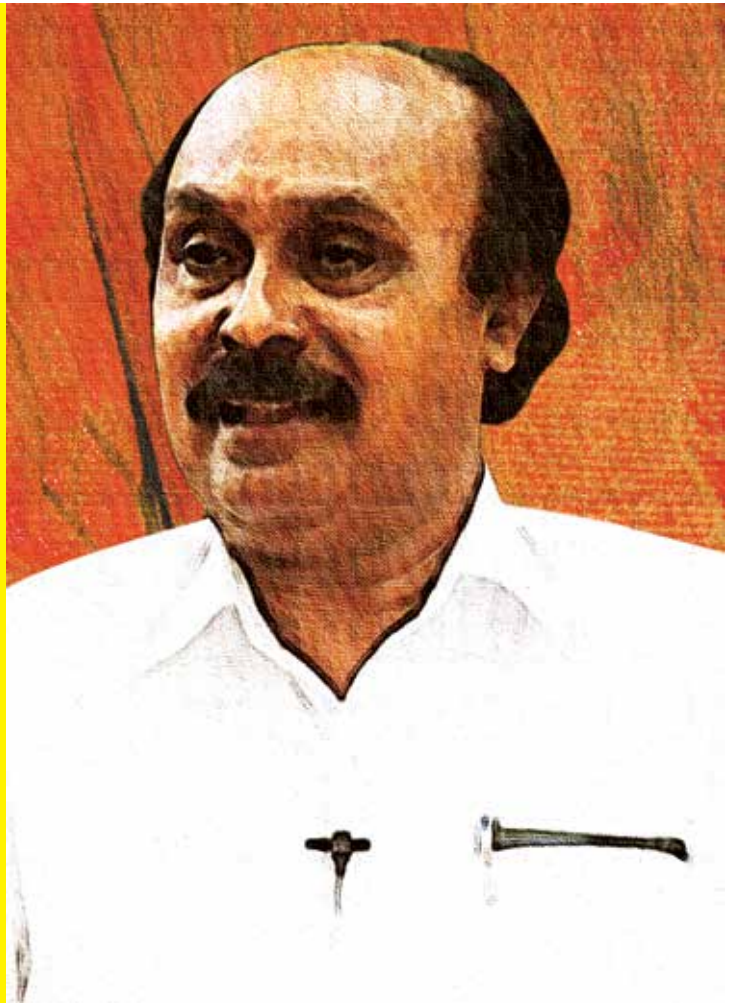
- Construction of Elephant proof wall at Aralam Farm in Kannur District
- Infrastructure Development works in 62 colonies.
- Service Plus :- Launching of 13 software development by NIC
- Publication of Socio - Economic Survey
- Agriculture projects in Wayanad & Idukki Districts
- Apparel Park in Wayanad, Palakkad & Thiruvananthapuram Districts
- Gothrajeevika 2nd phase



# FOR A BETTER TOMORROW...

## E. CHANDRASEKHARAN

Minister for Revenue



**R**evue and Disaster Management departments of the state government have been engaged in a pivotal role in the epic fight against Covid-19. As the mainstay of district administration, revenue offices have been working diligently right from the beginning days of our fight against Covid-19.

Because of the Covid-19 precautions, all certificates and services offered by the revenue department have now been made available online through a mobile app. Collection of taxes and other receipts are also being ported to digital mode and will be available to the public in a few weeks.

The paramount reason behind the success of the Kerala model of COVID - 19 combat is that almost 90% of Keralites own at least a small landholding. Now, more than 83 lakhs of families are proud owners of the land they live and farm.

There were about 4 lakh landless/homeless families in Kerala when the LDF government came to power in 2016. By the end of May 2020, this government has built and handed over homes to about two and a half lakhs of them. The rest are expected to get their homes completed by the government by the middle of 2021.

Till this date, the Revenue department has issued title deeds (Pattayam) to 143,000 farmers of the state. Our mission is to bring this figure up to 2 lakhs by March next year.

In the remaining months of this term, we are aiming more...





- To take back 1629.81 hectares of land held by various trusts and individuals for decades together, violating rules of the lease; and to realize arrears of lease rent amounting to around Rs.1200 crores from defaulters, who themselves have been making huge profits from these lands.
- Identify and take over encroached government/poramboke lands and distribute it among the landless and the homeless.
- To restructure the Survey department through the convergence of activities of Survey, Revenue and Registration departments.
- Digitalization of land records maintenance and its management.
- To regularize lands held by bona fide cultural organisations and places of worship for very long

periods, limiting the holdings to extents which are reasonably adequate for their mandated purposes.

- To resolve legitimate appeals of regularization, strictly adhering to the Paddy & Wetland Conservation Act and rules.
- To settle all cases pending in land tribunals within a year and issue pattayam to the eligible.
- To expedite all land acquisition tasks for developmental activities/projects and to complete rehabilitation procedures without any hassles.
- To continue more rigorously with the drive underway to end corruption and nepotism.
- To implement the landmark Unique Thandaperu system to end all kinds of fraudulent and deceptive (benami) land transactions.



# HIGHER GOALS

## Dr. K.T. JALEEL

Minister for Higher Education  
and Minority Welfare



**I**nfectious diseases were, until last February, only a health crisis and challenge for the health sector. We are the victims of an unprecedented phenomenon where such a health crisis could quickly turn into an economic, cultural and social crisis. This has led to the closure of not only higher education institutions around the world but the entire country.

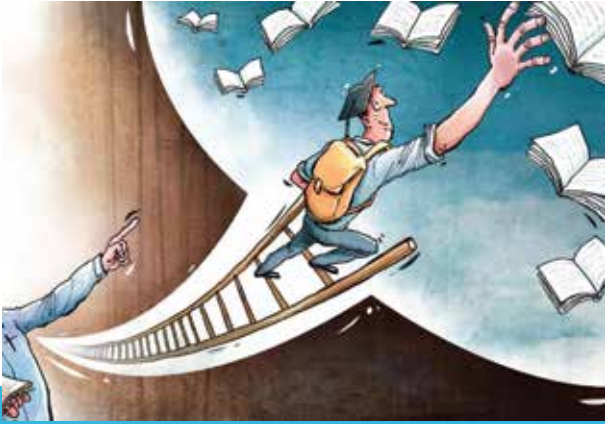
No one disagrees that current online learning cannot be seen as a perfect replacement for classroom learning. I should mention here the unprecedented level of support and care, the public society is giving to higher education institutions and students to overcome this divide. Numerous gadgets and computer systems were provided to the needy, by volunteer organisations and the general public.

We are exploring the possibilities of instituting two distinct streams of higher education at the level of arts & science colleges, one that prepares

the students for industry and the other for a career in academic and research. This involves discussions at all possible levels of education and until it evolves, the current graduate-level programmes will be enriched with skill-development courses which will be conducted vis-a-vis traditional programmes.

We are already at the closing stages of curriculum revision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Irrespective of the streams of study, the revised curriculum will contain lessons for dealing with pandemics and natural calamities. It will also encourage students to join shoulders with societal forces which fight against such challenges.





- Higher education institutions will be brought at the forefront of the NAAC - NIRF rankings..
- Plans will be formulated and implemented to improve online learning facilities. Such schemes will be implemented by ensuring accessibility and quality.
- Training programs will be organized to enable teachers to manage classes with the help of advanced technologies.
- Curriculum reforms at the UG and PG levels will be completed this year.
- The syllabus of all the subjects will include specialized lessons that will ensure a teaching-learning process through online methods.
- All those who want higher education in Kerala will be assured the opportunity to study in the state itself.
- New generation courses will be offered in institutions where academic quality and infrastructure are assured.
- Steps will be taken to conduct courses aimed at enhancing vocational skills along with undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
- 1000 new teaching posts will be created in the aided colleges.
- Innovative courses like Robotics & Automation and Artificial Intelligence will be launched this year in engineering colleges that have ensured infrastructure and quality.
- Graduate Honors, Triple Main and Integrated Courses will be introduced
- All services given by Universities to student will be made fully online.
- Own building will be constructed for APJ Abdul Kalam University of Technology.
- State Open University will be established this year.
- Polytechnic curriculum will be revised including new generation topics.



## Premium Designer Masks



Trained entrepreneurs of Kudumbashree - Kannur, will be launching premium designer masks under the brand name Mukhashree. The women of Kudumbashree Kannur unit were trained by National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kannur (NIFT) and Kerala State Institute of Design, Kollam (KSID) and the masks will hit the market shortly with much less price than other available brands. Masks will be available in different cup sizes and adjustable elastic straps with cosy material.

Cotton and Linen will be the main fabric used, but Silk masks will also be introduced. Indian Ethnic designs like Pochampally, Kalamkari and ikat for adults and funny animated designs for kids add to the range. Considering the needs and interests of people from different walks of society, masks will be made suitable for both men and women.

Technical support needed for the units will be provided by the designing institutes. Customised masks will be provided according to demand.

Currently, 30 units are making two to three-layered masks using cotton and chiffon materials.

# BEYOND THE TESTING TIMES...

## E.P. JAYARAJAN

Minister for Industries, Sports  
& Youth affairs



**T**he outbreak of the COVID 19 epidemic comes at a time when the industry in Kerala was making great strides. Kerala was number one in the Niti Aayog's Sustainable Development Index for industrial development. As an investment-friendly state, Kerala made great strides.

Cherthala and Palakkad mega food parks will start functioning soon. The process for setting up the Kasaragod Coconut Park and the rubber factory in Kannur are in progress. Several measures are being taken to protect and provide maximum support to the MSME sector.

The law was brought to invest up to Rs 10 crore without prior permission. Following COVID, it has been decided to provide permissions for any investment within a week.

As part of the COVID defence, the Kerala State

Drugs and Pharmaceuticals has manufactured 10 lakh litres of hand sanitizer. Kerala State Textile Corporation has made several lakhs of masks. Companies such as Keltron began to manufacture equipment, including ventilators, for the health sector.

A portal has been launched to collect information on returning expatriates. Those who are interested in starting a venture and offering job skills can register on this portal and enter their details.

An online platform called Kerala e-Market has been launched to promote marketing. Logistics parks are being set up in



various regions to take advantage of export and import potential.

The Cotton Corporation will be set up to protect the spinning sector. Entrepreneurship will be promoted through institutions like the Kerala Institute for Entrepreneurship Development (KIED). Skills development will also be implemented.

- **Industrial Finance Corporation to be set up under the Industries Department with an investment of 200 crores.**
- **A program is being prepared to increase the production of agricultural produce.**
- **Trade fairs to be organized in connection with regional festivals.**
- **In the context of the COVID pandemic, KSTC is taking steps to start new non-woven fabric construction.**
- **KSTC is taking steps to manufacture cloth and masks on a large scale.**
- **Modern approaches to be adopted for hand-loom sales.**
- **Khadi silk garment production to be increased.**
- **The Marketing Center and the Ivory-cast Exhibition Museum will be set up at the SMSM Institute Centenary Building, Thiruvananthapuram, with an emphasis on traditional products.**
- **Craft@School training program will be launched to attract the new generation to the handicraft sector.**
- **Local exhibition and marketing fairs of handicraft products will be organized.**
- **Production of Neem-Bamboo Tile will be started by combining Neem and bamboo using the latest techniques in the manufacture of bamboo ply.**
- **Bamboo Planting with the help of Local Self Government Bodies.**
- **Kerala Bamboo Corporation will manufacture stationery products for offices from bamboo and bamboo.**
- **Steps will be taken to start the production of 'Nutri Foods' using potato. Rice mill production will start at Kallepulli, Palakkad.**
- **Community marketing will be organized in conjunction with the local self-governing bodies to display and sale of traditional products.**
- **Steps will be taken to deploy Artisans' services at the village level.**



## Slogan worth a 'life'



The 'Break the Chain campaign' is entering its third phase. So does the pandemic spread. For that extra-care mode, the State Government has coined the slogan "Jeevante vilayulla jagrata". Since around 60% of corona virus patients are asymptomatic anyone can be a 'carrier'. Markets, workplaces, vehicles, hospitals, and public places .... Everywhere is vulnerable. It is a must that everyone should take care to keep a minimum distance of two meters from others. Wear masks and disinfect hands with soap and sanitizer to keep the virus from spreading. Take care not to assemble as a large crowd – the crux of the new slogan.

## e-passing out parade



It is COVID -19 time and anything to everything is 'On-line' these days. So, for the first time in the country, the Ramavarmapuram Kerala Police Academy conducted a passing out parade for sub-inspectors - online. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan acknowledged an online salute during the e-passing out parade held at the Academy Auditorium.

Following the acknowledgement of the salute, the CM mentioned that all the police stations are functioning as Janamaithri Police Stations and they all are service centres too. The passing out parade was in full compliance with COVID -19 standards.

# AFFIRMATIVE TRANSITION

## KADAKAMPALLY SURENDRAN

Minister for Co-operation, Tourism  
and Dewaswoms



**M**any multifaceted plans and projects for the development of the tourism sector of our state which is highly rich in fields such as scenic beauty, arts, culture, heritage and tradition are being formulated and implemented by the government.

Plans that are based on the concept of responsible tourism which is being implemented intending to provide everyone with the benefits of tourism are being adopted by the government.

The past four years were those that proved the level of social commitment that the cooperative department has. The Kerala Bank started functioning kicking of radical changes in the Kerala economy. The “Muttathe Mulla” Scheme is a project initiated by the cooperative department to protect the common people from money lenders, under which the department

has thus far given away about 500 crores of rupees as loans via Kudumbasree units. This government was successful in making sure that the social security pension reached the beneficiaries effectively through cooperative institutions.

Apart from the various innovative steps such as the appointment of non-brahmin priests, Reservation for the economically backward people from the forward communities in Devaswom appointments, PSC model appointments via Kerala Devaswom Recruitment Board in temples under Devaswom Board, the board is also far forward in many developmental activities as compared to earlier times.



The “Sabarimala Layover Project” is a project initiated under the guidance of the honourable Chief Minister. The government aims to construct layover complexes and inns in the lands adjacent to 38 temples in the state.

10 projects of a net worth of 145 crores will be implemented with the assistance of KIIFB in the first phase. The projects will commence as soon as it receives the final approval from KIIFB.

- **Kovalam Vellar Craft Village to be completed in August 2020**
- **Veli Miniature Railway Project**
- **Chempazhanthi Gurukulam International Convention centre and Digital Museum**
- **Malabar Malanad River Cruise Project**
- **Guruvayur Prasadam Project**
- **Project to install toilets of international standards at tourist places.**
- **Kanakakunnu Digital Museum**
- **Veli Urban Park**
- **Shanghumukham beach Infrastructure Development**
- **Aanakkulam Lake Renovation Project**
- **Veli Art Café**



Vellar Craft Village ▲

▼ Shankumugham Beach



## Care Home – Second Phase

The second Phase consists of the construction of flats for the landless and homeless people.

- **Palakkad Paddy Project- Silo linked Modern Rice Mill**

Projects are designed to construct 6 silos with a capacity of 2500 Metric tons (15000 Metric tons in total), a Par Boiling Unit with a capacity of 1 lakh Metric ton per day and a modernized Rice Mill at an area of 27.66 acres at Kannampra village in Alathoor taluk in Palakkad district.

- **Markets and Digital platforms for the sale of cooperative products under a unified brand.**
- **Literary Museum to be established at Kottayam under SPCS.**

## Devaswom Department

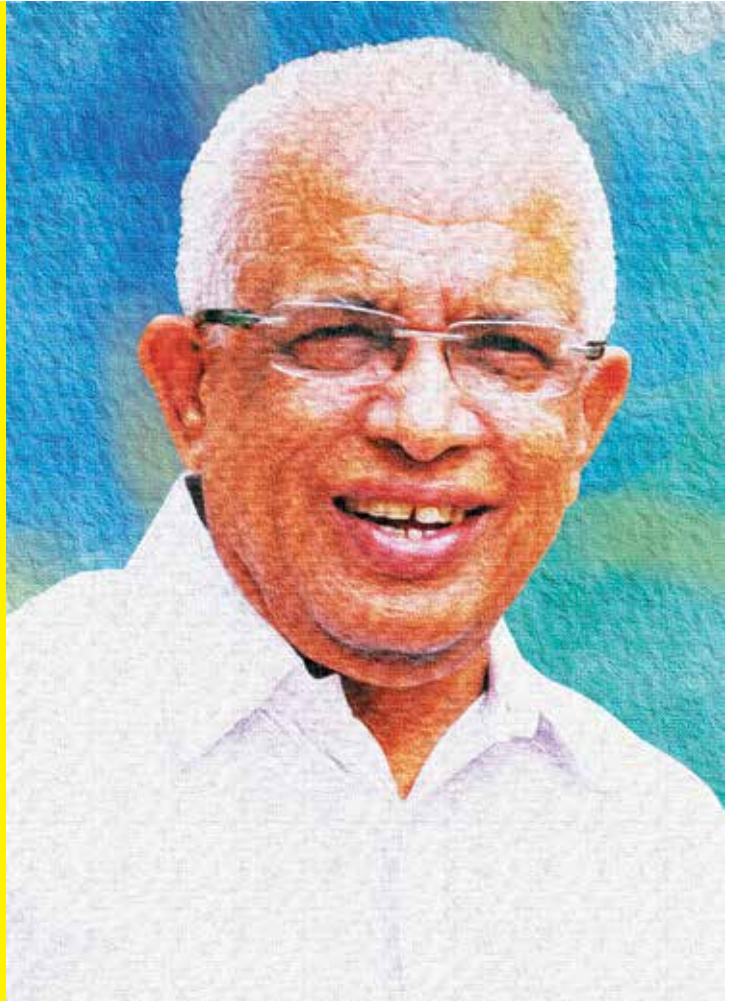
- |                                  |             |                           |              |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| • 5 MLD STP in pampa             | - 24 crores | • Layover at Kazhakkootam | - 10 crores  |
| • 5 MLD STP in Nilackal          | - 21 crores | • Layover at Chengannoor  | - 10 crores  |
| • Parking facilities at Nilackal | - 5 crores  | • Layover at Shukapuram   | - 10 crores  |
| • Layover complex at Nilackal    | - 35 crores | • Layover at Maniyankod   | - 10 crores. |
| • Layover at Erumeli             | - 10 crores | • Layover at Chirangara   | - 10 crores  |



# FLAWLESS 'FLOW' TO CONTINUE...

## K. KRISHNANKUTTY

Minister for Water Resources



**I**n the latter stages of this Government's tenure, the department has taken up the challenge of providing piped drinking water to 10 lakh rural households within the next financial year. The project is being implemented in collaboration with the local bodies as part of the Jalajeevan Mission.

In urban areas, freshwater will be piped to 1,69,424 households through the Water Authority. 1,02,997 connections will be provided in the northern region, 17,412 connections in the central region and 49,015 in the southern region.

During the current financial year, it is planned to irrigate an additional 15,000 hectares, needing irrigation and a further 800 hectares in smaller irrigation systems. Preparations for the same are also progressing rapidly. The Community Micro Irrigation Scheme for crop augmentation will be implemented on 50 acres of land in each district.

Under the Subhiksha Keralam Project, water required for irrigation will be supplied to the cultivated land.

- **Construction of Weir-cum-Tractor Way at Eriyampuzha, Poorakkadavu Kadampally in Kannur, Panappuzha Panchayath.**
- **Bavikkara Regulator in Kasaragod, Mulliyar Panchayath, and construction of VCB in Kaduppamkazhi across the Pallanjadukka river in Badiyadukka panchayath - 410 hectares**
- **Construction of RCB at Chittarikadavu in Kozhikode Koyilandy Municipality - 1660 hectares**
- **Construction of RCB at Malankara Parakkadavu across**



the river Venniyodu in Wayanad Panamaram Panchayat - 300 hectares

- Construction of saltwater protection bund across the Kariyamkode river at Kasaragod Palaivalavu.
- Civil works of VCB construction across Mullanthodu in Palakkad Polpulli Grama Panchayat will be completed.
- Construction of a regulator across the Bharathapuzha at Chenganamkunnu in Ongalur Panchayath
- Construction of regulator across the Bharathapuzha at Palakkad Koottakkadavu.
- Completion of 203 SDRF works worth 1129.53 lakh under Chalakudy River Diversion Scheme
- Repair of eight-point regulator shutters.
- A project of 31 lakh for the revival of shutter regulator shutters and hoist mechanism.
- Chamravattam Regulator-cum-Bridge renovation work will be completed.
- Rehabilitation work of Trithala RCB will be completed
- 674 lakh for the maintenance of the Regulator cum Bridge across the Tirur-Ponnani river in Malappuram, Manjalam Grama Panchayat.

### Kuttanad Package

- The third phase of the renovation work of the Watershed Bund will be completed. Steps will be taken to conduct a trial run.



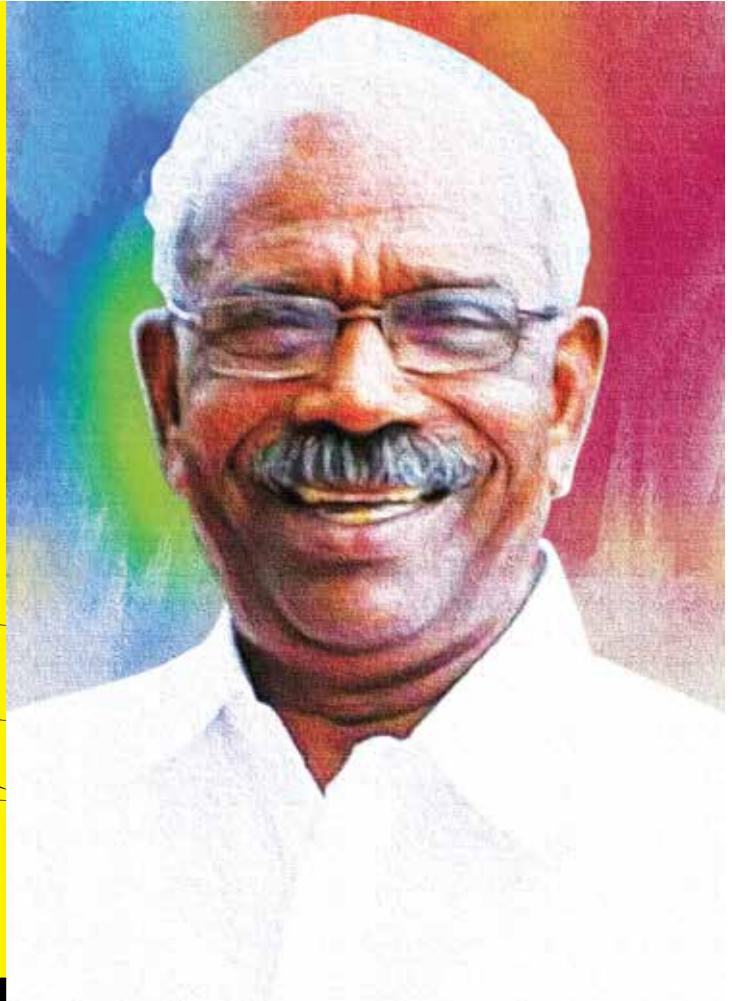
- In addition to aquaculture projects, 1,69,424 households in urban areas will be provided with piped drinking water.
- A total of 78 drinking water supply schemes: estimated cost will be around 1,70,092.65 lakh.
- 16 projects in Thiruvananthapuram, Six projects in Malappuram and Palakkad - Six projects.
- The Drinking Water Project has been completed in Munniyoor Grama Panchayat: 5139 families and 11 drinking water supply schemes are under construction in other Grama Panchayats. 20098 families will receive drinking water connections.
- Two phases of the Jananidhi project will include rehabilitation work in 841 projects.
- As part of the Jalajeevan Mission project, drinking water will be supplied to 34000 new families through pipelines from the existing Jananidhi projects.
- Rainwater harvesting tanks with a storage capacity of 10,000 liters per 1000 selected households in 10 Gram Panchayats in 7 districts of the State.
- The project to replenish the open wells with rainwater has selected 4250 families from 10 Gram Panchayats in 6 districts and will be completed soon.
- As part of Operation Anantha II, rainwater harvesting and water conservation activities will be completed at 14 select government institutions in Thiruvananthapuram.



# POWERFUL MODIFICATION

**M.M. MANI**

Minister for Electricity



## Consumer-friendly schemes in the distribution sector.

- New connections sans delay.
- Unified rates will be published and procedures to be simplified.
- Opportunity for changing connected load/contract/demand/ownership/tariff/phase etc.
- All transactions through online and card swiping machine.

- Submission of applications through the mobile App.
- Social auditing in section offices and immediate action for issues raised there.
- One-time settlement scheme for long pending issues.
- Adalats for settling disputes.
- 100% fault free metering.

## New projects in the transmission sector.

- Six new 220 K.V and 12 110 K.V substations.





- 1500 K.M - 400 K.V., 220 K.V. line
- Pugaloor - Madakkathara HDVC LINE and thereby 2000 MW additional transport capacity.
- Three Generation sectors
- Completing Six ongoing hydel projects with a total installed capacity of 150 MW
- Commencing construction activities of six new projects.
- 300 M.W from rooftop solar stations.
- 150 M.W from floating solar schemes.

## Electric vehicle charging stations

- DC Charging stations in six corporations for KSRTC.
- 56 Charging stations across the state.

## Filament free Kerala project

- Replacement of filament bulbs and CFL Bulbs by CO 2/ Mercury-free LED Bulbs.



# WITH A FORESIGHT TO THE FUTURE

## J. MERCYKUTTYAMMA

Minister for Fisheries, Harbour  
Engineering and Cashew Industry



**P**rogrammes that help bring about new changes in the fields of fisheries, harbour engineering and cashew industries and also key changes in the lives of the people associated with the same are being implemented and carried on by the State government for the past four years. As the government steps into its fifth year, it is aimed to accomplish these ongoing programmes and also to initiate and complete a few new projects and programmes within the stipulated time frame.

Programmes giving importance to coastline protection are aimed to be implemented in time bounded manner in the fisheries sector. The offshore Break Water projects that are intended to be constructed starting from Poonthura to Sanghumugham and also at Chellanam will be completed in time. The government is taking efficient steps to implement the Punargeham programme for the rehabilitation of the families residing within 50 meters from the seashore.

4 reefer containers with a cold storage capacity of 10-ton fish will be installed in selected harbours

of Thiruvananthapuram, Ponnani, Kozhikode districts at 100 lakhs rupees.

Insurance coverage will be made available to 247,849 fishermen. 13.01 crores of rupees have been allocated for the same in the year 2020-2021.

Statistics show that the fisher folks were able to make more than 10 crores of rupees through a direct sale of fish avoiding the intermediaries as part of COVID precautions. All the harbours in the state will be brought under camera surveillance.

As far as the cashew industry is concerned the main aim is



to protect the rights of the workers and to increase the working days. Steps to modernize the cashew factories under the ownership of the government will be accomplished.

- **Motorisation of Country Craft**
- **Suitable Component of Fishing Gear**

It is a government-initiated project to avail financial assistance for the purchase of fishing nets for the boats of the traditional fishermen.

- **Demonstrative Sea Cage Farming Programme**
- **Marine Ambulance Programme**
- **Popular Fish Farming**
- **Reservoir Fishing Development**

The programme enables reservoir fishing in an area of 18421 within 16 reservoirs.

## Programme to improve Fish Wealth

300 lakhs of fish seeds have been deposited in the selected inland water bodies of all the 14 districts for this purpose.

- **Aquatic animal Health Surveillance & Development**
- **GIFT**

## Fish Seed Farm

The programme aims at producing 50 lakhs GIFT (Genetically improved Farm Tilapia) fish seeds per year to ensure the time-bound availability of fish seeds to farmers.

## Subhiksha Keralam Programme

It is aimed to produce an additional quantity of 1.23 lakhs tons of fish through Subhiksha Keralam Programme within three years.

## Vidyatheeram

Medical Entrance coaching facilities are being available to 90 students. Bank coaching for 25 students and PSC / competitive exams coaching for 50 students are also being made possible.

## Theeronnathi – Social Upliftment Programmes

Rupees 2 crores has been allocated in the year 2020-2021 for the above activities.

## Reefer Containers

The programme aims at strengthening the existing cold storage chain. Four reefer containers having a cold storage capacity of 10-ton fish each.

- **65 modern fish markets with assistance from KIIFB.**
- **Fresh fish marts at all the 140 legislative constituencies through primary cooperative societies. (PACS).**



## Programmes of Harbour Engineering Department

The ongoing dredging process amounting to Rs. 5 crores and the channel dredging amounting to Rs. 10 crores at Neendakara harbour, Kollam, to be completed

- **The construction of the disaster shelter home at Shakthikulangara.**
- **First phase of the Thangassery Breakwater Tourism Project.**
- **The Muthalappozhi, Kayamkulam, Chettuva, Ponnani, Koyilandi, Thalai harbours to be made ready for functioning.**
- **Chellanam, Tanur, Vellayil, Manjeswaram harbours to be commissioned.**
- **Kasargod harbour to be made ready for functioning resolving the issues relating to the conservative walls.**
- **625 of the ongoing construction of 876 approved roads will be completed before December.**
- **Beemappalli, Ponnani Fishermen housing Projects to be completed.**



# COVETOUS HOP IN THE THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GEAR

**A.C. Moideen**

Minister for Local Self Governments



**F**our years had passed which had made great advancements in the Local Development sector of Kerala. With the confidence and pride upon these achievements, the Local Self-Government Department is stepping into the fifth year. It calls for a big change in the development planning sector unlike the last four years in the background of covid-19 pandemic.

The LSGIs are planning the activities for 2020-21 financial years on the basis of 'Twelve point Development Program' that is adequate to meet the challenges posed by the new situation.

- Hunger Free Kerala
- 5000 Elderly Clubs
- 'Shuchithwa Keralam'
- 12000 Public Toilets
- Cleaning of streams
- One crore fruit tree seedlings
- Organic Vegetables
- Local Employment Assurance Programme
- 'Pothuvidybhysa Samrakshana Yanjam'

- Palliative Care
- Development of SCs and STs

## More plans and funds in production sector for 'Subhiksha Keralam'

The meltdown that may happen in the food production sector due to the covid-19 pandemic may pave way for food scarcity. It is for dealing with this issue, Government of Kerala formulated 'Subhiksha Keralam' programme worth Rs 3,860 crores.

## Third Phase of LIFE Mission would be completed

The main aim of the third phase is to complete the construction



of the houses of 1,06,792 beneficiaries. The construction of 100 housing complexes for the landless and homeless is also targeted for this financial year.

## Projects worth Rs 3,596 Cr. for Health-Education Sectors

39,027 projects worth Rs 2,324 crores are being implemented in health, drinking water, and waste management sectors.

## Urban Development

Various projects worth Rs 7,015 crores are progressing for the urban development in the state.

The LSGs have planned projects worth 2573 Cr, in the productive sector, 10078Cr. in the service sector and 7395 Cr. in the infrastructure sector.

Rs 275.97 Crore has been set apart for 3,406 projects in this financial year with the objective of providing maximum employment through self-employment ventures.

- Projects worth Rs 1,200 crore for education, arts and culture
- In the health sector, projects worth Rs793 crore are being implemented for 15,359 projects.

## Urban Development

Drinking water, waste management, urban sanitation, vehicle parking and enhancing the beauty of cities are all part of urban development.

## Shuchitwa Mission

- Material Collection Facility Center and Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) will be deployed to more areas to facilitate decentralized waste management.
- With the financial and technical assistance of the Sanitation Mission, construction of 13 septage treatment plants has started and three of them have been completed. Construction of the rest will be completed this year.

## Kudumbashree

All the important projects related to the basic activities of Kudumbashree Mission such as Organizational Empowerment, Micro Enterprise Activities, Destitute Free Kerala, Gender Activities, Micro Finance and Tribal Development will continue this year.

## Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

- During 2020-21, the State aims to generate 13 crore person days under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, with the active participation of 15 lakh households.



## Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme

- Dairy farming has been introduced under the scheme. Those farmers who have more than two cattle can be given 100 days of employment through the scheme in a year.
- People's plan programme  
93,796 new engineering projects will be executed in various LSGs of the state utilizing Rs 4632.65Cr.

## Panchayat Department

- Modernization of offices, Computerization and Up gradation of facilities (100 Lakhs)
- Incentivizing District Plans - 2000 Lakhs

## Urban Department

- Construction of New Office Building Using Modern Technologies for the Newly formed Municipalities (800 lakh)

## Information Kerala Mission

- Digital Payment System in Local Self Government Institutions.
- Integrating e-governance application to Local body websites

## Haritha Kerala Mission

- "Ini Njan Ozhukatte" (Now, Let me flow) Campaign -This Local Self-Government institution (LSGI) centric campaign of cleaning and reviving of rivers and streams will be expanded to 20,000-kilometres more.

## "Sujalam Suphalam"

- This program will continued to be implemented in one panchayath in each block and will be implemented in 152 panchayaths. ★★★★★

# PROJECTS WITH A VISION

## ADV. K. RAJU

Minister for Forests, Animal  
Husbandry and Zoos



**“Apart from the regular activities like Forest Protection, Wildlife Conservation, Soil and Water conservation measures that The Kerala Forest Department undertake, more activities are in the pipeline.”**

- **Project Green Grass** - The project aims at clearing solid waste from forest areas.
- Various infrastructure projects are being taken up by Kerala Forest Department under the NABARD- RIDF Loan. The works on the Forest Station Complexes and Alimukku – Achenkovil Road are expected to be completed this year (2020-21).
- **Measures to reduce Human-Wildlife Conflict** - As part of reducing Human- Wildlife conflict, 204 Jana Jagratha Samithies have been formed in the State in the past 4 years
- **Project under Rebuild Kerala Development Programme (RKDP)** - Kerala Forest Department is initiating a multi-pronged strategy to consolidate the forest areas of the State thereby improving the hydrological functionality of the forests and improving the water security of the State. An amount of Rs 130.406 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose in 2019-20.
- **Forest Plus 2.0** – Kerala’s Thiruvananthapuram landscape is one of the three areas in India identified for the implementation of the project by MoEF & CC.
- **Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor in**





**Thiruvananthapuram** - A State of the art Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor in Thiruvananthapuram district is being constructed at a total project cost of Rs 105 crores under the KIIFB funding.

- **Developing a new ZOO and State Museum at Puthoor in Thrissur District** - The proposed new ZOO and State Museum at Puthoor will have 136.85 Ha. The project, once completed will have a State Museum alongwith the ZOO and will house the animals and birds presently housed at the Thrissur ZOO.
- **Forest Museum at Kulathupuzha in Kollam District** - The works of a Forest Museum with five exhibition halls, Audio-visual room, Seasonal Exhibition Hall, Eco-shop, Tribal Hut, Guest House etc. at a total cost of Rs 9.85 crores is nearing completion.
- **New Strong Room at Forest Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram**

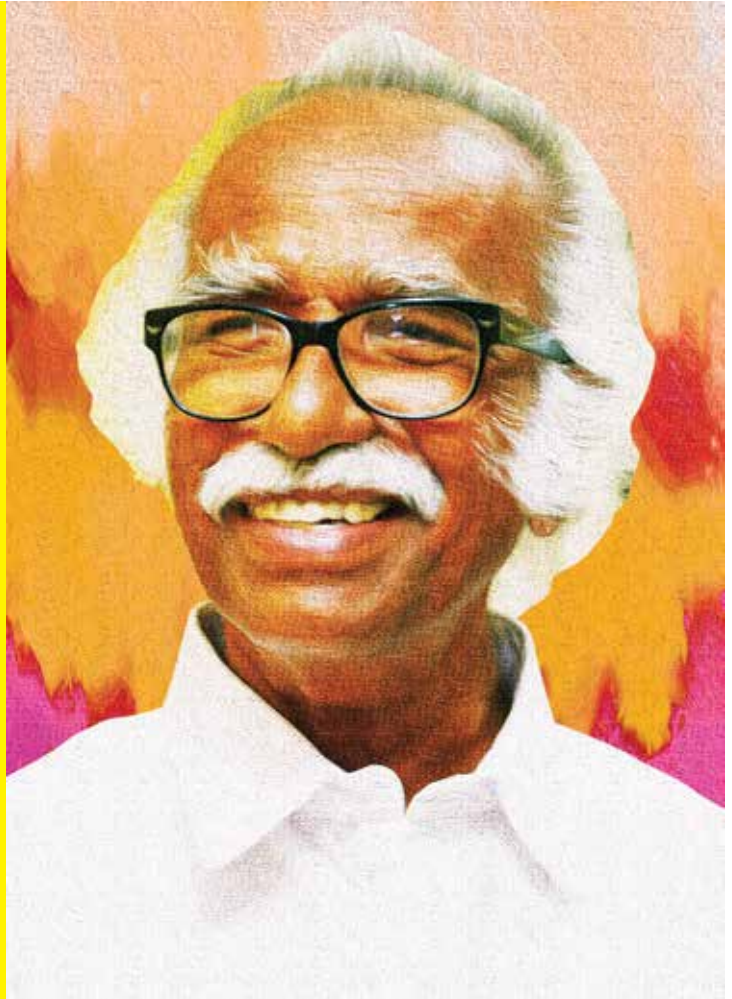
- **Forest Station Complex buildings at Kothamangalam and Chalakudy under NABARD-RIDF Loan**
- **Animal Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Wayanad** - A unit for treating and giving Palliative care for injured/aged wild animals.
- **Mission Forestry Clubs** - A project by name “Mission Forestry Clubs” is to be implemented from 2020-21 onwards to revive and expand the activities of Forestry Clubs in Kerala.
- **Vidhyavanam** - Forest Department is initiating a programme to revive and expand the activities of Forestry Clubs in Kerala through “Mission Forestry Clubs” from 2020-21 onwards. One of the activities proposed for the Forestry Clubs is establishing miniature forests in the premises of schools and colleges. These demonstrative green plots in school/ college premises shall be known as Vidhya Vanam (educational forests).



# WHEN DREAMS TURN REAL

## RAMACHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI

Minister for Ports, Museum,  
Archeology & Archives



**T**he resounding achievements during the past 4 years of the LDF Government bloom into contentment in all the areas of governance in the State. Our dream project, Vizhinjam International Sea Port construction is in progress. Azhikal Port in Kannur is another notable project. Effective steps have been taken for the overall development of 17 non-major ports in Kerala.

Special Rules for the departments of Archives, Archaeology had been updated. Setting up of District Heritage Museums in Ernakulam, Idukki, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Trichur, Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanadu, are going on and will be completed this year.

Six Museums under District Heritage Museum project will be completed during this year in Idukki, Ernakulam, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Waynadu and Thiruvananthapuram Districts.

### Department of Ports

- Dredged material processing unit on PPP

### Model at Azhikkal Port

- Water supply scheme in Azhikkal Port
- Establishing Port Museum at Alappuzha
- Construction of a new berth and mechanical dredging in front of old wharves at Beypore Port
- Construction of boundary wall in Azhikkal Port
- Land survey and stone - laying work in all Ports

### Department of Museums

- New buildings for Raja Ravi Varma Art gallery
- Handloom Museum at Kannur-Museum





### Department of Archaeology

- Excavation at Purakkad, Alappuzha
- Excavation at Aranmula, Pathanamthitta
- Documentation of objects collected through Excavation
- Conservation works at the protected Monument Kadavumbagam Synagogue, Mattanchery
- Conservation work of Jewish Cemetery, Ernakulam
- Conservation work to protect Cheraman Parambu Kodungallur, Thrissur
- Premises development and setting up of Cafeteria in Padmanabhapuram Palace
- E-Office Project

### Department of Archives

- A new project for setting up of an International Study & Research Centre in Archives at Karyavattam University Campus
- Setting up of Palm Leaves Museum
- Digitization of One Lakh palm leaves and Five lakhs paper records
- Setting up of District Heritage Centre & Archives Gallery at Idukki
- Scientific conservation of historical records
- Conservation and digitization of Cartographic records
- Publication of Archival books
- Digital Heritage Archives
- Heritage Awards
- Conservation of paper records at St. John's English Church, Kannur

## COVID First-Line Treatment Centres at Stadiums



If sports events have to pause until the pandemic bid adieu, stadiums are being transformed for a noble cause these days. At a time when the State is facing the stage – 3 of the Covid-19 outbreak, the Government has turned the Stadiums in Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam into COVID first-line treatment centres.

A 750-bedded Centre with state-of-the-art facilities is being set up at Karyavattom Greenfield Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram. The stadium's adjoining complex and the International Convention Centre will be used for the same purpose.

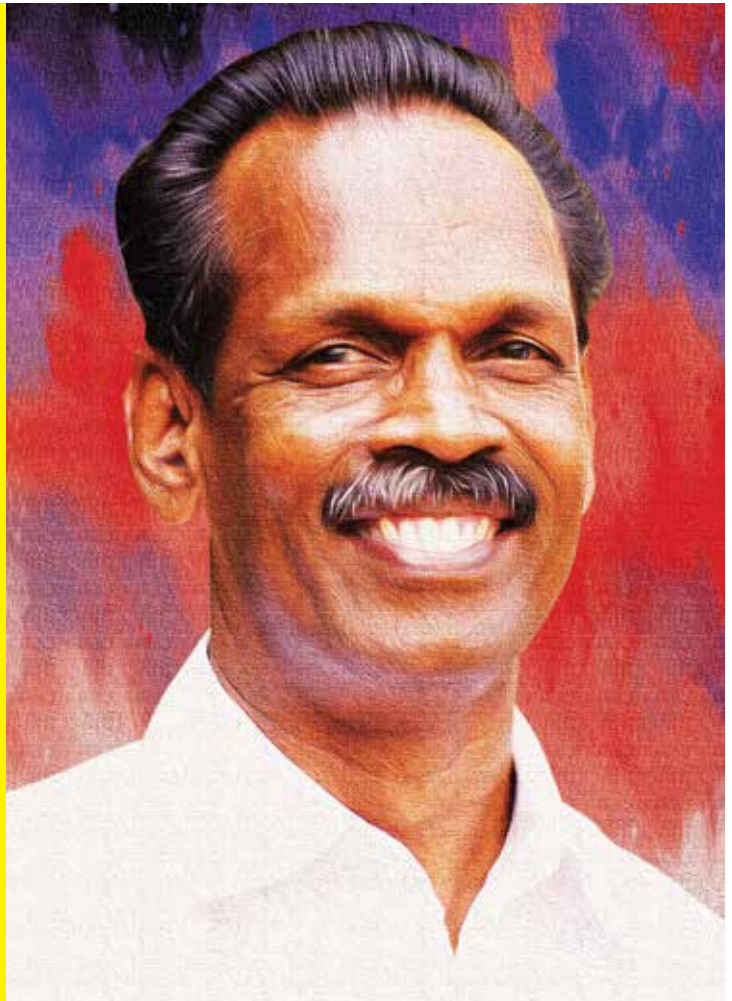
Kollam International Hockey Stadium turned out to be the First-line COVID treatment centre in Kollam has started admitting the infected. Fisheries Minister J. Mercykuttyamma inaugurated this centre. The stadium can accommodate up to 250 beds, currently has 200 beds.

In the primary stage, only two stadiums are chosen for setting up Treatment Centres. If needed, more sports centres across the state will be considered to set up CFLTCs to admit the infected.

# UNWAVERING DEVELOPMENT

## T.P. RAMAKRISHNAN

Minister for Labour, Skills and Excise



**V**arious programmes are implemented for the development of Labour sector in Kerala and to convert the State as an investor and labour friendly destination. Special emphasis has also been given on skill up-gradation of the workforce.

The programmes and actions initiated in Excise department were focused to maintain and project a corruption-free facade to its functioning. The licensing and renewal of registration has been made online. Stringent approach has been taken in the enforcement against illegal transit of drugs.

Majority of the targeted programs in both Labour and Excise departments have been completed and several are on the way to the finishing point.

- Programme for providing housing facility for plantation workers. 50 houses at

Rehabilitation limited Punalur will be completed. 100 houses will be constructed in the Wayanad district.

- The women workers in the urban area will be provided with studio apartment type residential facility.
- The residential flat complex for workers under “JANANI PROJECT” is under completion and will be commissioned soon at Ponjassery in Ernakulam district and facilities for 74 families are ensured here.
- Award on the merit of service will be given to better-performing workers in various labour sectors under the label “Thozhilalisreshta award”
- The construction workers welfare fund board will





establish a construction academy namely “National Construction & Infrastructure Academy” at Chathannoor in Kollam district.

- Formulated projects to strengthen the existing skill development programs by incorporating courses based on the current technological advancement in order to equip the job seekers to meet competition in the job market.
- 10 Government ITIs in the State will be upgraded as centres of excellence.
- Construction of Regional office for Industrial Training Department has been completed at Kannur and will be inaugurated.
- The students from the higher education sector will be encouraged to undertake part-time jobs for their income. A project namely “earn while learning program” has been introduced.
- New ESI dispensaries will be started at Munnar, Adimali, Sulthan Bathery, and Mananthavadi.
- Career policy will be announced and implemented

in the State at the earliest.

- A self-employment programme namely “Navajeevan” will be implemented by the Employment Department for the benefit of employment registered persons under the age of 50 to 65 years.
- Kerala PSC facilitation centres will be started in all district employment centres.
- Career development and employability centres will be started in all districts.
- Construction work of occupational safety and health training institute under the Factories and Boilers department at Kakkanad in Ernakulam district has been completed and will be inaugurated.
- Model de-addiction Centre will be established at Kinalur in Kozhikode district.
- Activities of antidrug mission “VIMUKTHI” will be streamlined and strengthened.
- Toddy board will be established for the benefit of the toddy sector in the State.

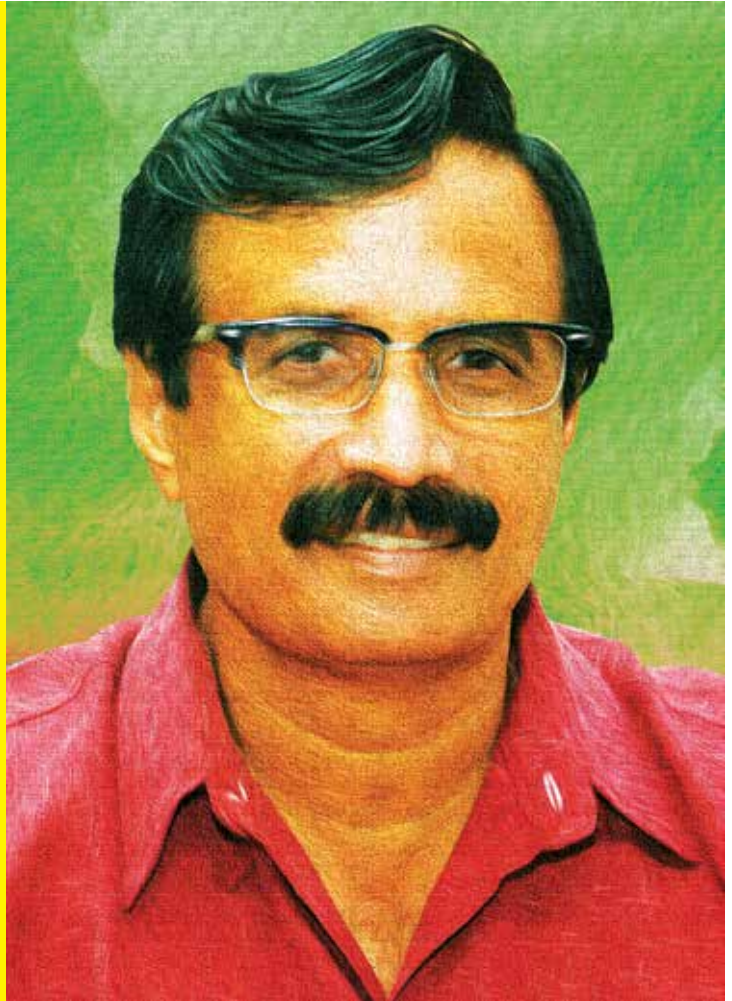




# TECH-DRIVEN 'EDU-REMODELLING'

**Prof. C. RAVEENDRANATH**

Minister for General Education



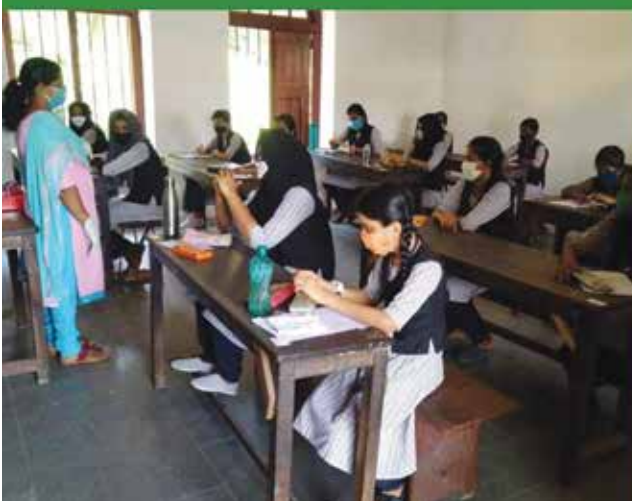
**T**here will be a 'people's' alternative that utilizes technology that allows teachers to work and classes to be conducted through a digital platform.

- Digital classes will be focused on maintaining children's academic standards and physical fitness.
- Digital classes to ensure the basic development of the children and provide greater and more varied platforms for them to display their talents.
- Knowledge, skills and attitudes must be developed to effectively combat the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. This should be concurrent with

achieving the goals set by the class curriculum.

- Non-academic areas will be given prominence through digital platforms as well.
- Digital platforms will also be used for promoting and maintaining a healthy sense of family and community in the backdrop of the pandemic.
- Work - related to improving the quality of campuses will be completed. More attention will be paid to the completion of physical facilities, biodiversity gardens, campus - greening and drug-free campuses with





community support.

- Higher Secondary / Vocational Higher Secondary Admissions will be made fully online.
- Measures have been taken to complete 141 'centres of excellence' this year. In addition to this, an infrastructure project of Rs. 3 crore and 1 crore each for schools will be completed.

- The NSQF curriculum will be implemented in 288 schools in Kerala for the academic year 2020-21. With this, Vocational Higher Secondary Education (VHSE) will be fully shifted to NSQF. (NSQF syllabus was implemented in 389 total Vocational Higher Secondary Schools and 101 Government Vocational Higher Secondary Schools in previous years. The remaining 288 schools will adopt it this academic year.)

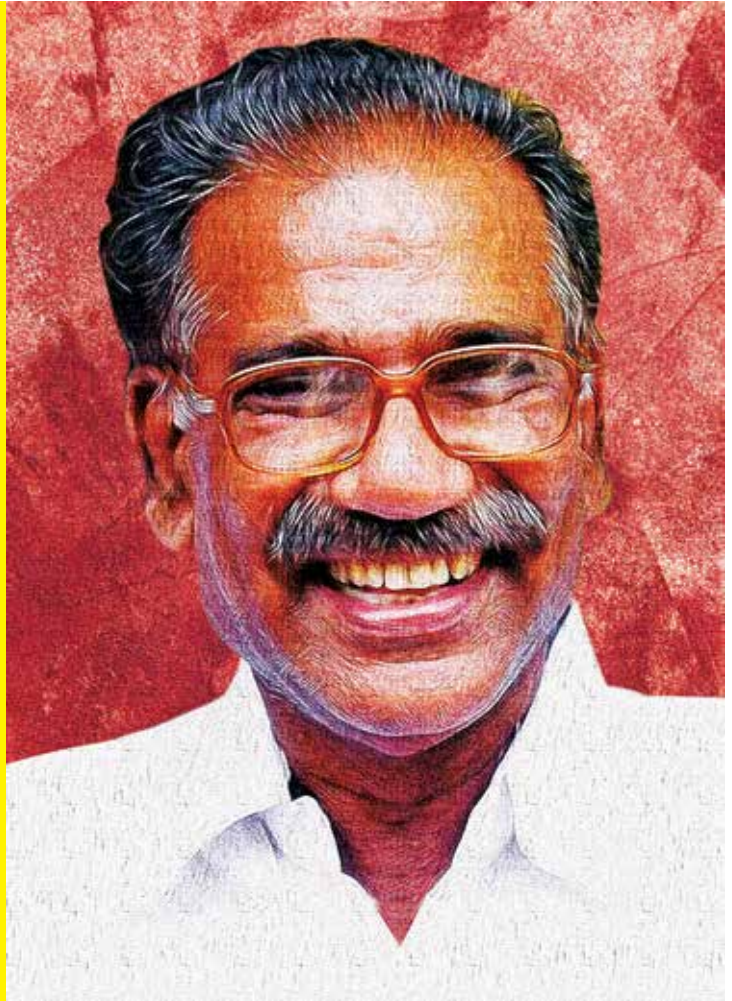


# KEEPING PACE WITH TIME

## A.K. SASEENDRAN

Minister for Transport

**In the last four years, this government has implemented major projects in the Transport Department. Under the scheme of setting up Sub-Regional Transport Offices in all the taluks of Kerala, 13 new Sub-Regional Transport Offices have been sanctioned and 9 of them have started functioning. The remaining Offices at Kondotty, Ramanattukara, Payyannur and Chadayamangalam will be operational soon.**



Work is in progress to build an International Driving Testing Track to increase the employment potential of people from Kerala in foreign countries. Also, state-of-the-art computerized vehicle testing centres and driving testing tracks will be established at 75 centres under PPP model.

To make the website of the Motor Vehicles Department more accessible to the common people, efforts are being taken to provide the pieces of information available on the website of the Motor Vehicles Department in Malayalam.

All registration certificates and driving license-related services, including the Learner's License Test, will be made available online. As part of strengthening the vehicle surveillance system, surveillance cameras will be.

Now, the Kerala Water Transport Department intends to purchase India's first solar-electric hybrid cruise within six months. The Department also intends to buy four water taxis (India's first of this kind) etc. within six months.

Efforts are going on to get the KSRTC out of debt trap. KSRTC Travel cards will be issued as part of the promotion of e-ticketing on KSRTC buses. 400 new buses will be procured by



KSRTC to replace the obsolete buses. Steps will also be taken to expedite the computerization of KSRTC.

The Sree Chitra Thirunal College of Engineering has signed an MoU with the Birmingham City University of the U.K. which provides facilities for collaborative research in Ultra - Low Emission Energy. The College is also preparing for research in the field of developing hydrogen fuel vehicles.

- Sub Regional Transport Offices at Kondotty, Ramanattukara, Payyannur and Chadayamangalam will start functioning.
- The International Driving Testing Track Project.
- The Centralized Plastic (Polycarbonate) Card Driving License & Registration Scheme, which enables printing and issuance of driving licenses and registration certificates on a centralized basis.
- A wireless communication network project will be implemented in the Department.
- Online payment of freight tax from other states.
- All registration certificates and driving license-related services, including the Learner's License Test, will be made available online.
- State-of-the-art computerized vehicle testing centres and driving testing tracks will be established at 75 centres under PPP model.
- Electric vehicles will be procured for the Safe Kerala project as part of the e-vehicle policy.
- As part of strengthening the vehicle surveillance system, surveillance cameras will be further installed.
- GPS in all transport vehicles
- Collection centres of the Motor Vehicles Department will be started as part of the e-services of the Department.
- The Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority will be set up, which will change the face of urban transport.
- KSRTC Travel cards will be issued as part of the promotion of e-ticketing in KSRTC buses.
- 400 new buses will be procured by KSRTC to replace the obsolete buses.
- Computerization of KSRTC.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Commanding with a purpose



Since the situation in coastal areas became precarious and community transmission confirmed in Pulluvila and Poonthura, lockdown was implemented in these areas. To build restrictions effectively, the area was divided into three zones. The first zone -from Edava to Perumatura, second from Perumatura to Vizhinjam and the third zone from Vizhinjam to Uram.

In order to tackle this crisis, two senior IAS officers were appointed as incident commanders in each of these zones. S.C. Harikishore and U.V. Jose in Zone-1, M.G. Rajamanikyam and P. Balakiran in Zone -2 and Zone - 3 are being commanded by S.C. Venkateshpathy and Biju Prabhakar. P.I. Srividya, Divya.S.Iyer is on standby in case of emergency.

All of them have been delivering their expertise in tackling the challenging situation and initiating necessary steps to alleviate the anxiety prevailing among the fisher folks.

# AS COMPASSIONATE AS EVER...

## K.K. SHAILAJA TEACHER

Minister for Health, Social Justice &  
Woman and Child Development



**A**ardram project is going on successfully in the State. It virtually renovates the health scenario of the state to a new high. Before the completion of the tenure of this Government, all the PHCs in the State will be transformed into FHCs. Government is determined to complete major infrastructure projects in the Health sector within the next few months.

The master plan for the development of Thiruvananthapuram Medical College estimated to be Rs. 717.27 Cr, has been approved and Rs. 58.37 cr as the first installment has been released; Level-2 Trauma Care system will be functional soon. The civil construction of super speciality blocks in Kozhikode and Alappuzha Medical Colleges will be completed immediately and they will be operational without delay. The construction works of Konni and Kasaragod Medical Colleges are fast progressing and

they will be opened shortly. Dental Lab will be started in Thiruvananthapuram Dental College this year which is the first such institution in the government sector in the State.

The pain and palliative care project 'Arike' will be expanded to the whole state and necessary human resources are being developed. Marriage assistance schemes that are prevailing in the state will be extended to the inmates of Women and Children home.

The Children's home working at Thiruvananthapuram





for the children who require special care and protection will be converted as a model children's home.

The National Nutrition Mission (NNM) has been constituted to meet the malnutrition in children and women in the country.

For the research and development of Ayurveda, an International Research Institute of Ayurveda will be set up in Kannur. A new hospital block will be started at Kozhikkode Homeo College.

- KIIFB-funded Cath Labs and CCUs will be set up at Medical Colleges.
- Dialysis Centers will be set up at District / General Hospitals.
- The new project 'Arike' for the smooth running of palliative care.
- Construction of Punalur Taluk Hospital will be completed soon with KIIFB fund.
- Level 2 trauma care system will be completed soon at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College.

- Construction of Super Specialty Block at Kozhikode and Alappuzha Medical Colleges.
- The first Government Dental Lab in Kerala will be started soon at Thiruvananthapuram Dental College.
- Marriage Financial Assistance Scheme will be given for Inmates of Women and Children's Homes.
- The first 1000 days program for newborns will be extended to 2 ICDS projects.
- Nutrition clinics and parenting clinics will be set up at Service Providing Centers operating under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act.
- WhatsApp / SMS Helpline 9400080292, which is open 24 hours in a day to provide legal assistance or protection to women and children in the event of domestic violence.
- A new hospital block will be set up at Homoeo College, Kozhikode.
- The Safe Nutrition Food @ School project will be extended to all schools in the state.



# CONSTRUCTIVE BEST FOREVER

## G. SUDHAKARAN

Minister for Public works & Registration



**D**uring the last four years, 229 new bridges, 472 buildings belonging to various departments and 4093 km of BM & BC standard roads have been completed. For the first time in Kerala, the tender process has been completed by giving administrative approval for the construction of roads, expected to survive at least 30 years (using 'white topping' technology.)

To lessen the usage of raw materials in road construction, the government has turned to new technologies in construction such as 'cold insight re-cycling' and 'road milling'. Over the next 10 months, the Ministry of Education, Health, Revenue, Courts and Public Works will complete the construction of more than a few buildings.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was able to carry out the construction work with little delay. The Kundannur and Vyttila flyovers and the Alappuzha bypass are in their final stages of

construction.

- Flat-Type quarters for non-gazetted officers at Government Medical College; for gazetted officers at Government Medical College, Kozhikode
- The first phase of the Model Residential School building is under construction at Maruthamkara, Kozhikode
- Public Works Rest House Building to be constructed at North Paravur in Ernakulam.
- Gazetted officers' quarters at Mananthavady in the Wayanad





- Thodupuzha Taluk Hospital Additional Block, Idukki
- Punalur Court Complex in Kollam
- Additional block of Alappuzha Public Works Rest House
- Kottayam Medical College Casualty Block (Phase Two)
- Cheriannoor - Uttoor - Manakkampur - Kilimanoor road to be constructed with KIIFB funding in the Thiruvananthapuram district
- The Kalavoor - Kattoor Road worth 19.6 crore is being constructed with the financial assistance of KIIFB in Alappuzha
- Kozhencherry-Mannarkulanji Road to be constructed in Pathanamthitta
- Pookottumpadam - Thamburattikallu - Mundassery Seed Farm Gate Road to be started as part of Hill Highway
- Kodancherry - Kakkadampoyil Road in Kozhikode
- Mambaram bridge in Kannur
- Olambakkadavu bridge in Malappuram
- Convent Beach Bridge in Ernakulam District - 24.46 crores
- Three bridges in Alappuzha
- Construction of Kozhencherry Bridge across the Pampa River at Pathanamthitta
- Construction of Ranni Valiya Bridge across the Pampa River at Pathanamthitta



# FRUITFULLY YOURS'

## V.S. SUNILKUMAR

Minister for Agriculture



**O**ver the next year, it is proposed to formulate and implement schemes in the agricultural sector of Kerala to ensure food self-sufficiency and sufficiently hygienic food. The Subhiksha Kerala-Integrated Food Security Scheme, a flagship project of the State Government, is an example of intervention in this direction.

Increasing the income of farmers, attracting more youth to farming and Agri-entrepreneurship, and recruiting expatriates who have lost their jobs to return to agriculture are also goals of this project. The state government intends to spend Rs 3,000 crore on agriculture over the next one year. It will be headed by the Department of Agriculture and local governments in collaboration with the Departments of Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development, Irrigation, Co-operation, Fisheries, Industry, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare and Health.

We aim to cultivate all the fallow lands under the local self-government Institutions. It has been suggested to integrate the various project activities of the co-operative societies with the Subhiksha Kerala project. Co-operatives can assist with revolving funds, storage, processing and storage facilities. This year's plan includes one constituency-wise packhouse for storage and distribution of agricultural produce and 14 frozen mobile markets per district.

The Department of Agriculture has decided to provide opportunities to educated youth and students for a six-month internship program. This is an opportunity for them to develop an outlook on agricultural culture and to acquire skills and





knowledge in the fields of production, marketing, processing and dissemination of agricultural knowledge.

The State Department of Agriculture is working to make these better practices more active in the years to come. Only with the concerted efforts of all sections of the people and community can our mission be 100% successful.

- ▶ **Block Level Agriculture Knowledge Centers will be set up.**
- ▶ **Agricultural schools will be started in all the panchayats.**
- ▶ **The service of Karshika Karma Sena will be extended to all the panchayats.**
- ▶ **Village markets, local markets, will be extended to all panchayats.**
- ▶ **Agricultural storage centres will be started on a block basis.**
- ▶ **This year, an agricultural mechanization program of 100 crores will be implemented.**
- ▶ **Athirappilly Tribal Valley products will be marketed under a special brand.**
- ▶ **More agro-based enterprises will be created.**
- ▶ **Development work of Thrissur Ponnani-Kolpadav course collections**
- ▶ **The second phase of NAT will be completed this year.**

- ▶ **Government financing to expand beekeeping**
- ▶ **About 50 tonnes of honey will be procured and processed from farmers this year.**
- ▶ **The strawberry processing unit at Munnar will start functioning.**
- ▶ **Fruits and vegetables strengthened marketing network.**
- ▶ **34 eco-shops will be launched across the state this year.**
- ▶ **BioControl Lab (80 lakhs) at Ailur, Palakkad will begin functioning this year.**
- ▶ **Oil production from Empty Fruit Bunches at Palmyra Mill.**
- ▶ **Fruit trees such as rambutan, pulasan and mangosteen widely planted.**
- ▶ **As part of the Subhiksha Kerala project, an integrated farming model will be set up at Mullumala Estate to provide training to farmers.**
- ▶ **The second phase of development work of Thrissur Ponnani-Kolpadav course collections will be completed this year**
- ▶ **34 eco-shops will be launched across the state this year.**
- ▶ **Exportable vegetable cultivation will be done on 158 hectares.**
- ▶ **The Bio Control Lab (80 lakhs) at Ailur, Palakkad will be operational this year itself**



# SUPPLY FOR ONE AND ALL

## P. THILOTHAMAN

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



**T**he State Food and Civil Supplies Department which has become an icon of the popular face of the State Government was able to bring about many positive reforms in the Public Distribution System of the state in the past four years. A situation was created wherein the people and entrepreneurs associated with the system could work freely following the integration of the entire department into a transparent set up right from the ration stores to the department heads which ultimately helped in warding off the defame of the department as being the most corrupt one in the state. Most of the programmes that were mentioned in the manifesto was fulfilled and various new initiatives were set forward.

### One Supplyco Distribution outlet in 100% panchayats

Time bound measures are being adopted to ensure that at least one public distribution outlet is there in all the panchayats. Maveli Stores were started based on the availability of rent - free buildings for a period of 5 years and an amount of 1 lakh rupees for computer furnishing through the local self- government institutions.

### Diversification of Ration shops

Measures for converting more ration shops as mini banks with mini ATM facilities are also under consideration. Pulses will also be distributed via ration shops.

### Food Labs

Food labs for ensuring the quality of the food products distributed in the state, food preservation units for storing the fruits and vegetables without damage, labs and preservation centres etc under the initiative of the Food and Civil Supplies Department and so on will be started.





## Godowns

Plans will be formulated to start Supplyco's own godowns with freezer and preservation facilities in all the 14 districts.

## Supplyco Online Sale

Schemes for enabling home delivery of products from supplyco stores via online will be started.

## Ration Atta and Enriched Rice via ration stores

Programmes for distributing nutrients enriched ration rice will be started. Atta will be made available also to the other prioritised sections of the society.

## One Nation One Ration card

This will be implemented totally. This will help the migrant workers to avail cereals from ration shops in Kerala. Steps to convert ration cards to an electronic

format will also be adopted.

## Hunger Free Kerala Programme

Measures to establish Janakeeya Subhiksha hotels throughout the state through Kudumbasrees and voluntary associations have been initiated and the same will be expanded.

## Suburban Malls

Suburban malls to be established at district centres and other important cities.

## Supplyco sale to be expanded

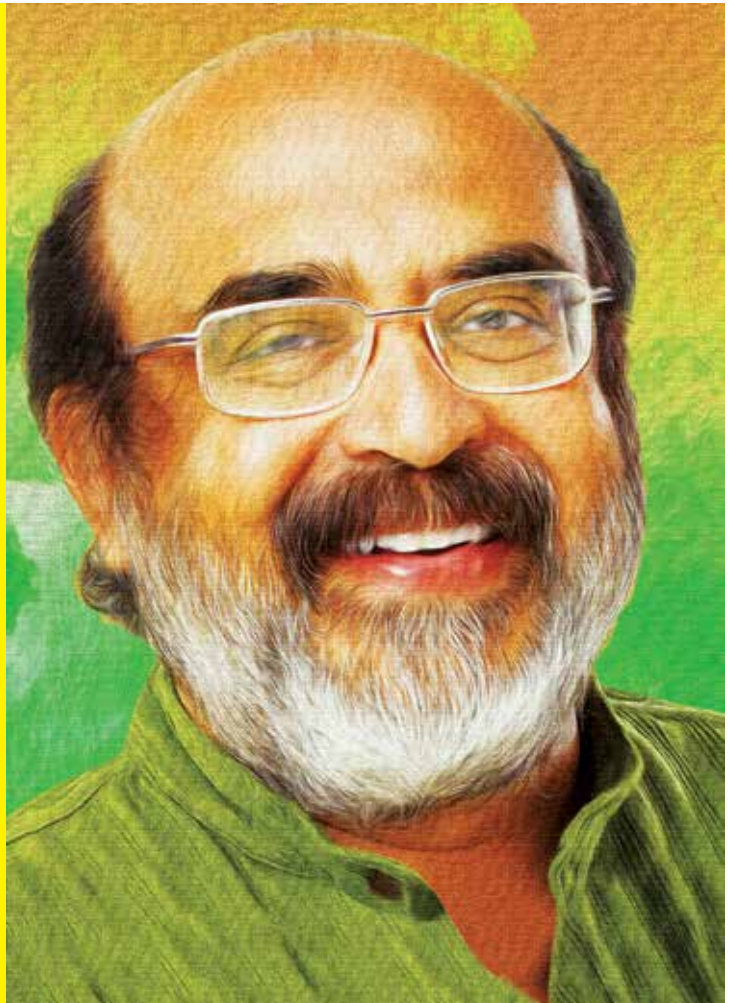
Steps to install petrol - diesel bunks in major centres will be taken up. Charging stations for vehicles will be established state wide, considering future potential. Steps will be taken to establish more supplyco medical stores. More specialised showrooms for home appliances will be started. The cold storage preservation centre that was under construction at Ilanji will be made ready for functioning.



# STEERING THE STATE TO FISCAL SAFETY

**DR. T.M. THOMAS ISAAC**

Minister for Finance and Coir



**T**he Pandemic is not only a health threat; it endangers the livelihood of the people as well. The locked economy plays havoc and makes the life of the people even miserable.

The State Government of Kerala has drawn up a strategy to strengthen the public health facilities to mitigate Covid, provide relief to the people and implement a package to stimulate the economy. Finance Department strives hard to make sure that the resource crunch won't affect the agenda for resurgence and rebuild of our state. The final year program of the Government is re-casted in that direction.

## Health Support

All restrictions on health spending have been removed. Already, Medical Service Corporation

have been provided Rs. 607 crores for purchase of medicine and to NHM Rs. 343 crores as state's share. Already additional 8000 medical staff have been temporarily employed. More than one lakh beds are being set up in Covid First Line Treatment Centers.

## Relief

Along with the lockdown we have declared Rs. 20,000/- crore package aimed at transferring money into the hands of the people. This package has been financed by front - loading the annual borrowing of the State Government. The welfare payments for 55 lakh persons including arrears at Rs 11100/- has been disbursed. Free ration and food kit (Rs 1000 each) are being delivered to all households in the State. The second round



The major concern of The State Government is to support the underprivileged in all possible ways.

KIIFB is defining the future of the State

The shining gain in the final year of the present Government shall certainly be K- Fone

of kit distribution is being arranged. Arrangements are being made to ensure that 55 lakh wage labourers who are members of Welfare Boards receive financial support. Rs 1700 crores consumer loans have been provided from the banks in aid of the poor households through Kudumbasree self-help group network.

## Stimulus

The state has already drawn up certain priority sectors such as pharmaceuticals and medical devices industries, biotechnology and information technology sectors, value adding agro - processing industries and tourism. Large scale infrastructure investment from resources mobilized through special purpose vehicles like Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) will also be playing a major role in the exit strategy.

The infrastructure improvement taking place in our state under KIIFB is unprecedented. KIIFB funded projects will be realized in a large way. The infrastructure growth in general education, higher education sectors are transforming these sectors. School infrastructure

improvements in more than 1000 schools will be completed. The high-Tech classrooms, more than 50000, will also become totally functional.

Hill high way projects, major road projects, ROBs, flyovers, bridges and other transport infrastructure will be completed. The scintillating gain in the final year of the present Government shall certainly be K- Fone. Overall KIIFB projects worth Rs. 15000 crores will be completed by the end of the year.

## The Resurgence and Rebuild Program

While expecting support from the central government, the state government is going ahead to mobilize resources on it's on for the resurgence and rebuild program, like KIIFB and external loans. The recently announced packages by KSFE, KFC, etc are evidencing the determination of the Government. KSFE and Kerala Bank are lending support the poor and pandemic affected people. KFC and KSIDC have drawn up new schemes to support the MSMES in a large way.



# KERALA MAINTAINS AN EXTENSIVE TESTING STRATEGY

**Dr. Anish T.S. &  
Dr. Hariprasad T.**

**T**he State had resorted to the strategy of 'Quarantine - Test - Isolate - Treat' to tackle the pandemic effectively, since its early stages. Being a state with an excellent public health infrastructure, visionary leadership and socially motivated communities, we invested heavily in preventive strategies to curb an epidemic that the western world had brushed aside, for which they had paid the price.



With such a multi-pronged approach, the state was able to defer the peak to a large extent. However, with the ease of national lockdown, that had failed to curb the transmission on other states, our state has seen a massive influx of expatriates and returnees from other states in search of a safe destination in their home state. The incoming of more than three lakhs of people who have a much higher prevalence of the disease as compared to the existing nascent population and the higher mobility and social interactions sans lockdown had resulted in a delayed, but the significant surge and heated up

altercations whether the Kerala strategy was a failure.

Quarantining those with a known risk of COVID-19 to halt the spread of the disease and extensive testing are time tested strategies in the history of epidemics. A comparison of the standardized testing data reveals that the national average is 1188 tests per Lakh population. In contrast, Kerala is carrying out 1698 tests per Lakh. The number of tests done per confirmed patient gives a different picture with just 12 tests per patient as the national average and 40.5 tests per patient as the state average. Kerala is one of a few states who maintain such an extensive testing strategy, the others being Chhattisgarh and Punjab (Fig: 1).



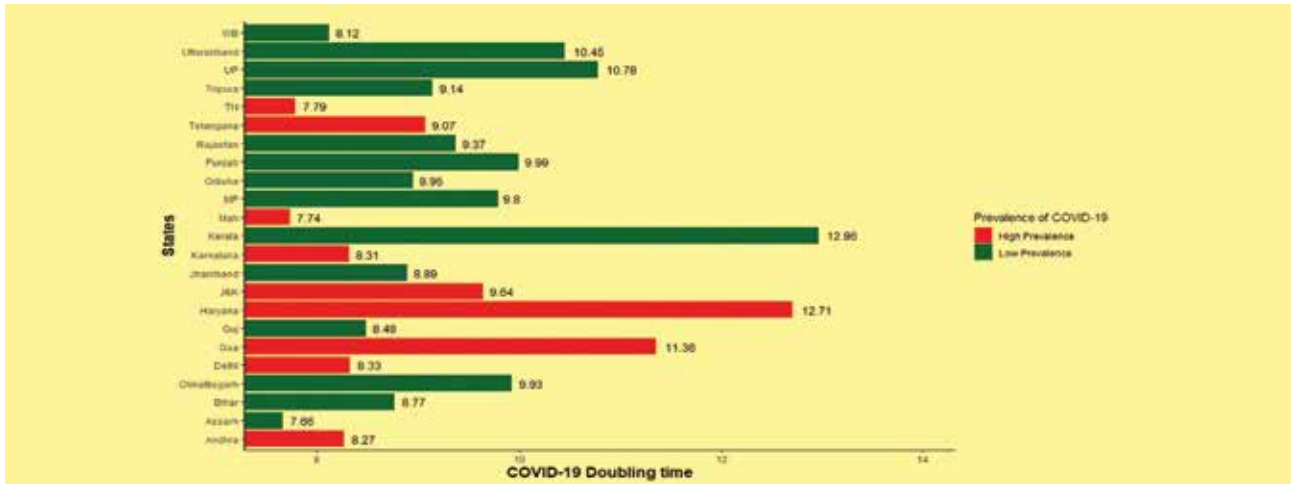


Fig: 1 Prevalence of Covid-19 & number of tests done adjusted to the number of positive results.

Our testing rates are better than that of many developed nations like Singapore, the United States, & Japan. The difference can be attributed mostly to the strategy of including people who are at a slight risk of developing the disease in addition to the potential cases under the dome of surveillance. Even with this extensive scale testing, the prevalence of the disease in our state is just 42 cases in one lakh population, which is less than half of that of the calculated prevalence in our country. It is also noteworthy that our state has the highest case doubling time compared to all fellow states (Fig: 2).

A public health care sector with more than sixty thousand hospital beds and a private sector with beds over seventy thousand has its resilience to withstand a significant peak. Besides, the newly introduced COVID First-Line Treatment Centres can handle almost all of

the less severely ill patients; the number is increasing as more centres are being opened up regularly. Meantime, we also have to rethink about the possibility of domiciliary isolation and treatment seriously of asymptomatic COVID-19 patients who are comfortable as a much larger proportion of diagnosed patients are asymptomatic.

After all, we were fighting to an invisible enemy, with more scientific evidence being unwrapped periodically. Now have access to newer & better drugs, refined ventilation strategies that reduce both mortality and need for critical care, and of course, more certain preventive policies. We are changing our lives with the pandemic and will continue to change in the future too. Flattening of the curve never means to erase it, but it buys us more time to prepare for the upcoming combat.

***We invested heavily in preventive strategies to curb the epidemic***  
***We also have to rethink about the possibility of domiciliary isolation***

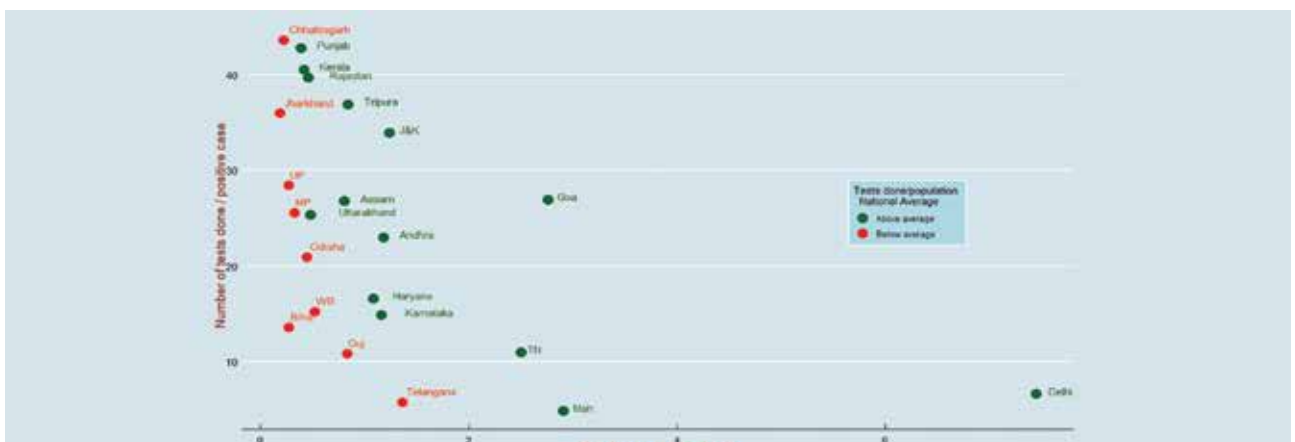


Fig: 2 Covid-19 case doubling time – A comparison across states



# 'SITUATIONS IN MAHARASHTRA AND KERALA CANNOT BE COMPARED...'

## S. Shyama

Assistant Information officer,  
Kerala Calling.



**W**ith the number of Covid-19 cases on the rise by each passing day, the Maharashtra Government looked around, and reached out to Kerala, down south for help. Duly Kerala sent a team of doctors and paramedical experts to Maharashtra to help them handle the crisis.

*One of the doctors in the team, Dr. Santhosh Kumar, Deputy Medical Superintendent, Government Medical College Hospital, Thiruvananthapuram, also the Vice-President of the Doctors Without Borders/ Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF), South Asia Chapter elaborates the mission in an interview with S. Shyama, Assistant Information officer, Kerala Calling. He is accompanied by Dr. Sajish Gopalan, a renowned anesthetist in Kerala.*

*Excerpts from the interview...*

### How did you become a part of Covid- prevention activities in Mumbai?

When I completed my mission of setting up a Covid - hospital in Kasargod, one of my friends, who is the director of medical education in Mumbai, asked me to help them tackle the situation. I suggested moving officially. So, he contacted our health minister. The minister was also of the opinion that we should help the Maharashtra government in the critical situation. But our state was not in a position to distribute manpower from the government sector because of the increasing number in patients after the lifting of the lockdown. But she gave me permission to go on deputation.



We put together a team of doctors and nurses under the supervision of Dr. Sajish and me. Most of our team members came forward voluntarily from different parts of Kerala. We rendered our service at the Seven Hills Hospital, Andheri. All the private hospitals there have been taken over by the government for giving better treatment to the citizens.

#### How far has the experience in Kerala helped you?

I got many chances to work with such calamity situations worldwide. I was also a part of the Nipah team. So, all those experiences helped me handle the Covid-19 prevention situation in Maharashtra.

#### What is the present situation there?

The situation in Maharashtra is very critical. The Number of patients is increasing every day. Lack of hospital staff, especially nurses, is the main problem here. Positive cases reporting from all parts of the state at present. The sudden spike of cases is arising from suburban areas of Mumbai.

#### How good is the quarantine facility in Mumbai when compared with that of Kerala?

The increase in the number of patients in Maharashtra is the result of ineffective quarantine methods. In Kerala, our wide and effective primary healthcare system has helped control the situation.

#### What kind of strategy that you have adopted at the Seven Hills hospital?

At the Seven Hills hospital, there are 1500 beds. But only 100 out of 300 ICU beds are in working condition. So, we took measures to increase the ICU beds. They appreciated the Kerala model for its fight against the Covid-19. Co-operation of our entire system is behind our success. But the situations in Maharashtra and Kerala cannot be compared. Our grass-root level medical expertise and public – health system is behind the successful handling of the pandemic in Kerala

**We can change our lifestyle by accepting the fact that corona virus cannot be eradicated completely in the short run**

**The increase in the number of patients in Maharashtra is the result of ineffective quarantine method**

**We should make it a habit to wash our hands properly, keep social distance, wear masks, etc**

#### Has the Kerala Model ‘worked’ well at Dharavi?

The Kerala model Covid 19 prevention was adopted at Dharavi, after that the number of positive cases showed the decreasing trend. Contact tracing too was successful.

#### How do you mark Kerala’s position in the fight against pandemic?

The State is managing the situation fairly when compared to other states. But if community transmission breaks out, situation might worsen.

As a health professional, how do you evaluate the containment activities now enforced in the state? Small clusters are being formed now. But when the number of clusters increases, it will result in social spread. For the time being, tracing of contacts is there... definitely it’s a positive sign.

#### How long will the corona virus remain here?

We can change our lifestyle by accepting the fact that corona virus cannot be eradicated completely in the short run. The only thing we can do is to take proper measures to prevent the disease. We should make it a habit to wash our hands properly, keep social distance, wear masks, etc.



Picture of Dr Santosh Kumar SS (right) Dr Sajeesh Gopalan.



# TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY ...

**Kavitha Martyn**  
Freelance Journalist



**D**uring COVID 19 or an even worse pandemic, one cannot rule out the significance of access to 'normal' living. Food security comes as the primary priority since nobody would endure any threat without having sufficient means for survival.

Even though Kerala was the only state most prepared to fight Coronavirus (Sars Cov-2), one of the areas causing concern was the supply of vegetables and other food items.

The challenge post-COVID-19, the state faced was the deficiency in the availability of vegetables, milk and meat. The state was highly dependent on neighbouring states to meet the shortage. Now the State realised the necessity to act immediately. Food security or self-dependence on food production to meet the growing demands has prompted the launch of the project

-SubhikshaKeralam.

The project is giving thrust to organic farming. Initiated as the State government's flagship programme to become self-sufficient in food requirements of the state, SubhikshaKeralam was officially launched in May 2020. The project is not limited to land farming alone, departments such as animal husbandry, dairy development, horticulture and fisheries are included in the mission.

Speaking about the project, Minister for Agriculture V.S. Sunil Kumar is optimistic about the concept's success as it has a long-term vision and short-term goals to achieve food security. The



NABARD allocated Rs.2, 500 crores for the project that is expected to achieve self-reliance in food production by the year 2025.

**One of the areas causing concern was the supply of vegetables and other food items**

One could see a resurgence as the keyword amidst the pandemic and this is what the tribal community in

Munnar has adopted

while joining the SubhikshaKeralam project. Over 150 families in the tribal belt have taken up large scale farming. In Bison valley, eight acres of land in Komalikuldi that has been lying fallow for the past many years have been allocated to the tribal community to cultivate vegetable and maize. In Karimpanapalam, Kozhikode, four acres of land is now part of the project. The main crop here is tapioca, a staple diet of many in the State. The 22 agricultural cooperative societies have agreed to join the project by finding and cultivating more fallow lands in the district.

According to the United Nation's FAO, agriculture is the single largest employer in the world, providing a

**SubhikshaKeralam is also an opportunity for reviving Kerala's traditional agriculture practices**

livelihood for more than 40 per cent of the global population. It is the largest source of income and jobs for poor rural households across the world with 500 million small farms. Mostly rain-fed, these farming activities provide up to 80 per cent of food consumed in a large part of the developing world. Investing in small farmers among women and men is an important way to increase food security and nutrition for the poorest, as well as food production for local and global markets, and SubhikshaKeralam is a step towards this, a small yet strong initiative.

**The project is giving thrust to organic farming**

Many more such innovative branding and marketing concepts and better use of agricultural biodiversity can contribute to enhanced livelihoods for farming communities and more



resilient and sustainable farming systems such as SubhikshaKeralam.

SubhikshaKeralam is also an opportunity for reviving Kerala's traditional agriculture practices and it requires conscious efforts from all the stakeholders with a complete change in attitude and outlook.



# KERALA IS LUCKY TO HAVE ONE OF THE BEST GOVERNMENTS IN THE WORLD – K.S. CHITHRA

## Balagopal Kent

Editor, ukmalayalee.com



**A** pall of gloom set in the world when the Covid-19 pandemic broke out. The world was slowly coming to a standstill. The reality was soon setting in with institutions including entertainment industries coming to a halt. However, legendary singer K.S. Chithra soon realised that this is not going to be transient and her ingenuity made her aware that this by far is the biggest mountain we have ever had to climb in our lifetime. Her beautiful mind was perturbed with the thoughts of her peers, artistes who live their livelihood through performing cultural art forms and the other vulnerable segments within the society which made her felt disquiet.

Soon these thoughts made her give life to a noble gesture which will be etched in the memory of Keralites all over the world. She chose the song "Lokam Muzhuvan Sukham pakaranay Snehadeepame mizhi thurakkoo", sung by another renowned singer S. Janaki from the film "Snehadeepame Mizhi Thurakku", composed rhythm and music and released the same in the Whatsapp group of musicians. She made her colleagues sing the song from their home.

She had an overwhelming response from her colleagues and within a few hours around 23

singers rendered this song from their home. The song was delightfully blended as one song and was uploaded onto her Facebook page which soon touched the chords of thousands all over the world who shared it within no time.

This was followed by K.S. Chithra appearing on Kerala government's online classes for school students through Victers channel to sing a song during one of the school lessons. Her rendering of noted poetess Sugathakumari's poem 'Kannante Amma' won admiration from student, teachers and the parent fraternity.





I desired to send out a message and a form of support to our government and the community

In an exclusive interview with Balagopal, editor of [www.ukmalayalee.com](http://www.ukmalayalee.com), for Kerala Calling, KS Chithra shares a lot. Excerpts...

**Do you know that you set off a string of Facebook Lives programs where singers from different countries started to go Live and perform for charity and other purposes?**

I never knew that it will take off to such an extent as I only wanted to lift the pall of gloom that dawned on humanity following the COVID -19 pandemic. I am happy that my colleagues and singers all over the world are keeping the community entertained and also helping them all to keep themselves engaged.

**How did Loka Samastha Sukhino Bahvanthu come about?**

I wanted the whole humanity to be together as we are all in together in this fight against this common enemy COVID 19. I desired to send out a message and a form of support to our government and the community. Therefore, I asked noted writer Sreekumaran Thampi's wife to write a song at the time of this pandemic and she penned those lyrics which I passed it over to Sharreth who gave the music and then it was rendered by my colleagues S.P. Balasubramaniam, Sankar Mahadevan, Sharreth and I joined it too.

**How do you see a way forward as we are still in this fight against COVID 19?**

I am sure this too will pass. As I said we are all in together in this fight. We have to learn lessons and change the ways of how we live. We will have to follow the WHO guidelines and Kerala is lucky to have one of the best governments in the world who take care of their citizens so dearly during the time of COVID 19. Listen to health professionals and stay safe and healthy.

Kerala is lucky to have one of the best governments in the world who take care of their citizens so dearly



# SUCCESS INIMITABLE...

**Aparna Sreevalsan**



**N**o pandemic could mar the spirit of learning and the resoluteness of the education system which support those students who had the craving to garner rich rewards.

Significantly, the victory percentage in the Higher Secondary exam this year is better than that of the last one. Comparing the last year's pass percentage which was 84.33%, this year through the Digital education system arranged by the government, 85.13% of students became eligible for higher studies.

It is not just percentage, as amidst the Covid-19 global pandemic which resulted in the implementation of several restrictions, over 3.75 lakhs plus two students appeared for the Higher Secondary examinations 2020 held in two phases.

Here comes the magnitude of this otherwise marginal increase in the pass-percentage.

The Education minister Prof. C. Raveendranath states that the number of students who secured full marks has increased to 234 from last year's 183, the number of students who secured A+ in all subjects has become 18,510 which was 14,244 last year, and the number of schools secured 100% is 114 this year which was 79 last year. The result shows the percentage of girls who are eligible for higher studies, is over the boys' as 92.29% girls cleared the examinations and while that for boys is 77.22%.

“Without shortening any syllabuses, or cancelling examinations





Here comes the magnitude of this otherwise marginal increase in the pass-percentage.

It is significant that the victory percentage in the Higher Secondary exam this year is better than that of the last one.

The admissions will be done completely through online from this year onwards.

like CBSE and ICSE, Kerala's education system has set a model for the world on how to handle the situation even while facing a global pandemic. Students attended the examinations by strictly following the Covid-19 guidelines"- says A. Shajahan IAS, Secretary, General Education Department.

The admissions will be done completely online from this year onwards. The government has commenced many initiatives to tutor the students online. During the lockdown period, more than 45 lakhs of students were provided online education completely. To encourage their creativity, physical, mental, and holistic development, many digital platforms were created with the help of KITE (Kerala Infrastructure & Technology for Education). With the assistance of SCERT Academic, 160 teachers and educational specialists across the state under KITE, created several Edutainment resources and provided them through Samagra Portal for the students. The Government of Kerala has initiated a campaign

with the active participation of the community, called Pothu-Vidybhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam which intends the up-gradation of 1000 schools to international standards. All classrooms from standards 9 to 12 in high and higher secondary schools are being made high tech. another aim is to develop standards 1 to 8 in tune with the times by engaging the teachers, parents, and alumni to recapture the relevance of public schools. Special packages are implemented for the renovation of schools which have completed 50 and 100 years. English learning is given special attention through the project – 'Hello English'.

The state-level mission will make an evaluation of the present curriculum based on a detailed study. It will also strive to create educational programmes useful for differently-abled students, alleviate the basic infrastructural shortcomings as well as ensure internet connectivity to enable a fruitful IT continuation.



# THE VACCINE 'HOPE', NOT FAR AWAY

**Balagopal Kent**, Editor, ukmalayalee.com



Cheriyam Koshy, Chief Biomedical scientist from London's King George Hospital, Goodmays was in Kerala holidaying with his family in February when news about Covid19 pandemic breaking out in the world. Cheriyam was closely following the news as he knew that this is going to have a serious impact on his life back home in the UK. While he was in Kerala there was 2 reported cases in Thrissur, medical students returning from Wuhan China.

Cheriyam returned the UK at the earliest with his family and got back to his job and moved ahead at full speed. By that time his lab had started receiving samples from suspected patients.

Currently, the United Kingdom Government, the University of Oxford, and pharmaceutical giant, AstraZeneca, is testing a vaccine against the spike protein. This was after extensive research from various scientists across the UK.

Excerpts from the talk held with Balagopal, Kent, Editor-ukmalayalee.com for Kerala Calling

**Can you please give us an update on the works the University of Oxford is doing and what is it makes important the news that they are nearing to find a vaccine for COVID-19?**

The Oxford study was published in the Journal Lancet on 20 July 2020. The trials are promising; Britain is one of the leading nations in Vaccine research and I believe this could work. According to the World Health Organization, 160 coronavirus vaccines are in various stages of development. The Oxford /AstraZeneca team has developed new technology to produce an almost harmless genetically-modified virus to produce an immune response based on previous research and has already begun final-stage tests.

**Can you please let us know how your work as a chief biomedical scientist at King George Hospital in London links up to the works which scientists at The University of Oxford are doing?**

Our lab provides mass testing and provides statistical data of positives to Negatives in patient groups at BHRUT and the areas we serve under to PHE, for Epidemiology. We also collect and store all our positives and send it for Genomic research. The information I provided was from reading scientific journals and speaking with colleagues.

**In your views do scientists all over the world share their findings between scientists in different countries?**

Scientists already have shared information such as genomic genetics and S protein information's through scientific journals and other forms of communications. I am hopeful that developed countries will shoulder most of the financial burden of the research and developments required to create a vaccine. Besides, there are different ways to produce a vaccine and in the early stages, this is largely trial and error, which has associated financial and safety risks.

**Can you please let us know where you are from Kerala and where you are settled in the UK and brief about your family?**

In Kerala we are from the Valiyatharayil family located in Chettikulangara; between Kayamkulam and Mavelikara. My Father Koshy Varghese was working for the British Army in Singapore. My mother Alexamma Koshy is a retired science teacher from Kerala. My sister Jeena lives in Watford with her family. I live in Grays, Essex with my wife Sheeba is a teacher and 2 children Joshua and Jeremiah.

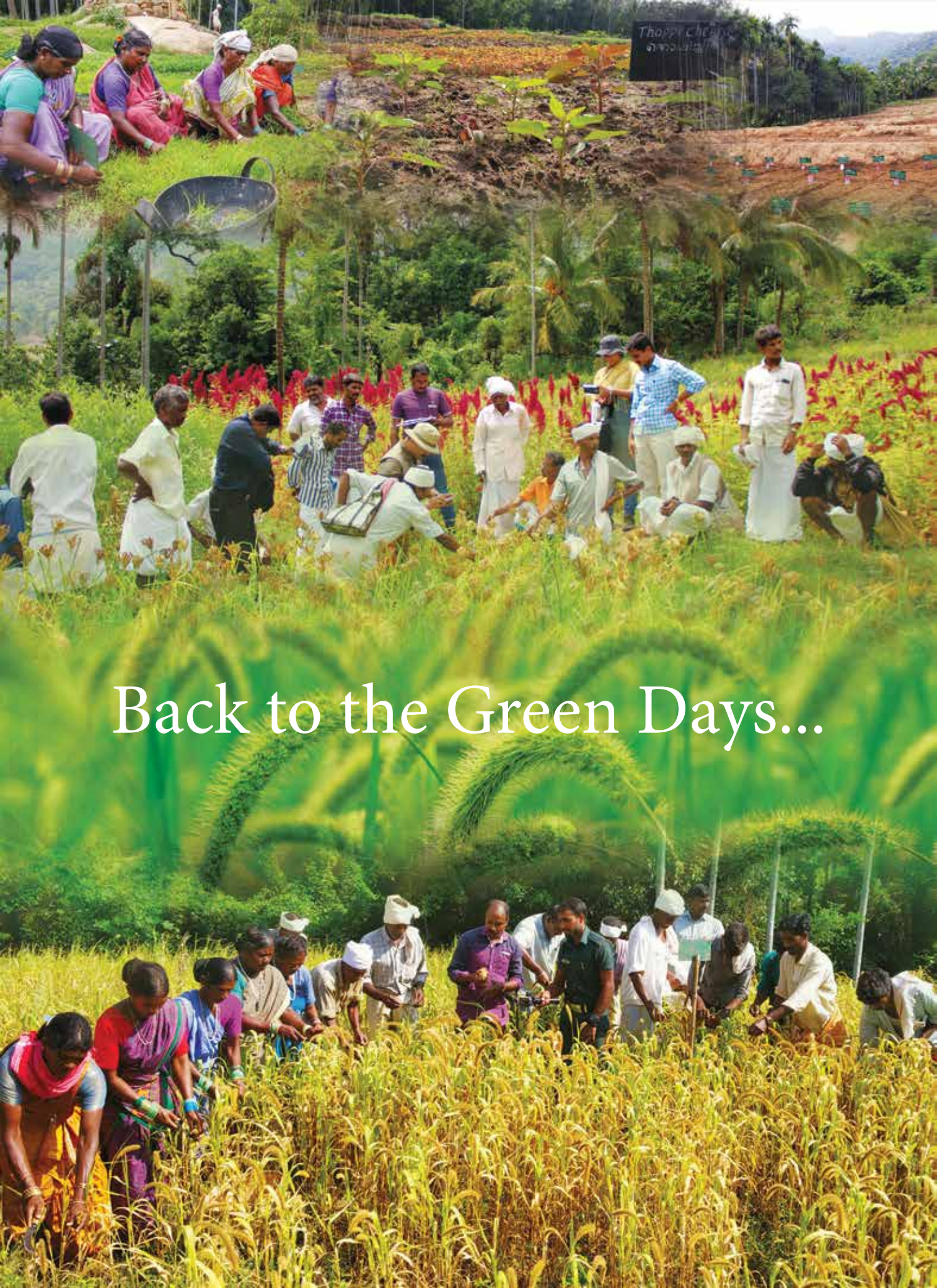
★★★★★



Since COVID 19 pandemic has affected the livelihood of the common populace, ways to tide over the crisis are being explored relentlessly. If not an altruistic solution, agrarian life has now been considered a safe avenue of income-generation. Here comes the relevance of farming and nature-conservation. Endemic agricultural classes have to be conserved as well as those in the brim of extinction. Against the backdrop of this pandemic, Kerala Calling features an array of articles, from the State Government initiated Subhiksha Kerlam project to the Punneykka conservation, all aim to the revival of the civilization from the dark days of the pandemic.







Back to the Green Days...



# A UNIQUE GREEN INITIATIVE THROUGH THE KHAKI

**Ignatius Pereira**

Senior Journalist



**P**olicing usually is considered by many as an unsympathetic profession. Maybe the demands of the job might have created such an impression, but every career has more than one dimension...

The evergreen Punna (*Calophyllum inophyllum*), a mangrove associate, was in the past found growing lavishly along the coastal regions of Kerala. The English name of the tree is Mastwood and beauty leaf. For various human intervention reasons, the Punna trees began getting steadily erased from the coastal landscape of Kerala to touch the near extinction point. But Punna had a glorious past in the Kerala society and was considered a very useful tree.

Those were the days when the Punnakka had good commercial value. Many shops across the

coastal areas traded in punnakka and even had special counters to buy the seeds. Those days the seeds were largely collected by school children and sold at the counters. The proceeds went in as pocket money for them. The seeds were used to extract oil which was a bio fuel and also had ayurvedic and cosmetic applications. When electricity had not reached Kerala, it was this oil that was used to light lamps-not only household lamps but street lights too. The oil was also used to light the lamps of bullock carts and boats during operations at night. Later with the arrival of kerosene at cheaper rates, there were no takers for punnakka oil. Its wood also had various applications especially for boat building but faced a similar fate as the oil. When these trees began serving no purpose, they were ruthlessly felled.



V.K. Madhusudanan is an environmentalist and he is the one who planted the Punna revival idea into the green initiative of the NCPS (Neendakara Coastal Police Station, Kollam). He said that in the past a Punna tree used to be felled only for boat building needs. The tree had a big role in the commercial and cultural aspects of Kerala. And because it later lost that importance, there was no mood to replace the felled trees. He added that in the present context, the Punna is a tree has tremendous environment protection potential. "These trees can act as a big game changer in the fight against climate change by offsetting carbon emissions because it is found to be one of the best at absorbing and storing carbon dioxide." The Punna is one step ahead that the casuarina trees when it comes to acting as wind shields along the sea coast, he said. Moreover they are excellent shade trees that can be planted along roadside wherever possible. Mr. Madhusudhanan said that at a time when the return of bio fuels is being seriously discussed, the Punna has much prospects.

This year's World Environment Day (WED) observed at the government level and otherwise on June 5, 2020 by planting thousands of saplings across Kerala saw an earnest attempt at Puthenthura in Kollam district by police officers to revive the Punna tree that faces near extinction in the State.

One hundred Punna saplings were planted in the campus and the NCPS team now plans to plant about

5000 saplings of the tree across ideal coastal locations in Kollam district. The saplings were propagated from Punna seeds (known as punnakka in Malayalam). Each police station in Kollam district will also plant 10 punna saplings.

The planting of the Punna saplings was inaugurated by the Rajya Sabjha Member Mr. K. Somapasad at the campus of the Araya Seva Samithi Higher Secondary School, Puthenthope. The programme was supervised by the Kollam City Police Commissioner, T. Narayanan.

**Punna had a glorious past in the Kerala society and was considered a very useful tree**

**These trees can act as a big game changer in the fight against climate change**

**The seeds were used to extract oil which was a bio fuel and also had ayurvedic and cosmetic applications**



# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE MODELS IN COVID - TIME

## Dr. T.P. Sethumadhavan

Director, UL Education, UL Cyber Park, Kozhikode



**A**gro-based development beckons the world in this troubled time of Corona threat. Systematic farming methods are the need of the hour. Re-defined agrarian experiments have to be explored to meet the new-age challenges.

Agriculture sector in India is facing lot of challenges including increasing cost of production, decreasing production and productivity, constraints in value addition and marketing and climatic variation. During the Covid 19 lockdown period, Central and State Governments started seriously pursuing the options for sustainable agriculture as part of addressing the food security challenges.

### Supply-demand model

The objective of the mission must be to meet the

sustainability for meeting the increasing demand. Networking of the producers with the market must be strengthened. Organised sector can cater only less than 15 percent demand of the agricultural commodities in the country. Networking of producers through producer- consumer interface will facilitate the producer to get better margin for produce, which in turn can reduce the entry of middle men in to the system who are getting more than 65 percent of the profit.

Strategies for sustainability in agriculture must include location specificity of crops, skilled man power resources, market centred approach in extension and production. Agriculture, animal husbandry, dairying, poultry production and fisheries



sector need to be integrated for achieving sustainability in agriculture.

Now the trend is more towards organic farming. It is the need of the hour to reduce the level of pesticides and antibiotics to curtail ever increasing incidences of lifestyle diseases including cancer. Farmer groups, neighbourhood groups, residential associations, kudumbasree groups including students must be encouraged to involve in agriculture production practices.

## Precision farming model

In order to increase the income from agriculture, substantial changes in the farming practices through precision farming with the use of innovations and technologies are needed. Precision farming use local specific data of soil, water, weather and vegetation.

Selection of appropriate crops is given more emphasis. Promotion of Agri entrepreneurship model will enhance production. Income through agriculture can be increased through market led value addition programmes.

Organic farming can be promoted with strict regulatory measures including residue monitoring.

## FPO/ FPC model

Kerala tops the list of being the State with highest number of small and marginal farmers while in Nagaland, holdings are larger than average size in other states. Sustainability in agriculture can only be achieved through market centred approach. Farmer producer organisations (FPO) and farmer producer companies (FPC) play a key role in this sector.

FPO is an association, society, cooperative, union, federation or a firm that has been established to promote the interests of the farmers. It envisages providing services that support producers or farmers in their cultivation and post-harvest activities. Farmer producer companies offer the farmers advantages that come from higher scales of operation at various stages of the agricultural value chain system. If the farmer is encouraged to become a member of FPC/FPO and integrated efficiently with value chain platform the farmers will get real benefit.

There are immense opportunities for agriculture and allied sectors including dairying, poultry production, meat production, bee keeping and value addition, food processing to maintain sustainability through incorporation of FPOs or FPCs. It is the need of the hour to promote precision farming and FPOs during the Covid 19 crisis to assure sustainability in agriculture and allied sectors.

**Central and State Governments started seriously pursuing the options for sustainable agriculture**

**Farmer groups, neighbourhood groups, residential associations, kudumbasree groups including students must be encouraged to involve in agriculture production practices.**

**It is the need of the hour to promote precision farming and FPOs during the Covid 19 crisis to assure sustainability in agriculture and allied sectors.**



# A BOROUGH FOR A SPICE - THE UNKNOWN AND KNOWN STORY!

**Dr. B. Sasikumar**

Researcher, Agricultural Scientist



**A**nnals of history unravel wonderments if not implausible truths. Be it a nut or a borough, what underlies has to be unearthed.

The geopolitical clout claimed by black pepper or the folklore heritage of turmeric or the epic history of ginger may be alien to nutmeg. But this nut and mace spice has its own share of history, both buried and visible.

Traded a borough for a spice?! Yes, the unique credit of bartering a town for a spice, involving the exchange of nutmeg for Manhattan, USA, goes to nutmeg! Banda islands in Moluccas (Spice Islands), Indonesia is the home tract of nutmeg and clove. Archaeological excavations carried out during 2007 and 2009 at Pulau Ay, a speck of

island in the Banda atoll indicates 3500 years of antiquity for nutmeg!

Fierce battles were waged between the Dutch, English and the native Bandanese to regain/retain the monopoly of nutmeg trade during 16th and 17th centuries. In 1616, the English had managed to wrench control of a Banda Island called Run from the Dutch; a tiny island less than two miles long and just more than half a mile wide. It was here the English claimed their first colony and established the English East India Company.

But the English East India Company was able to defend Run against the Dutch only for four years – but they did not give



*Banda Run is one of 11 lush Banda Islands, or Spice Islands, in the Banda Sea*

up their claim though ousted and waited for the right opportunity to strike. Then the Dutch gained control of Run and the English got New Amsterdam – a new colony they renamed Manhattan. That is the past story of today’s affluent Manhattan.

Run however lost its dominance and sheen as nutmeg cultivation gained momentum in other islands of Moluccas and even other part of the world. The British East India Company gradually gained control over nutmeg trade in the Moluccas and popularised nutmeg cultivation in their other colonies across the world.

**But this nut and mace spice has its own share of history, both buried and visible.**

**Nutmeg was introduced to India by the British East India Company during the 18 th century**

**Fierce battles were waged between the Dutch, English and the native Bandanese to regain/retain the monopoly of nutmeg trade**

The spice has a colonial legacy in India. Nutmeg was introduced to India by the British East India Company during the 18 th century, it is believed. Around that period itself or a bit later, the spice cultivation started at Kalady, in central Travancore. Reference is there about a British man buying a parcel of land near Kalady and planting nutmeg, a species till then unknown to the local population! However the British owner left the country after few years and the 35 acre property came under the possession of the sons of the soil. Some trees, believed to be planted by the British man, about 200 years ago, are still there.

Production, trade and breeding of nutmeg flourished in the state since then. Kalady subsequently emerged as the main hub of nutmeg production and trade in Kerala. Improved varieties /farmers selections of nutmeg evolved in the state include Viswasree, Keralasree, Kochukudy, Punnamthanam, Kallingal, Nova, Kadukanmakkaletc. Rare yellow mace nutmeg at variance with the very common red mace one too is spotted in the state!

Ernakulam, Trissur, Idukky, Alleppy, Pathanamthitta, Kozhikode and Kannur are the major nutmeg districts in the state. Though nutmeg was traded for a small island in the 17th century, during 18th century and afterwards, nutmeg trade became the mainstay of many nations! About a devastating disease that wiped out the entire nutmeg plantations in Singapore during 1862 is also there in the annals of nutmeg history. ★★★★★



# 'PUNARJEEVANAM'- THE REVIVAL SURPRISE!

## P.M. Prabhu

Asst. Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry Division, Thrissur

**H**ealthy living is very much dependent on natural food resources. Any dearth in the habit of cultivation can be detrimental to human race especially to that tribal lot. Here comes the relevance of 'Punarjeevanam' - the millet revival initiative from Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary.



Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) with an extent of 90 sq Km has 11 tribal colonies in its jurisdiction. 1800 tribal members belong to this part of the world as of now. Muthuva and Hill Pulaya are the two indigenous tribes inhabiting here.

30-40% of the extent of the sanctuary is a Rain shadow region. The availability of rain from south west monsoon is very feeble here. North east monsoon has more influence in this geographical area. Hence cultivation in the plains of Chinnar WLS is very limited. But The State Government

of Kerala ensures the tribes are supplied enough rice [35Kg/ Month for a family] periodically.

Earlier, the tribal people ate various types of millets like Ragi and Thina (foxtail millets), Cheera (Amaranthus), Cholam (sorghum), Poosani (Pumpkin), Turmeric and Beans. The protein-rich kodo millet, little millet, barnyard millet, pearl millet, sorghum and various types of beans largely helped them maintain their health. But there is a gradual drop in the cultivation of millets and this began to affect the health of tribes' people.

Nutrition composition of various food grains [In 100 gm]					
	Proteins (g)	Fibre (g)	Minerals (g)	Iron (mg)	Calcium (mg)
Perl millet	10.6	1.3	2.3	16.9	38
Finger millet	7.3	3.6	2.7	3.9	344
Foxtail millet	12.3	8.0	3.3	2.8	31
Proso millet	12.5	2.2	1.9	0.8	14
Kodo millet	8.3	9.0	2.6	0.5	27
Little millet	7.7	7.6	1.5	9.3	17
Barnyard millet	11.2	10.1	4.4	15.2	11
Rice	6.8	0.2	0.6	0.7	10
Wheat	11.8	1.2	1.5	5.3	41

*Courtesy: Millet network of India[ [www.milletindia.org](http://www.milletindia.org)]*

Understanding these facts, Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary has ventured a project named ‘Punarjeevanam’ for conserving traditional varieties of Millets & other Traditional agriculture varieties of the tribes. Thayannankudy, one of the Muthuva Tribal settlements was chosen to launch the project.

15 cent land has been taken on lease from the farmers of that colony to initiate this attempt. With the aim to conserve maximum number of traditional millet varieties, mother beds were prepared. Thus the seed stock was enhanced.

During the first year, 8 kinds of Ethnic Ragi [finger millet] varieties have been restored. Then various seeds were distributed to all the tribal colonies in and around the Sanctuary to ensure its further restoration and expansion.

During the second year, 15 varieties were restored. By the end of this year [Third phase], the varieties of millets restored became 21. In the fourth phase, the project boasts of reviving 28 varieties of millets and cereals. Thayannankudy Tribal Eco development Committee was awarded as the best tribal community in the state considering the remarkable efforts for conserving traditional agricultural practices in collaboration with forest department.

The main objective of the project “Punarjeevanam” was to swell the quantity of the rare, forgotten, and endemic millet varieties in maximum number of Tribal colonies

in Marayoor- Anchunadu area.

With the raving success of the project, running its fourth phase, Punarjeevanam envisages the restoration and wide expansion of ethnic agriculture practices in more than 25 tribal colonies in and around Marayoor-Kanthalloor areas.

As Anjunadu [ Marayoor, kanthalloor, keezhaanthoor, kaarayoor & kottagudy villages located in Kerala-Tamilnadu area ] progresses to be a hub of millets, it not only improvises the living conditions economically and increases the diversity of traditional food crops, but also promises a revival (Punarjeevanam) of healthy food tradition which was once the backbone of our society.

**The State Government of Kerala ensures the tribes are supplied enough rice periodically**

**Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary has ventured a project named ‘Punarjeevanam’ for conserving traditional varieties of Millets & other Traditional agriculture varieties of the tribes**

**The main objective of the project “Punarjeevanam” was to swell the quantity of the rare, forgotten, and endemic millet varieties in maximum number of Tribal colonies**



# THE INIMITABLE 'SATHYAN EFFECT'

**Anamika**

Freelance Journalist



**T**alent infinite – Sathyan the yesteryear actor influence film buffs with such an impression even today. To many the 'throne' of the unparalleled acting – phenomenon remains untenanted.

Being a legend in the B&W era and then staying relevant for nearly half a century is no mean feat. But Sathyan remains a book of reference, an actor who is celebrated for his talent in an industry ruled by looks. After all, the man was called 'Master' for some reason.

Sathyan is perhaps one actor who deeply influenced and shaped the hero archetype in Malayalam cinema with his rich and restrained style. He ditched high drama for a more subtle aesthetics, an advanced acting style that was so different and nuanced. He joined directors like

K. S. Sethumadhavan, RamuKaryat and Vincent who offered him diverse and socially-relevant roles. From the selfless rickshaw-puller in Odayilninnu to the control-freak father in Kadalppalam and the paranoid husband in Vaazhvemaayam to the folklore hero in Thacholi Othenan, he essayed countless characters that captured the imagination of the audience. He also brought to life many characters from celebrated literary works like Chemmeen, Kuttiedathi and Ningalenne Communistakki, navigating his career with poise and finesse.

The arc of Sreenivasan, the disfigured hero in Yakshi, is anything but simple. Confidence, confusion, vulnerability,



*Sathyan & Ambika in Thacholi Othenan - 1964*

guilt and then madness simmering beneath the surface like an iridescent fire. Sreeni is one screen persona who communicates even when he is doing nothing and in one of the most phenomenal performances in Sathyan's career, the film explores the entire spectrum of his versatility as an actor.

But Palani is different, a perfect contrast to the handsome and romantic Pareekutty, a man hardened by orphanhood. And for an artist who always added new shades to his art, Sathyan's oeuvre is broad and intriguing. He hasn't been around long enough to divide his filmography into phases, but the man turned in some iconic performances.

Born in 1912, Sathyaneshan aka Sathyan ventured into films in his 40s, ending his professional life as a cop. He was a teacher, clerk, army officer and inspector before he started his acting career. He had served in the army during World War II and was the sub-inspector in Alappuzha when the Punnappa-Vayalar revolt erupted. Always fascinated by theatre, he had acted in a slew of plays by the time he made his debut in 1952

with Athmasakhi. But it was Neelakkuyil (1954), an important film in the history of Malayalam cinema, that installed him in the industry.

What followed was nearly two decades of brilliant and striking performances that established him as one of the titans of his art form. Despite his theatrical background he was never overly dramatic and always brought in a rare poignancy and balance to his screen avatars. He played peasants and politicians, comrades and patriarchs, rowdies and husbands, professors and officers with exceptionable ease and confidence.

Sathyan was also a true professional as many of his peers still remember him as the most disciplined and dedicated co-star. Leukaemia couldn't keep him away from arc lights and he stretched the limits of his ailing body for his last set of films.

**Sathyan is perhaps one actor who deeply influenced and shaped the hero archetype in Malayalam cinema with his rich and restrained style**

**Despite his theatrical background, he was never overly dramatic**

**Sathyan remains a book of reference, an actor who is celebrated for his talent in an industry ruled by looks**

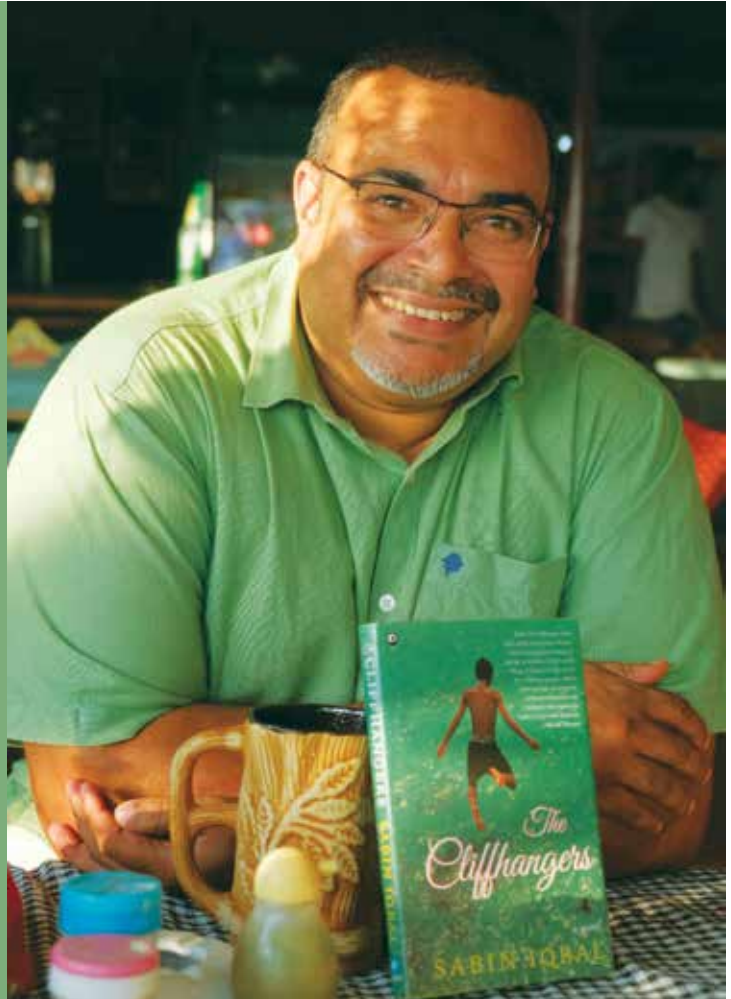




# TALE OF FRIENDSHIP, LOVE AND SEEKING IDENTITY

**Adarsh Onnatt**

Literary Critic



**E**very attempt to review a book ends up in a biased view of the critic- thus goes the oft-repeated disapproval. But when it happens in conversation with the author, a novel turn of review-mode too happen.

On one of the quiet evenings at the end of February without Corona scare, writer Sabin Iqbal sat with me at a quaint restaurant on the edge of Varkala Cliff. The sea in front of us was too slow with activities but was gleefully glistening in the evening sun.

Sabin's new novel 'The Cliffhangers' had only out then a few weeks ago and the writer is about to embark on a stream of promotional activities on his new book. 'Yes, it is a great thing that the novel has been liked by people', said Sabin. The novel is set in and around the Varkala beach,

during a tourism season, many years ago. The red lateritic cliff and four youngsters make the whole story revolving around the rape of a foreigner woman.

The village around the cliff, Kadaloor is full of people from Hindu and Muslim communities. Religious fundamentalism has started to show its teeth in the village. The tension between them is hidden under the veneer of calm. Sabin has deftly made the politics of hatred and nationalism seep into his book, quite boldly.

The book is a strong account of the politics of hatred and

**The novel is set in and around the Varkala beach, during a tourism season, many years ago**

exclusion. "The Cliffhangers" is a very short and enjoyable book with many autobiographical elements. "I have said only what I have seen in my village. It is not an autobiographical novel, though, but wrote nothing that I have not seen in Varkala", said Sabin looking into the

glowing sea sipping on a lemon tea.

Usman, Taha, Jahangir and Moosa spend their time with foreigners in the Cliff and on the beach as they slowly walk into adolescence. The four dreams of a foreign life but they lack English which is essential for them to fly out of Kadaloor. They are called Kafirs by the elders but the youngsters have a more ambitious plan.

"So far, the two communities in our village have lived in peace and harmony. It is a delicate peace, which any moment, could crumble like papadums".

However, adding to woes of the four, their peaceful life turns turtle when a foreign woman is raped on a New Year's Eve in a dark corner of the cliff. People and police believe that the four are involved. It has become their essentiality to prove their innocence.

**"One could not easily get away with his self and surroundings he had grown up", says Sabin.**

"The very name of one is a big problem. It is communication. When you say your name everything behind your life is revealed. I met with such a situation many times in India as well as in the Gulf, where I worked as a journalist. There in Gulf, we Indians are 'Hindi'; an Outsider. In India, well too, this otherness is there", said Sabin.

Sabin has worked as a journalist in the Gulf and India. This has largely helped him to seamlessly weave certain

**The book is a strong account of the politics of hatred and exclusion**



political happenings into the novel. "It is difficult to discard the current situation India has into. INDIA is a beautiful concept. Anything that tries to destroy it should be handled seriously", says Sabin.

The novel is not only the form of male characters but there are women whose presence is significant in adding power to the narrative. The strength of the novel is the presence of women touching the lives of these four young men.

"The Cliffhangers' is an outstanding work of fiction. A debut writer will be eloquent and enthusiastic about his own life. Sabin, however, has also incorporated the micro-politics of his time.

"The place of the birth will create nostalgia for all. The same goes for me. There is an inherent blend of global culture and indigenous culture in Varkala. The stories here are numerous. One could not easily get away with his self and surroundings he had grown up", says Sabin.

**"The Cliffhangers' is an outstanding work of fiction**





# DECALOGUE OF A PANDEMIC

**Johny M.L.**



**A**rtist's sensitive portrayals of the world he inhabits often evoke much enthusiasm among art-lovers. Strange but inevitable restrictions like Quarantine bring the best in many artists and the same has happened to the Doctor-Artist G. Ajith Kumar.

The exhibition titled 'Quarantine' by the doctor turned artist, G. Ajith Kumar was on at the newly opened art space, Amuseum in Trivandrum. All the 10 works depict the quarantine experience in Corona-era. The artist confined himself for a month within his studio, rarely going out, living on a thin meal while applying his artistic - self completely in creating an array of paintings, watercolour on paper to be precise.

A brief look at these paintings would reveal that the idea of the artist remains not in creating self-explanatory or illustrative narratives regarding

the situation. The artist's design is not to invoke easily excitable emotions of pity and passion but rather to open up a theatre of tragedy, a historical narrative of gloom and a lyrical saga of pain.

As the show was christened 'Quarantine', it at once provided the viewers with a framework, a keen, a perspective or a position from which one could approach this suite of works. The predominant colour is red/crimson, perhaps a deep magenta that oscillates sharply before the eyes of the viewers creating a sense of eerie twilights, where life is presented as an abandoned location rather than a happening market place.

The artist doesn't resort to Cubism or Surrealism of Picasso's kind.



All the 10 works depict the quarantine experience in Corona-era.

The artist's design is not to invoke easily excitable emotions of pity and passion.

A closer look, however, unravels another plain. The artist doesn't resort to Cubism or Surrealism of Picasso's kind but rather invests his faith on visual memory of a historical catastrophe, which is capable enough to make associative thinking not only from the moments of historical tragedies but from the very roots of the genetic formation of culture.

'Quarantine', a painting that contributes the title to the

exhibition is surprisingly a pleasant one with a soothing view from the studio's balcony.

The subway in the painting 'Farewell' might look familiar to any viewer from any part of the world where rapid transportation is aimed at and structural changes are brought in the landscape. 'A Thin Line' is a thin line of Hope. In 'Quarantine' Ajith Kumar flags out the tragedies caused by the pandemic. ★★★★★



# 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

**S M S**

**Social distancing, Mask, Soap!**

# Subscribe & Pay via E pay



Annual payment for subscribing the State Government's official magazines

## **Kerala Calling and Samakalika Janapadham**

can now be paid through e-payment facility as well.

The website link [www.etreasury.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etreasury.kerala.gov.in)

Payment via **Net banking/upi/Bank - cards** also available.

**Money order and Demand Draft** are the other options.

*Contact:*

**Information Public Relations Department**

First floor, Annex -I, Govt. Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram.

**Yearly subscription rate for both magazines - Rs. 240.**

For details contact **0471-2517036** Email - [iocirculation@gmail.com](mailto:iocirculation@gmail.com)

