

Pinarayi Vijayan



Satchidanandan



A. Chandrasekhar

KERALA CALLING

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The Film Fraternity of Kerala appreciates the initiatives of the honourable Chief Minister and for the reliefs offered to the entertainment industry
-Mohanlal



1000

**THE PROMISED
'WELFARE STATE'
BECOMES A REALITY**

2020

Even amid a raging pandemic, Kerala was ranked the most welcoming region in the country! As part of its Traveller Review Awards 2021, digital travel company Booking.com revealed the top five most welcoming regions in India, and the state of Kerala topped this list, followed by Rajasthan, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.



Clinical precision to accomplish a better tomorrow

Time and again every discussion ends up in the analysis of the kind of damage that the pandemic has inflicted upon humanity. Since the world has accustomed with cohabiting Covid 19, our part of the world is no exception when it comes to the taking of the new normal. But there is much hope arising these days owing to the advent of Vaccines and we also rely on the 'positives'.

Sincere efforts, as usual, has been initiated to make the vaccine – days as normal as it could be. Covid prevention activities are carried out sans any lacunae. Now, every sector is limping back to normalcy. Even the elections to the local self-government institutions were carried out without any fuss. People's mandate endorses the positive actions from the Government and this support, in fact, facilitated the Government to up its ante towards the fight against the pandemic to the 'peak'.

After certain hiatus occurring in the normal governance, the State is marching ahead with its people-friendly initiatives and development is happening in perfect order despite the continuing challenge from the pandemic, which is there and yet to subside. The budget mainly focuses on the welfare of the downtrodden



at the same time endorses new-age technological advancements. The 'Knowledge society' is a priority and projects, as well as other initiatives, are envisaged accordingly.

The second 100 days programme has been initiated to function as a catalyst to the ongoing developmental activities of colossal magnitude like the GAIL pipeline. Bridges, roads, hi-tech schools, modernized hospitals... countless projects are getting materialized in no time. This issue of Kerala Calling brings forth the highlights of the developmental happening across the state.

Highlights of the Governor's Address to the Assembly is included in this edition as well as the budget highlights. An array of articles from varying fields of life and art, especially the one regarding the ecstatic film fraternity is accommodated to ensure variety of reading. From personalities of eminence to the common man everyone stand firm behind this Government and together we are overpowering the pandemic with elan. Enjoy reading this edition of Kerala Calling with a lot of positivity and hope for the return of Covid- free days.

S. Harikishore IAS
Editor – in - Chief



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THE PROMISED 'WELFARE STATE' BECOMES A REALITY

Historic 5 years of Governance

- **Continuity imperative**
- **Trust the experience**
- **Judicious selection ensures prosperity**

Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister of Kerala

The resounding victory of the LDF in the local body elections emphasizes the people's support for the Government. The basis of the people's faith in this Government is that it works tirelessly to ensure the welfare of the people, and that it is capable of formulating comprehensive plans for the all-round development of the State. The recently introduced Budget for 2021-22 re-affirms the Government's commitment to protect that trust more firmly.

We had ensured that no one would have to go hungry during the pandemic. We have fought two consecutive floods and the ongoing pandemic effectively. We considered each challenge and crisis as a new opportunity.

Since the October issue of Kerala Calling, a lot has changed in our State. Test Positivity Rate of COVID-19 cases looks stable at less than 10%. We have marked the beginning of the end of the pandemic by commencing the vaccination drive. Hence, colleges and schools are open now; even the cinemas are open.

We have successfully implemented the 100 days programme, which is now being followed by the second 100 days programme. We've seen the commissioning of strategic infrastructure projects. A visionary budget has been presented which will ensure the transformation of Kerala into a knowledge society and eradicate extreme poverty.

Among all the Indian States, poverty is decreasing at the maximum pace in Kerala. It is our mission to completely eradicate poverty.

The first 100 days programme achieved 97% of its targets. It had aimed at creating 50,000 jobs in government services, public and private sectors. However, we created 1,21,083 jobs, which was much beyond expectations. The details of the 100 days programme and the progress of the second 100 days programme are available in the website 100days.kerala.gov.in. In the second 100 days programme, the State Government will either complete or commence development projects worth Rs. 10,000 crore. Of this, a total of 5,526 projects, to the tune of Rs. 5,700 crore, will be completed or inaugurated and 646 projects worth Rs. 4,300 crore will be launched.

The Government had increased welfare pensions by Rs. 100 a month. With this increase, the rate of social welfare pension is now Rs. 1,500 per month. The 2021-22 budget has further enhanced this amount by another Rs. 100 and hiked it to Rs. 1,600 which will come into effect from April onwards. The social welfare pension was at Rs. 600 when this Government came to power in 2016. We have also decided to continue the provision of free food grain kits for four more months. The kits distributed through the Public Distribution System had turned out to be a huge relief for the people reeling under distress during the pandemic.

The Government's exemplary work in ensuring welfare, development, as well as transitioning Kerala into a resilient and sustainable society has to be continued.

We are also aiming to provide 50,000 more jobs. There will be more job openings through 'Kudumbasree Social security Mission' in this phase. Twenty seven new

tourism projects worth Rs. 310 crore, opening of 30 new school buildings, 49 new Family Health Centres, 153 new Kudumbashree budget hotels are among the several projects which will be completed in the second phase. During this second 100 days programme, 10,000 land title deeds will be distributed. Under the LIFE Mission 30,000 houses will be handed over. Of these 4,500 and 774 houses will benefit those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and fishing communities respectively. Our aim is to complete 5 housing complexes under the LIFE Mission.

In major infrastructure development projects in the state, we have witnessed the commissioning of the GAIL Pipeline. The Prime Minister officially dedicated it to the nation on January 5. In 2014, this project of national importance was almost shelved due to land acquisition issues and cost escalations caused by delays. However, we took the initiative to allay the apprehensions of people and increased the compensation for land usage rights. Other than establishing a safe means to transport LNG, it will provide a boost to industries and create annual tax revenue of Rs. 750 crore as well.

The commissioning of the Vyttila and Kundannoor flyovers became a much celebrated event. More flyovers and bridges are gearing up for inauguration. Road transport infrastructure has seen massive investment in the last five years through KIIFB. The inland waterways project connecting Kovalam, Trivandrum and Bekal, Kasargod has picked up pace. Many stretches of the national waterways has now become navigable. First phase of K-FON will be commissioned by February. This unique project has attracted global attention. Even developed nations like Canada, has announced similar projects a few months back. This shows that we are ahead of the world in providing affordable high speed internet connectivity to our citizens.

The resounding victory of the LDF in the local body elections emphasises the people's support for the Government. The basis of the people's faith in this Government is that it works tirelessly to ensure the welfare of the people, and that it is capable of formulating comprehensive plans for the all-round development of the State. The recently introduced Budget for 2021-22 reaffirms the Government's commitment to protecting that trust more firmly. We had ensured that no one would have to go hungry during the pandemic. We have fought two consecutive floods and the ongoing pandemic effectively. We considered each challenge and crisis as a new opportunity.



Asia's Biggest Annadana Mandapam, Sabarimala

The fact that we are at the end of our pandemic woes was born in mind by the Government while presenting the Budget. It emphasised on social equality while restoring and strengthening economic growth. Therefore, we have proposed to create eight lakh jobs in a year and open up new employment opportunities in the long run. Of this, three lakh employment opportunities will be for the highly educated and five lakh for others.

Government will set up a new Rs. 20 crore project to convert buildings with at least 5,000 sq. ft. into work stations at the block and municipal level. A new digital platform will be put in place, through which companies can directly hire job seekers for 'work from home' or 'work near home' models. The COVID-19 pandemic has created huge changes in the job structure globally. Globally it is expected that 18 crore people will be working using digital means in the next five years. We will ensure that educated youth, especially women of our state will not miss out on this opportunity. 2,500 startups will be started in 2021-22. Skilling the educated and linking them with the global market through the digital platform is one of the major objectives of this Budget.

The budget also aims to transform the higher education sector in the State. It will be expanded to accommodate 3 to 4 lakh students additionally. Universities will see 1,000 more faculties and 30

Centres of Excellences.

Government will provide 500 Post Doctoral Fellowships. The Chief Minister's Nava Kerala PDFs will carry a monthly stipend of up to Rs. 1 lakh. Financial

aid of Rs. 2,000 crore will be given from KIIFB for infrastructure development of universities. Affiliated colleges will also get Rs.1,000 crore as financial aid.

At present, 13 to 14 lakh people are working under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the State. They work 50 to 55 days on average. The total outlay for scheme during 2021-22 is Rs. 4,057 crore. Next year, we aim to provide work for at least an average of 75 days under employment schemes. Rs. 100 crore has been earmarked for the Ayyankali Employment Security Scheme. Two lakh employment

We had ensured that no one would have to go hungry during the pandemic.



India's Biggest Craft Village, Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram

opportunities in agriculture and allied sector will be promoted under the aegis of farming groups, self-help groups, co-operative societies etc. Three lakh skilled and unskilled job opportunities will also be created in the non-agricultural sector in 2021-22, as per the budget. Traditional job sectors such as coir, craft sector, fisheries etc. have also been given special focus.

Among all the Indian States, poverty is decreasing at the maximum pace in Kerala. It is our mission to completely eradicate poverty. As a first step, the Government will identify four to five lakh 'absolutely poor' families and enlist them. A priority list will be prepared. A state level survey by Local Self Government Institutions and Kudumbashree, based on distress factors among the existing Ashraya beneficiaries and the newly nominated ones, will

A visionary budget has been presented which will ensure the transformation of Kerala into a knowledge society and eradicate extreme poverty.

identify the beneficiaries. At present, there are 1.5 lakh families as beneficiaries of the Ashraya Scheme. Through different schemes Rs. 6,000 to 7,000 crore will be spent in five years for 4 to 5 lakhs families, providing assistance of Rs.15 lakh to each family.

Honorarium for ASHA workers and elected representatives of local bodies has been hiked by Rs 1,000. The budget also proposes to create a new social welfare board for employees in the tourism sector. Pravasi Welfare Board pension which was only Rs. 1,000 when this Government assumed office has been hiked to Rs. 3,500. Pension for journalists and non journalists has been increased by Rs 1,000. In a relief for farmers, the floor price of rubber was raised to Rs. 170 while the procurement price of paddy was increased to Rs. 28 and coconut to Rs. 32. Our Government will soon complete five years. The state is moving towards assembly elections. The Government's exemplary work in ensuring welfare, development, as well as transitioning Kerala into a resilient and sustainable society has to be continued. We are confident about the people of Kerala and their mandate.

The near-perfect model of development

A.K. Balan

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



When it comes to development, this Government has set certain standards worth emulating. The seasoned leadership took the opportunity to govern the state to a novel plane. People friendly attitude of this Government itself won the heart of the populace. Owing to acceptance - The Government initiated umpteen numbers of projects to successful completion. The first and second 100-days programmes show how good and people-oriented is this Government. Development is a continuous process and every project is envisaged with a futuristic approach.

The target set for the first hundred days program has been achieved. Among activities listed under ST and culture, there were programmes which come under the purview of other departments like Kudumbasree and Museum. In the case of employment generation, the SCST development corporation and BCDC have exceeded their promise. In October 2020, around 58 new projects have been commissioned and quite a few new projects started.

In the second phase from December 1, 2020, to March 10, 2021, the ministry proposes to achieve a lot more.

Culture

The renaissance cultural complex in the name of Sree Narayana Guru being built in Kollam will be dedicated to the people of Kerala in February 2021. It has been a 56.91 crore project under KIIFB.

The cultural complex in Kasaragod named after Sri Subrahmanian Thirumulpad at a cost of 41.95 Cr will also be completed by February. The first stage of the VT memorial cultural complex will also be completed within



this time frame. The theatre duo in Kozhikode, Kairali and Sree has received a facelift. The renovation work is almost complete.

Scheduled Caste Development

Another 50 Scheduled Caste hamlets will get all

basic amenities by 10th March under Ambedkar Gramam Programme. 3 Projects under KIIFB will be completed: A hostel for working women at

Perookada, PETC at Azhikode in Kannur and a pre-metric hostel at Kadirur near Tellicherry.

The SCST Development Corporation aims to provide employment to 4150 entrepreneurs under various schemes. A new Model Residential School built under KIIFB at Peringom in Payyannur will also be ready by Jan last week.

The target set for the first 100-days programme has been achieved

Scheduled Tribes Development

Three more pre-matric hostels will be open to students: Kuttikole in Kasaragod, Mullankolli in waynad and Aralam farm in Kannur. A new post - matric hostel will be inaugurated in Kodaliparain Idukki. 13 beneficiary oriented services of STD department will become online. 6300 landless families will get title deeds to land. 4800 houses will be completed by March 10.

Backward classes Development

Loan distribution for the year will be completed in all districts by March 10.

The targeted figure is 150 Crore. 3 regional loan distribution Programmes will be organized to give away rupees 73 Crore as microcredit to SHGs.

A new program to assist livelihood activities of women will also be launched during the period.

In the case of employment generation, the SCST development corporation and BCDC have exceeded their promise

The vistas of 'wisdom' redefined...

K.T. Jaleel

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



The higher education sector in the state is experiencing tremendous growth both in quality and quantity. More institutions that would turn as a catalyst in improving the value of higher levels of education are getting materialized. The first 100-days programme paved the milestones of high-end initiatives and the second such programme is intended to extend the enhancement of quality-oriented initiatives further.

The vision of the higher education system in Kerala is fundamentally state - supported and institution - based, from its earliest days, the State Government has facilitated the establishment of public colleges and universities and funded university-based research. Ever since the present Government came into power, it has provided broad-based funding to the public sector institutions to increase access to higher education and promote educational attainment across the State. With the rise in standards of institutions, the share of the overall funding coming from the central government projects like RUSA has grown, which has helped to increase the quality and equity in these institutions.

The result of this public-private investment in higher education has helped to create a system of higher education that provides broad access to education beyond schooling which is organized around a framework of bipartisan, a principled approach to the role of the State Government in higher education. Our commitment to these principles and to the importance of increasing access to all who are desirous of higher studies has led to surprising results recently.



Despite the widespread menace of the pandemic, we could conduct the University Examinations in time. Results of previous semester examinations were declared and admissions for the next academic

Our commitment to these principles and to the importance of increasing access to all who are desirous of higher studies has led to surprising results recently

year were completed sans delay. In the post Covid-19 arena, the enrolment of students in the State's higher education institutions especially the public - funded institutions have increased.

As a Government, we advocate for long-term policy solutions. We understand that a good system of education should have facilities in place and the new generation courses available for students to sharpen their intellect and physique. Due importance has been given to basic/advanced infrastructure facilities in colleges and universities. Even in this era of economic constraints, money was never short when the development of higher education institutions was concerned.

Six areas viz. new courses, additional staff, new campuses, additional avenues for higher education and new buildings & laboratories were prioritized for immediate attention under the special drive - 100 Days Programmes - announced by the Chief Minister. At the end of the first phase of the special drive, the department could go beyond the targets in some areas. If the original aim was to complete 32 new buildings & laboratories spending 26 Cr., 49

facilities were completed in 44 institutions spending rupees 115 Cr. Likewise, the aim of 150 new courses in Govt./aided colleges became 197 when realised. The Kerala Public Service Commission was entrusted to recruit all the non-teaching posts in state universities. The land acquisition process for ThunchathEzhuthachan Malayalam University was completed and a new campus for IIT Palakkad was inaugurated. Opening a new horizon in the State's higher education arena, Kerala's first - ever Open University was established at Kollam. The name given to the new venture -Sree Narayana Guru Open University, received wide acceptance.

During the second phase of 100-days programmes, we have already announced 721 new teaching posts in the aided colleges. A permanent campus for APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs. 100 Cr.

17 New buildings will be inaugurated after completion at a cost of Rs.25

Cr. Construction of a new headquarters for ThunchathEzhuthachan Malayalam University will be started. A new enactment will be made soon ensuring fair service conditions based on social justice and rule of the land to the people working in self-financing colleges, which in turn will benefit the higher education sector in the State as a whole.

During the second phase of 100-days programmes, we have already announced 721 new teaching posts in the aided colleges

Projects with a vision

E.P. Jayarajan

Minister for Industries, Sports & Youth Affairs



The ease of business policy from this Government has made a sea-change in the industrial image of the State - more than positive, since a good number of entrepreneurs both native and from abroad is showing profound interest in investing here. Ventures with a futuristic approach are being welcomed by everyone. The first 100-days programme has seen the successful initiation of many projects and more awaits in the second 100-days programme. Unhindered development is the primary aim of the Government and befitting projects has been envisaged according to the changing times.

Defence Park Ottapalam (KINFRA)

KINFRA's Defence Park in Palakkad's Ottapalam district is ready for inauguration. The first public sector defence production park in the country has been built at a cost of Rs.130.94 Cr on 60 acres of land.

The park at Ottapalam comes into prominence as a part of the government's Atmanirbhar self-reliance programme after the defence ministry banned the import of 101 types of defence equipment.

Cherthala Mega Marine Food Park (KSIDC)

KSIDC's mega marine food park is ready to bring seafood product procurement, processing and export under its wings. The park is located at KSIDC's Industrial Growth Centre in Pallipuram, Cherthala.

Power transformer plant manufacturing unit (KEL)

KEL is investing Rs.12.5 Cr at its Mamala unit to begin manufacturing of power transformers of up to 10MW. Trials are being held successfully at the plant. Manufacturing at the Mamala unit is expected to bring revenue of Rs.47Cr and a profit of Rs.2.53Cr.

Upgradation of Quilon Co-operative Spinning Mills

The Mills have set in motion phase I of a renovation and upgradation project with the help of NCDC at a cost of Rs. 57.39 Cr.

Thalassery V.R. Krishna Iyer Stadium

The V.R. Krishna Iyer stadium has been constructed at a cost of Rs.13.05Cr.

Renovation of G.V.Raja Sports School

The G.V. Raja Sports School at Thiruvananthapuram's Mylam has been renovated at a cost of Rs.16 Cr.

Muttom Spices Park (KINFRA)

The formalities have been completed for acquisition of land for constructing Muttom Spices Park in 15 acres.

Parali School Stadium

Parali school stadium is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 7 Cr.

Edappal GHSS Mini Stadium Ground

The sports department has built a mini-stadium at Edappal Higher Secondary School in Malappuram district at a cost of Rs. 6.82 Cr.

Thrithala Thirumittakode GHSS Ground

The sports department spent Rs.8.87Cr on a stadium at Thirumittakode in Palakkad's Chathanoor Higher Secondary School.

Kottarakara GHS Ground

The sports department has renovated the football ground at Kottarakara GHSS in Kollam at a cost of Rs. 1 Cr.

Kottayi School Ground Palakkad

The Kottayi School ground in Palakkad district has been made ready by the sports ministry at a cost of Rs. 7 Cr.

Rutronix e-learning

Rutronix e-learning is aimed at equipping highly qualified men and women with the training needed to crack competitive exams. Coaching centres will be opened at the panchayat level to train students under the state's Vijayaveedhi programme.

Alappuzha Rice Park

The Park, started as part of the Kuttanad package under KINFRA is expected to cost Rs.66.05. The plot that belongs to Prabhuram Mills under Kerala Textiles Corporation has been chosen for the project.

Invest Kerala

The Government has adopted many policies to create a business-friendly environment. All business-related information is available on the Invest Kerala portal.

Micro Finance Corporation

Micro Finance Corporation is a finance organisation started to concentrate on the development of micro finance enterprises.

Cotton Corporation

Cotton Corporation has been formed to buy and distribute all the cotton needed for the state textile industry during the season from neighbouring states as well.

Mattanur International Convention Centre

Kerala's largest and most modern convention-cum-exhibition centre is being constructed at Mattanur Veliyamparambil's KINFRA park on 15 acres of land.

Light engineering park (KSIDC)

The Light Engineering Park at Palakkad has been set up by making arrangements for light engineering commercial units under the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation.

Wall putty manufacturing units

Ten wall putty units are being started in association with Kottayam Travancore Cements under the initiative of women. The units are being started in 10 districts as part of reviving Travancore Cements.

Mattanur Mini Stadium

Mattanur Mini Stadium in Kannur has been developed at a cost of Rs.4.12Cr by the department of sports.

Kodumon stadium, Pathanamthitta

Pathanamthitta district's Kodumon is getting a stadium at a cost of Rs.14.1Cr by the sports department.

Preethikulangara Mini Stadium, Alappuzha

The sports department has built a stadium at Preethikulangara school in Alappuzha at a cost of Rs. 5.75 Cr.

Physical fitness centres

Sports Life Fitness Centres have been started in many districts to be used by the public and sportspersons alike. The six new Sports Life Fitness Centres will be opened at a cost of Rs. 3.5 Cr.

Eight stadiums

Eight stadiums are being built at a cost of Rs. 182.5 Cr.

1. **Trikaripur** - Rs. 29 Cr;
2. **Kollam District Stadium** - Rs. 34 Cr;
3. **Padiyur** Rs. 4.5 Cr;
4. **Nedumkandam** Rs. 31 Cr;
5. **Ernakulam district stadium Muvattupuzha** - Rs. 24 Cr;
6. **Payyanur (2nos.)** Rs. 17 Cr;
7. **Thiruvambadi** - Rs. 9 Cr.

Kayika Bhavan

Kayika Bhavan is being constructed to bring Kerala's sports welfare organisations and associations under one roof. It will come upon 29.55 cents of land at Vanchiyoor in Thiruvananthapuram.

The 'Touring-welfare' wagon

Kadakampally Surendran

Minister for Cooperation, Tourism & Devaswom



The first phase of the Government's flagship programme '100-Day 100-Projects' will create 17,000 job opportunities in the cooperation sector. The new openings include those formulated in the small-scale industries and business, recruitments in cooperative banks, besides opportunities created through initiatives under the Kerala Bank, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Cooperative Apex Federation. At the end of the 100-Day project, the total number of new jobs exceeded the proposed number of job creations. Among them, 8,839 jobs were created under various initiatives started with the help of loans sanctioned by the cooperative societies, Cooperative Apex Federation, and cooperative non-credit societies. Besides, 19,292 jobs were created in the co-operative sector, of which 10,453 jobs were the result of loans provided by the Kerala Bank. The Cooperative Department was able to create these jobs on time. Following the successful implementation of the first phase projects, the second phase was announced on December 1, 2020, in which the cooperative sector will have nine programmes.

Mammogram Unit

A diagnostic centre under Anikkad Cooperative Bank in Ernakulam district will set up the mammogram unit,

spending 56 Lakhs. The centre offers screenings for breast cancer patients at affordable rates.

Coconut Oil Production Unit

Varanappetty Cooperative Society has opened a coconut oil manufacturing unit, dry fruits, and soft drinks units at Green Product Unit. The 483.2 Lakh crore worth unit spread across 1.3 acres of land has started functioning from 5,000-square feet building.

Stone Crush Unit

The 50-crore unit is a project initiated by the Ooraalungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society at Thottumukkam in Kozhikode district. The unit would supply crusher products required for its manufacturing operations. The project will employ 81 people directly and 320 indirectly within 100 days of its completion.

Co-op Mart

A project to sell products manufactured by cooperative societies under a common brand name - Co-op Mart, the centre will be opened in all 14 districts in 100 days. Products of societies under the registrar of cooperative societies, and Milma, coir, handloom material will be made available at these marts.

Coop Mart Veg Fresh

Cooperative societies will buy products directly from farmers at a rate fixed by the Government, and sell them through 150 vegetable shops. With this, the total number of such shops would rise to 400, including those started in the first phase of the 100-Day 100-Project programme.

Literary Museum

A centre to collect and preserve material related to the evolution and development of the Malayalam language, literature, and culture. The museum will be built spending 9.5 crores under the guidance of Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham in Kottayam. E.K. Nayanar Memorial Cooperative Hospital Foundation stone will be laid for the 25-bed E.K. Nayanar Memorial Cooperative Hospital in Vadakkanchery. The proposed hospital will have a lab, a medical store, and an intensive care unit.

Bank on wheels

Spending 2.1 crores, Kerala Bank will roll out 10 'Bank on Wheels' with ATM facility with the help of NABARD. The Force Traveller -1 model mobile - banks with ATMs also aims to raise awareness about new banking ways among the people.



House for martyr's family

The family of Havildar Vasanthakumar, martyred in the Pulwama militant attack in Jammu Kashmir, will receive the key of the new house built by Ooraalungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society under the 'Care Home' project of the Department of cooperation as part of the 100-Day s Project.

Flourishing days for tourism

The 100 Days 100 Projects programme announced by the Chief Minister includes 62 tourism projects. The first phase of the project focuses on infrastructure development of beaches, hill stations, backwater tourism, 'attractions' at dam sites, and cities. 45 projects were completed, and 90 percent work of the rest of the 17 projects have been completed. The next phase will have 47 projects.

The Government has decided to focus on heritage conservation along with the development of the tourism sector in the second phase of the 100-Day programme. Now, three heritage conservation projects are undergoing in the state under this programme - Musiris, Thalassery, and Alappuzha. The most important among them is the Guruvayur Pilgrimage Tourism Project, which is being completed as part of the 'Prasad' project. Development projects at Kovalam, Shankhumugham and Veli are also included in the second phase of the 100-Day programme. Works on Malabar-Malanad River Cruise Project, which focuses on the rivers of Kasaragod and Kannur districts with an emphasis on tourism development in North Malabar, is nearing completion.

'Watering' aspirations...

K. Krishnan Kutty

Minister for Water resources



The past four and half years were days of the fulfilment of promises as far as the state water resource department is concerned. The department also succeeded in the time-bound completion of the first 100 day programmes that were initiated by the Chief Minister along with these. Four mega-projects were also included in the first 100- day programme.

The state-level inauguration of the Jalajeevan Mission a centre- State programme, the commencement of a 200 crore project for the coastline conservation, completion of the renovation of the pipelines and arrangements for water distribution at Kadamakkudi, starting the Interstate river water hub at Palakkad and so on were the projects that were incorporated in the list of the 100-day programmes as those of the water resource department. The inauguration of the coastline conservation programme and the announcement of the completion of the renovation programmes at Kadamakkudi was done by the Chief Minister.

Jalajeevan Mission was kick-started by the Chief Minister. The Palakkad interstate river water hub though completed could not be inaugurated owing to elections and this project has been included in the second 100- day programme.



Malampuzha Dam

14 major projects of the Water Resource Department is included as part of the second 100 - day programmes. The

14 major projects of the Water Resource Department is included as part of the second 100-days programmes

74.40 crore drinking water for the areas of Ponnani municipality, Perumpadapp, Veliyamcode, Maranchery, Alamcode and Nannam mukk panchayats of Ponnani constituency and Tavanur,

Kalady, Edappal, Vattamkulam panchayats of Tavanur constituency is the most important one among these. The rural freshwater distribution project worth rupees 4220 crores for Bathery city and Noolppuzha and Muttill panchayats, The drinking water extension programme for Thripunithura municipality and nearby areas, First phase of the Comprehensive Drinking water project for Kozhinjampara, Eruthempathi, Vadakarapathi panchayats, The KIIFB aided Pattazhi, Pattazhi Vadakkekara, Mailamthalavoor drinking water project and so on are the major drinking water distribution projects included in this.

Jalajeevan Mission was kick-started by the Chief Minister

The construction of 4 regulator cum bridges is also included along with these this time. The constructions of regulators and regulator cum bridges at Palayi Valavu at Hosdurg in Kasaragod, the saltwater preventive regulator cum bridge at Karyamcode river, the regulator across Bharathappuzha

at Chenganamkundu in Ongallur in Palakkad, and the regulator cum bridge at Chittarikkadavu in Koyilandy in Kozhikode and so on are to be completed.

The inauguration of the ready - to - function regulator cum bridge across Thirur Chamathachal river at Payyavoor village in Kannur will also be finished in this period.

Interstate river water archives library, data information centre, facilities for training for dam security and farmers are all part of the hub

The completion of the renovation of the Andhakaarathodu in Thripunithura municipality, the betterment of the infrastructure and rehabilitation facilities of the Kuttyady irrigation project, completion of the construction of the water purification plant having a capacity of 75 M.L.D at Aruvikkara in Thiruvananthapuram, The commencement of the functioning of the bottled water manufacturing plant at Aruvikkara and the production and availing of water bottles in the market. Inauguration of the Palakkad Interstate river water hub and so on will be completed in time bounded manner and the measures for the same is also being adopted.

Interstate River water Hub

The Palakkad Interstate river water hub for integrating the activities relating to interstate river water. The hub is being constructed in Palakkad. Interstate river water archives library, data information centre, facilities for training for dam security and farmers are all part of the hub.

One Hundred days of 'powerful' development

M.M. Mani
Minister for Electricity



The Electricity sector in Kerala is undergoing tremendous transformation ensuring quality power to all. Various projects under Urja Kerala mission are getting completed as per schedule even though there are difficulties due to Covid pandemic. The State Government had declared a hundred- day program during August 2020 and the projects included in that initiative got completed within the designated time frame itself. The projects connected with the power sector were also completed as proposed. On successful completion of the first hundred - day program, the Government has now announced another set of projects to be completed within the next hundred days.

The KSEB Ltd. will complete the second phase of the IPDS project, which will include modernization of distribution lines of 21 municipal towns. IT-based IPDS ERP project will also get completed during this time. This project is envisaged for IT-based monitoring of entire activities of the KSEBL.

Transgrid is a flagship project taken up by the Government and is pursued with good pace, targeted to double the transmission capacity of the state. Five 220 KV substations at Kaloor, Aluva, Kothamangalam, Chalakkudy and Kundamangalam are getting completed as part of the project and will be commissioned by February 2021 as part of Transgrid. Another Eleven 110 KV substations will also get commissioned during this period.



The Electricity sector in Kerala is undergoing tremendous transformation ensuring quality power to all

Kerala is committed to increasing solar energy generation as a green - initiative and various projects are underway. It is proposed to add 100 MW solar power to Kerala grid within the next hundred days. Another 200 MW projects will get commenced during this period and will be completed within May 2021.

Dyuthi is a project taken up by KSEBL to strengthen distribution network. Modernization of the distribution system is also part of this program. The total project outlay of Dyuthi is Rs. 4500 Crores. It is proposed to complete works costing Rs. 405 Crores under Dyuthi as part of this hundred days program. About 1100 Km of HT lines, 2100 Km of LT lines, 1600 Km of reconductoring are part of this project. Modernization using 1000 Km of AB cable is also expected to be completed during this period.

Replacing fossil fuel vehicles with E-Vehicle is too important in the context of increasing global warming. As part of this program, ANERT will rent out an additional 100 EVs during the next 100 days. KSEBL and ANERT together will establish 76 EV charging stations, throughout the state. The Government decided to encourage private investors

to establish such stations. Hundred charging stations are expected to be established during the next hundred days.

Kerala is a model in energy conservation activities. This the fifth consecutive year that Kerala is getting adjudged as the best state in energy conservation activities. Now we are moving to a new phase in energy conservation and planned to replace each and every ordinary bulb, CFLs and tubes with energy-efficient LEDs through Filament Free Kerala a project announced under Urja Kerala Mission. As part of FFK, One Crore LEDs are ready to be distributed. Officials from KSEBL will distribute the LEDs at the doorstep of the registered consumers and take back the old lamps for safe disposal. Another program Nilavu is also in progress targeting to replace all street lights with LEDs. Replacing 2 Lakhs of street lights will get completed within March 2021.

Kerala is committed to increasing solar energy generation as a green - initiative and various projects are underway

Energy Management Center is coordinating these energy conservation activities of Kerala as the state nodal agency. EMC is establishing an LED testing lab and the lab will be ready within the next hundred days. The NABL accredited meter testing lab also will be completed within this period.

Time-bound developmental feats

J. Mercykutty Amma

Minister for Fisheries, Harbour Engineering and Cashew Industry



In light of the State Government completing four and a half years, many projects announced previously have been carried out successfully in the departments of Fisheries and Harbour Engineering, and Cashew Development Corporation. The Government has now announced the second 100 days programme to wrap up projects nearing completion in a time-bound manner. All the projects that came under phase one of the 100 days plan of the Fisheries and Harbour Engineering department have been finished.

Numerous initiatives introduced by the Government for the welfare of fishers have seen fruition. It was decided by the Government to provide three marine ambulances for attending to fishers who met with accidents out at sea and bringing them back to land. The services are to commence in the areas around Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode. The ambulances will be built using the expertise of Cochin Shipyard at a cost of Rs.18.24Cr. The first of the ambulances are already running in Thiruvananthapuram. The other two will be commissioned in January after manufacture is complete.

Steps are being undertaken to implement stricter security measures around the harbour by installing CCTV cameras. Camera surveillance is being carried out under the 100 days programme at Neendakara, Beypore and Puthiyappa. Work is progressing at Ponnani, Sakthikulangara and Vizhinjam harbours where surveillance systems have already been installed so that the inauguration can be held in February.

An amount to the tune of Rs.3.32Cr has been earmarked for developing an insurance plan that will protect equipment and boat engines used by fishers. The plan is being developed so that fishers may avail its benefits by January end.

Work will be completed in January for setting up a master control room and two other control rooms centred around Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode at a cost of Rs.68.20L. Seventy-five classrooms set up at a cost of Rs.1.06 Cr under the Pratibhatheeram project will be made available to children hailing from fisher families. February will see the completion of 128 flats at Karode and 24 flats at Beemapally in Thiruvananthapuram at a cost of Rs.12.80Cr and Rs.2.40Cr respectively. This is apart

Numerous initiatives introduced by the Government for the welfare of fishers have seen fruition.

from 114 flats at QSS Colony in Kollam district at Rs.11.40Cr and 48 flats at Ponnani in Malappuram district at Rs.3.20Cr.

Work is also fast progressing to meet the same deadline at

the Rs.5Cr Pannivelichira Gift Hatchery, Rs.1.88Cr Meenkara Carp Seedling Production Centre; for the KCC loan for fish farmers; the Fish Auction and Sale Centres in Pannivelichira and Kasaba, and phase two development of the Kulathupuzha Fish Seedling Production Farm at Rs.5Cr.

January end will also see the completion of the Rs.4.50Cr Fish Seedling Production Centre at Kanatharkunnam, development of the Rs.1.12Cr Irratta Fish Hatchery, Aquatic Animal Health Centre at Odayam at Rs.1.31Cr and a shrimp hatchery at Valanjavazhi at Rs.1.76Cr.

Sea-cage farming at the Rs16.40Cr Peruvannamuzhi, Banasura Sagar, Karapuzha and Kakki reservoirs will begin by February.

Twenty-nine high-tech fish marts run in partnership with the Department of Co-operation, two new Anthipachha units, six Matsyafed fish marts, fish collection centres in Thrissur, Kozhikode and Malappuram districts, and online fish marts in Kollam and Ernakulam districts can be inaugurated by February.

Under the leadership of Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen (SAF), 350 groups comprising 1750 beneficiaries and 46 seafood restaurants will be inaugurated by February.

Other projects slated for inauguration in the same month include the IP block (Rs. 1.38Cr) at Varkala

Government Hospital, the IP block (Rs.1.59Cr) at Kadakkavur Ayurveda Hospital, the PHC (Rs.2.09Cr) at Kottamkara, basic amenities at Azhiyoor Government School (Rs.4.74Cr), the IP block (Rs.2.03Cr) at Puthiyappa Fisheries Higher Secondary School, the new block (Rs.1.21Cr) at Puthiyangadi Government Model School, Erinjoli Indoor Hatchery (Rs.1.63Cr), additional breakwater construction (Rs.3.48Cr), the new building at Pallikara PHC (Rs.1.87Cr), artificial seedling collection at Beemapally (Rs.2Cr), expansion of Perinad Ayurveda Hospital (Rs.1.98Cr), basic amenities at Kodungalloor National Institute of Fisheries and Management (NIFAM) (Rs.3.07Cr), Azheekal VHSS up-gradation (Rs.5.58Cr) and expansion of Kundara Peroor School (Rs.2.89Cr).

All the projects that came under phase one of the 100 days plan of the Fisheries and Harbour Engineering Department has been finished

Inauguration of development activities at Perayam PHC (Rs.1.67Cr), protection of the Poonthura coastline (Rs.19.57Cr) and Chethi Fishing Harbour development (Rs.99.43Cr) will also, happen in February.

Tanur Fishing Harbour (Rs.70.71Cr), Vellayil Fishing Harbour (Rs.88.73Cr), Chellanam Fishing Harbour (Rs. 35.27Cr) and coastline protection project at Purathoor Pallikadavu (Rs.7.13Cr) will be inaugurated in February.

A 100m berthing jetty at Chombal (Rs.4.38Cr) and coastline protection activities centred around Thalayi Fishing Harbour (Rs.3.48Cr) will be inaugurated in January. Chethi Fishing Harbour (Rs.97.43Cr) and Dalavapuram channel dredging (Rs.10Cr) will also be ready by January.

Also in January-February, the inauguration of 87 coastline roads built in nine coastal districts (Rs.59.03Cr) and the renovation project of Thangassery Harbour (Rs.5.14Cr) can be expected.



Development unwinds unimpeded...

A.C. Moideen

Minister for Local Self Governments



We have seen another face of the determination of the State Government with the success of the 100 - Day Programmes. Under the leadership of the Local Self Government Department, 9 projects were included in the first phase of the 100- day program. It is a matter of pride for the department to complete all these projects, to claim 100% success.

In addition to these 9 items, the department has made significant contributions to the effort to create 50,000 jobs. The target was to create 15,000 jobs through Kudumbasree under the department, but this target was exceeded and more than 20,000 jobs were created. The Local Self Government Department is undertaking the second phase of the 100- day program with full confidence that the first phase has been a success.

In the second 100 days' program, the aim is to bring an additional 250 local bodies to the sanitation status thereby ensuring that more than 80% of local bodies in the state have a solid waste management system in place by 31st March 2021. As part of Haritha Keralam Mission activities, 41578 km of streams and 390 km of rivers were renovated till December 2020. In the second 100 days' program, it is aimed to extend this to 50000 km by 31st March 2021.

During the first 100 days programme LIFE Mission completed 25,000 houses and laid the foundation stone for 29 apartment complexes. In the second 100 days

programme LIFE Mission will be completing 15,000 houses. Another 35,000 houses will be sanctioned soon. LIFE Mission also plans to complete 5 apartment complexes for rehabilitating the landless - houseless beneficiaries.

CMLRRP (Chief Minister's Local Road Rebuild Project)

1000 crores have been sanctioned and accorded under CMLRRP (Chief Minister's Local Road Rebuild Project) for the repair of rural roads damaged under floods of 2018 and 2019. So far, 5101 road works for the improvement of 12,000 km length of rural roads have been sanctioned under CMLRRP.



Kochi Smart City

Integrated Traffic Management system (ITMS) consists of a number of electronic equipment that works towards improving traffic management at key selected locations within the municipal corporation area.

The works at the Dutch palace entry area (1.21 cr), Open Air Theatre (1.10cr) and Vasco square (1.58 cr) will be completed soon.

CSML is providing an integrated continuous open space corridor between Rajendra Maidan on the south of the corridor up till Tata Canal, to the north of the corridor.



Janakeeya Hotel

As part of "Hunger - Free Kerala" the State Government declared the formation of 1000 Janakeeya hotels, across the state. This project focuses on providing quality meals at a subsidized rate (Rs. 20 per meal).

As part of the 100 days programme, Kudumbashree

initiated 843 Janakeeya Hotels already. Formation of 150 more Janakeeya Hotels will be completed by March 2021.

"Take a Break"

"Take a Break" is an ambitious initiative of the Government of Kerala included in the Chief Minister's

In the second 100 days' program, the aim is to bring an additional 250 local bodies to the sanitation status

12-point program that aims to address the long-standing demand for good toilet complexes, on main thoroughfares. The project is implemented by the urban and rural self - governments of

Kerala and is being monitored by Suchitwa Mission and Local Self Government Department. The aim is to build at least 2365 toilet complexes across the state; 1035 has already been tendered. By 31st March 2021, a total of 511 toilet complexes will be completed and made operational.



Modern Parking System

The idea of multilevel car parking under Atal Mission for rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Mission can accommodate more vehicles in less space. The parking system at the city corporation was

In the second 100 days programme LIFE Mission will be completing 15,000 houses

inaugurated by the Chief Minister. The Project consists of the construction of the semi-automatic Multi - Level Car Parking System.

Across seven floors, the facility can accommodate 102 cars at a time.

The parking lot at Putharikandom will cater to the public visiting the crowded shopping areas of East Fort and Chala market as it can accommodate more vehicles in less space. Across six floors, the facility can accommodate 210 cars and 240 two-wheelers at a time in a small area of 35 cents.

New-age development at its best

K. Raju

Minister for Forests, Animal Husbandry & Zoos



Overall development is the hallmark of this Government's worth and programmes are envisaged with a futuristic approach since the inception of the Government. From wildlife protection to animal husbandry and the growth in the dairy sector, unique developmental projects have been implemented, in a time-bound manner. After the fruitful completion of the first 100-days programme the second phase too is marching ahead with people-centred novel initiatives. It is hard to number each and every project as the Government is pacing its non-stop 'welfare cart' in a fabulous way. The new strong room construction at forest headquarters will be completed by this month. Palaruvi in Western Ghats forest area of Thenmala Forest Division is getting modernized. From eco - friendly entrance and stone sculptures to fixing safety rails state-of-the-art facilities are coming up. An e-service centre installed near Palaruvi entrance gate for the benefit of local dependent communities to avail IT enabled facilities.

The Government has accorded Administrative sanction of Rs 3.02 Crore for the establishment of an Eco-Complex at Yeroor. The work is nearing completion (90% completed).

The construction work of Peruvannamuzhy Forest Station Building for an estimated amount of Rs.45 Lakhs will be completed soon. A dormitory at an estimated cost of 29 Lakhs is also under construction

and will be completed shortly.

The 10 km long rail fence from Sathramkunnu to Moodakkolly at Kurichiyad Forest Range under Wildlife Division, Wayanad will be inaugurated soon.

Kerala Government is setting up Elephant Rehabilitation Center of International standards at Kottoor in Thiruvananthapuram District, the first of this type in the whole country, with KIIFB funding of Rs. 72 Crore.

The development activities undertaken, the strategic interventions during the period of crisis like hurricane floods and Covid 19 pandemic situation in the state have resulted in the transformation of the dairy sector from vulnerability to a point of consistency and stability. The Co-operative dairy sector, for the first time in the history of the state has achieved self-sufficiency.

With a specific intension to bring more uniformity and clarity in the activities of Dairy Co-operatives,

The new strong room construction at forest headquarters will be completed by this month

the Dairy Department with the participation of NIC is all set to develop and implement a Unified Accounting Software.

The proposed Elevated and Community Cattle Shed at Champakulam Dairy Co-operative Society, a 4 - storied infrastructure will be equipped to house 100 milch animals at the time of floods or other calamities.

The proposed farmer facilitation centre at Mundappally Dairy Co-operative Society with a state plan assistance of Rs 5.75 lakh is aimed at strengthening the infrastructure facility of society for more farmer welfare activities.

The Kerala livestock development board is there to enhance the potential of the services provided till date and a new training center at Kolahalamedu Idukki is nearing completion. A new diary- training center will be coming up at Kulathupuzha in Kollam District. A pig farm and air - conditioned semen lab are nearing completion at Koothattukulam.

When it comes to animal husbandry department several new initiatives are happening at a rapid pace. New building for the Thenmala check post



Palaruvi water falls

in Kollam, Staff quarters and related facilities at Alapuzha, veterinary hospital and sub - centers in Kottayam, new veterinary hospital at Adimali in Idukki, conference hall for the district center at Eranakulam, Clinical lab in Thrissur, new and renovated buildings at Kozhikkodu, ABC operation theatre at Wayanad, office building and poultry farm at Kannur and veterinary hospital at Manjeswaram in Kasargode are the main projects nearing completion as part of the 100-days programme.

A new building at Thiruvananthapuram Zoo is intended to be completed as soon as possible and works are being initiated in a swift manner.

The butterfly park is ready-to-operate and all facilities have been completed for its inauguration. The center that would facilitate the knowhow regarding the details of every species of wildlife in the zoo is nearing completion. Cages for imported birds are getting modernized and the same will be operational soon.

The butterfly park is ready-to-operate and all facilities have been completed for its inauguration

Enchanting development in the right direction

Ramachandran Kadannappalli

Minister for Port, Museums, Archeology & Archives



Harbors, Ports, Museums and other historical monuments has been protected like never – before and the Government is marching ahead with projects of such mega scale like the Vizhinjam Port. First 100 days programme was a huge success which incidentally paved the way to build up another 100 days programme with more developmental activities in focus. Despite the covid threat the state hasn't compromised on the developmental front and the same can be evidenced in the second 100 days programme.

Effective and earnest steps have been taken to implement various developmental activities. Speedy action is in progress to fulfill the targets. Projects are designed in such a manner to satisfy the aesthetic sense of the public, under the department of Museums. Modern technologies are implemented to transform all museums as 'Thematic'. In the field of protection of historical monuments and its conservation, excavation of artifacts of historical importance, earnest action has been taken by the concerned department.

In the department of ports, Kerala Maritime Board is constituted for the speedy implementation of developmental activities in all 17 non major ports of our state. The dream Project - " Vizhijam International Sea Ports Projects" is moving fast. The State Government has given prime importance in carrying out all developmental projects within the time limit.

LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED BY FEBRUARY 2021

No	Name of Project	Department	Amount in Lakhs	Remarks
1	Handveev Museum Kannur	Museums	212	Completed 50% work
2	Conservation work of records of historical importance in St. John's Anglical church – Kannur	Archives	22.29	Completed. Will be handed over on 16.01.2021
3	Digitization and preservation of cartographic records	Archaeology	69.3	Completed 25% works
4	Second phase conservation works of protected monument at Thodekkulam Temple	Archaeology	53.50	Completed 70% works
5	Conservation work of protected mounment of Vazhvelil Tharavadu at Aranmula	Archaeology	6.7	Completed 80% work
6	Setting up of Regional Museum at Kandonthar	Archaeology	29.78	Completed 25% works
7	Setting up of District Heritage Museum at Ernakulam	Archaeology	358	Completed 50% work
8	Modification of Hill Palace Museum Ernakulam	Archaeology	692	Completed 60% work
9	Modification of Pazhassi Raja Museum, Kozhikode	Archaeology	86.50	Completed 90% work
10	Kannur St. Johns Anglical Church – Conservation works completion	Archaeology	86.50	Completed. Will be Inaugurated on 16.01.2021
11	Gandhi Smrithi Museum – Payyannur	Archaeology	244	Completed Inauguration expected on January 16th 2021
12	A.K.G Smrithi Museum – Peralassery – Laying of Foundation Stone	Museum	1126	Action in Progress
13	International Research and Heritage centre Karyavattom – Laying foundation Stone	Archives	600	Laying of Foundation stone on 07.01.2021
14	Palm leaves Museum at Central Archives	Archives	150	Completed 60% works
15	Scientific conservation of the porch of Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School – Payyambalam	Archaeology	47	Completed 90% works
16	District Heritage Museum – Palakkad	Archaeology	550	Completed 95% works
17	District Heritage Centre, Idukki	Archives	220	Completed 80% works (Ready for Inauguration)
18	Natural History Museum - Total Renovation	Museum	600	Inauguration on 07.01.2021
19	Vizhinjam International Sea Port – Power Substation and switchyard – Inauguration	Port	350	Completed 80% works
20	Vizhinjam International Sea Port Gate Complex – Inauguration	Port	70	Completed 90% works
21	Kollam Port Inauguration of workshop Building	Port	309	Completed 80% Works
22	Beypore Port Inauguration of EDI Center	Port	27.31	Completed 90% works
23	Beypore Port Inauguration of floating Jetty	Hydrographic Survey wing	27.30	Completed 90% works
24	Kerala Coastal Digitisation Project – completion of 1st Phase – Inauguration	Hydrographic Survey wing	56	Completed 90% works

Fresh momentum for progressive development

T.P. Ramakrishnan

Minister for Labour, skills, and Excise



This Government's 100 - days action plan gives a fresh momentum to the progressive development of Kerala. The task plan paved the way for time - bound completion of various projects aiming the State's overall development and welfare of the citizen. Completion of the first 100 - day projects and subsequently the second one announced, became a landmark achievement on the commitment of the Government to the people.

With the success of the first 100 - day project in the first phase, the Department of Labour, skill development and Excise formulated diverse works for the second phase of 100 - day project program also. Priority to ensure safe houses for plantation workers and low - income labourers in various sectors, studio apartments for working women, welfare schemes for IT/ IT related employees, inauguration of five new Government ITI's is targeted in the second phase.

ESI cover will be expanded to ensure health care safety of more employees, and decided to start a chemotherapy unit and intensive care unit in ESI hospitals, A mobile pain & palliative care unit is being considered for Kollam district where cashew and coir sector workforce is agglomerated. "Navajeevan" project for various start-ups for senior citizens, "Samanwaya" project for SC/ST candidates focusing tribal hamlets under employment department is another area of intervention and has been initiated.

A public -I- app for transfer of secret information to the Excise department without revealing identities, Zonal de-addiction centers for women & children, modern testing facility for drugs usage, digital wireless systems in more districts, 3D digital theatre for training in anti-drugs campaign works also included in the task action plan being implemented by the Excise Department.

The State Government had decided for the up-gradation of government ITIs to international standards both in the enhancement of academic and infrastructural facilities. In the first phase, ten ITI's are being upgraded with the help of KIIFB fund.

37.24 crores rupees distributed to 7449 differentially abled candidates registered in employment exchanges as financial aid for self-employment programs under Kaivalya scheme. Occupational Safety and Health Training Institute was established as part of the State Government's project to achieve the goal of safe and disease-free workplaces.

Housing for employees, New 5 ITI's, Welfare schemes in IT sector, and 100 houses for plantation workers in

Completion of the first 100 - day projects and subsequently the second one announced, became a landmark achievement on the commitment of the Government to the people

Wayanad – all are part of the second 100-days programme. With the financial aid from CSR fund of Kerala State Beverages Corporation, Labour department will establish 100 houses for providing residential facility to plantation workers in Wayanad.

40 houses will be constructed as part of "Own your own housing scheme" by Bhavanam Foundation under the Labour Department for the rehabilitation of labour families in Punalur Rehabilitation Plantation (RPL).

Under the Janani project, it is proposed to build 296 apartments. The Studio apartment is the housing scheme for providing accommodation facility to working women. Apartments, each having 272 square feet area, will be available at minimum rent for working women. The first project of its kind is at Menamkulam at Thiruvananthapuram.

Thozhilali Sreshta Award is intended to identify and honour the best employees engaged in various labour sectors in the state. In the first phase, employees in fifteen sectors will be considered. The Best employee in each

sector will be awarded one lakh rupees.

Will inaugurate new block of KSID at Chandanathoppe in Kollam, Fab Lab implemented in KSID in cooperation with Kerala Start-up mission by the end of February 2021.

Will start Employability Centre in the mini - civil station building at Kadakampally in Thiruvananthapuram, and Career Development Centre in Palode

(Thiruvananthapuram), and Tripunithara.

Modern testing facilities for finding drugs usage, and to commission digital wireless system in Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Palakkad districts are on the verge of completion.

Zonal de-addiction centres for Women & Children will be established in the state. In the first phase, de-addiction centres will start working at Kottayam and Ernakulam districts in Southern Zone. Inauguration of Koothuparamba Excise Complex building will also be conducted as part of the 100 - days project.

Priority to ensure safe houses for plantation workers and low - income labourers in various sectors, studio apartments for working women, welfare schemes for IT/ IT related employees, inauguration of five new Government ITI's is targeted in the second phase



Schools Edge Closer to Global Standards

C. Raveendranath

Minister for General Education



The General Education Rejuvenation Mission is inching towards its objective. Government schools are setting an example as centres of excellence with global standards. The Government has proven that public schools are spaces that should be protected and not close down. The wards of students too understood that the government is in favour of protecting and improving the schools.

The proof is in the numbers - from the four academic years of 2017-18 to 2020-21, 6.8L additional students have enrolled at government schools. There has also been a successful reversal of the steadily reducing number of enrolments from the 1990s.

In the first section of general education rejuvenation mission - infrastructure, there are marked developments that were unheard of in the past. Through a grant of Rs.2309Cr from KIIFB, modern buildings were built for 973 schools. Infrastructure development is also taking place at more than 1000 schools through the plan fund of Rs.1250Cr.

The inauguration of 66 school buildings has been carried out till date. The inauguration of 55 school buildings will be held as part of Phase II of the 100 Days Programme. The rest are in the last stages of construction. An amount of Rs.3Cr each has been sanctioned for building construction at 395 schools with more than 1000 students. Out of this, 44 school buildings have been inaugurated. It is hoped that 35 school buildings will be ready for inauguration by February while the rest are in various stages of

construction. An amount of Rs.1Cr each has been approved for 446 schools where over 500 students are studying. The foundation stone laying ceremony of 41 schools has been conducted. Work is advancing so that the foundation stone laying ceremony of 300 buildings can be held in February.

Schools are being made tech-friendly while making sure that all children are included in the digitisation process. All schools were given a tech upgrade. 44,705 classrooms were made tech-friendly for students from classes 8 to 12. Computer labs were readied at all primary schools.

Computer labs were set up in primary schools also with the same motive. Through this, Kerala has become the first state in India to make available the opportunity for children to handle tech equipment without inhibitions. The state also succeeded in making digital facilities available to children during Covid-19 crisis.

There were efforts to turn the challenges of Covid into opportunities.

The inauguration of 66 school buildings has been carried out till date

Activities were developed to free children from pressure and stress. The SCERT's

Aksharavriksham project helped children who felt isolated at home during the pandemic to revive their creativity.

The response from the children was very encouraging. Creative contributions numbering 56,282 from 4,947 schools were uploaded on School Wiki. The best of the lot was selected by an expert committee from SCERT, edited and published through 30 volumes.

DIET institutes are gaining academic excellence. The Government was of the stand that no one should have to starve during the Covid crisis. Food security was an important objective. For the same reason, it was decided to have food kits reach the houses of children who were a part of the mid-day meal programme. The kits comprised food grains, green gram and cooking oil. Over the months of March, April and May-26, 26,763 children and from June 27-27,202 children are benefitting from this initiative.

Appointments numbering 2,574 were made for the schools and batches in the aided field which



Smart Class room

were sanctioned in the period of the previous Government. In Government schools, 1043 junior HSSCT appointments, 1026 senior HSST appointments and 498 principal appointments were made. Moreover, joining letters were given to 370 people who had already received appointment orders. All those with appointment orders from PSC were given joining letters for vacancies at the primary and secondary levels.

This academic year, because of Covid, while schools have not reopened, obstacles were seen as opportunities, digital classes were introduced for children from June. Teachers have gone to great lengths to make students feel their presence even from afar, showing that resilience is the way forward in the times of Covid-19.

The SCERT's Aksharavriksham project helped children who felt isolated at home during the pandemic to revive their creativity

Smooth transition

A.K. Saseendran
Minister for Transport



This Government announced 100 projects in the State which is to be implemented during the period from 1st September to 9th December 2020. Transport Department was also a part of the 100 days 100 projects scheme. Transport Department has already completed four major projects under this scheme. More awaits in the second edition of the 100 - days programme.

- Successful completion within the targeted time and the Inauguration of 5 new Sub Regional Transport Offices - Chadayamangalam, Kondotti, Pathanapuram, Payyannur and Ramanattukara.
- Completion and induction of Catamaran Boats and Water Taxis in Water Transport Sector.
- Formation of Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority.
- Inauguration of K.S.R.T.C. Mobile Reservation App- (Ente KSRTC)

One of the 'prime aim' of this Government is to strengthen the transport sector and facilitate modern technology and hassle - free services to the people. The number of vehicles in Kerala is increasing rapidly. The traffic density in the State is at the rate of one vehicle per every three - person. Many services such as registration and re-registration of vehicles, issuance of driving license, renewal of a license, issuance of duplicate driving license and issuance of permits are required to be made available through the transport offices. With the proliferation of vehicles, the rate of road accidents was also on the rise. In this backdrop, the Government decided to ensure safe travel along with required services.

Existing Regional Transport Offices are not sufficient



to meet the rising demands. Hence, it was decided to set up Sub-Regional Transport Offices at least in all the taluks in the State with the objective of bringing the services of the Transport Department closer for convenient services to the people. Accordingly, the Government have established 13 Sub-RT Offices in the State.

It was decided to set up Sub-Regional Transport Offices at least in all the taluks in the State

The State Water Transport intends to induct more advanced technology boats and water taxis for more safety and convenience of the passengers. Under this scheme, the department launched a Catamaran boat and a Water Taxi.

For the planning, supervision, coordination, development and regulation of Urban Transport in the Urban Mobility Areas and also for the Urban Transport ancillary Services within Kochi, it was decided to

form Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority and the project was included in the 100 days project. The Authority was established and started functioning.

For the suitability of the passengers of KSRTC, online booking of KSRTC bus tickets can be done through the mobile application. This project was also included under the 100 days programme and the launching of the mobile app- 'ente ksrtc' was done by the Chief Minister.

Also, 38 candidates were appointed in various offices under the Transport Department under the 50,000 employment scheme.

All the projects of the Transport Department was completed well within the stipulated time and it was a hundred per cent success. ■

For the suitability of the passengers of KSRTC, online booking of KSRTC bus tickets can be done through the mobile application

Health is wealth...

K.K. Shailaja Teacher

Minister for Health, Social Justice and Woman & Child Development



The successful completion of the first 100-days programme paved the way for the initiation of the second such programme. Care has been the hallmark of this Government's health policy and the same is reflected in both these editions of 100-day projects. People from all walks of life are the beneficiaries of the programmes and new-age development is happening in the health sector in a never-before approach.

There are 193 parts of the nine projects by the health department that should have been completed under the 100 Days Programme. All nine projects have been completed. Eighteen hospitals were decided to be inaugurated under the department of district/general/taluk hospitals but an additional 11 numbers were completed and inaugurated.

That is 29 hospitals in all. 153 Family Health Centres; the new buildings of 18 district/general/taluk hospitals; Kasargode TATA Covid hospital; cath lab, ICU of Kollam Medical College; seven projects under Kottayam Medical College; OP division of Konni Medical College; four projects of Calicut Medical College; casualty wing of Thiruvananthapuram Medical College and RCC; and six projects of Malabar Cancer Centre have been inaugurated.

Other inaugurations include that of various development projects at District Hospital Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram; new IP block at Taluk Headquarters Hospital, Neeleswaram, Kasargode; cath lab at the General hospital, Thiruvananthapuram; dialysis unit at District Model Hospital, Peroorkada, Thiruvananthapuram; casualty, administrative block at Taluk headquarters hospital,



Medical College, Konni, Pathanamthitta

Vaikkom, Kottayam; renovated casualty at District Hospital, Pala, Kottayam; MCH block, casualty block at Taliparamba taluk hospital, Kannur; Dialysis

unit at Mangalpadi Taluk hospital, Kasargode; renovated casualty at Perambra Taluk hospital, Kozhikode; MCH block, the emergency department at Taluk HQ hospital, Punalur, Kollam; new building, operations

inauguration at Taluk HQ hospital, Karunagapally, Kollam, Taluk HQ hospital, Kottarakara, Kollam, Taluk HQ hospital, Chettikad, Alappuzha; trauma care, ambulance service at District Hospital, Kannur; ICU, renovation of a heritage building at Chirayankeezhu Taluk hospital; dialysis unit at Taluk hospital, Puthukad, Thrissur; OP block, medical ICU, CT scan, trauma care, Lakshya, CSSD project at Taluk hospital, Chalakudy, Thrissur; new block, operations inauguration at Taluk hospital, Chittoor, Palakkad; inauguration of Taluk Ayurveda hospital, Iringalakuda, Thrissur; new ward at Ayurveda hospital, Kanjiramkulam; ICU, CCU at General Hospital, Kottayam; dialysis unit at Taluk Hospital, Payyanur and Taluk hospital, Koyilandy; sewage treatment plant at Taluk hospital, Parassala; foundation stone laying ceremony of the new building at Taluk hospital, Thamarassery, Kozhikode; maternity block at Taluk hospital,

Sasthamkota, Kollam; inauguration of renovated casualty block at Taluk Hospital, Kuttiyadi, Kozhikode, and foundation stone laying ceremony of the new building at District Hospital, Chengannur, Alappuzha.

Six projects were inaugurated at Malabar Cancer Centre; Kottayam Medical College had the inauguration of seven projects. Inauguration of 4 projects at Kozhikode Medical College too happened during this period. It was decided to create 2250 job openings in the Health Department but so far 3069 appointments have been made.

As part of the second 100-days programme, FHC up-gradation projects is initiated across the state. PHC up gradation and modernization also become part of the 100-days projects. Works under AYUSH also will be completed in a time-bound manner.

An Anganwadi cum crèche under the combining anganwadis and crèche initiative for the Dept of women and children has been

sanctioned for all districts. OP up gradation in GHs and ICU strengthening is being carried out and will be completed within the specified target. Infrastructure development ranging from the modernisation of labour rooms to renovation of surgical wards and new buildings are happening in swiftly. ■

Care has been the hallmark of this Government's health policy and the same is reflected in both these editions of 100-day projects

It was decided to create 2250 job openings in the Health Department but so far 3069 appointments have been made

The 'never-before' development era

G. Sudhakaran

Minister for Public Works & Registration



2018 and 2019 were the years when the state faced the most devastating floods of the last century, apart from other natural calamities, Nipah and Covid-19, shaking the economic stability of the state and rendering people unemployed. This led to a major slump in the revenue earned by the state. But our Government works on the principle that the concept of a New Kerala will be possible only through the development of basic amenities and expansion of public welfare programmes for which funding, rather the lack of it, cannot be a hindrance. The state was able to outlive these challenges through information gathering, efficient planning and under the astute leadership of the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

After the new government came to power, PWD projects were taken up, encouraged by the assurance of the Chief Minister's motto 'Puthiya Kalam, Puthiya Nirmanam'. Ninety-eight per cent of the public roads damaged in the disasters that occurred in 2018 and 2019 have been made fit for use. Renovation was undertaken for 11580 KM of roads. The Government's dream project, a 1251 km high-range highway project connecting 13 districts from Kasargode's Nandanarpadavu to Thiruvananthapuram's Parassala, has received approval for receiving Rs. 1699Cr from KIIFB for 514km of the highway project. Work for 201km of this pathway has already started.

Clearance was given for including 521km of roads destroyed in the floods of 2018 under the Rebuild



Ramanatukara & Thodayad flyovers

Kerala initiative. The Alappuzha-Changanassery road upgrade project has commenced. So has the rebuilding of the Shankumugham-Airport beach road destroyed in coastal erosion. An amount of Rs.2039Cr has been sanctioned for 240 bridges. Hundred bridges have been completed at a cost of Rs.849Cr. Construction is underway for 86 bridges for Rs.1190Cr. The structural integrity of 2529 bridges were tested. Bridges destroyed by the floods were made usable by conducting emergency maintenance work.

PWD rest houses, namely Kuttalam palace and those in Munnar and Vakkom, previously encroached upon by private parties were retrieved by the Government. Three hundred and sixty new

posts were created including those for three chief engineers. The PWD appointed 4277 people on a permanent basis via the Public Service Commission. Major projects such as Kollam bypass, Ramanatukara in Kozhikode district, Thodayad flyover were completed and dedicated to the state. Alappuzha bypass is nearing completion while the Vytilla, Kundannur flyovers have been inaugurated.

Thirty-one important projects under the 100 Days Programme for Rs.1471Cr will be completed by February 2021 and dedicated to the state. Apart from this, work will commence on 22 projects that received the green signal with financial aid from KIIFB at Rs.1865Cr, including 10 railway overbridges and 12 roads under the Rebuild Kerala initiative.

More 'Green days' ahead...

V.S. Sunil Kumar
Minister for Agriculture



In the recent past, Kerala has undergone tremendous challenges fighting unprecedented natural disasters such as floods, epidemics and pandemic that is continuing to disrupt normal life. The agrarian sector was hit the most, especially with the natural calamities destroying crores worth of crops and livelihoods of millions of farmers in the State. The Government's visionary strategies to rebuild the agricultural sector has led to formulating innovative programs and projects integrating local knowhow and technology to turn each of these challenges into opportunities.

The State Department of Agriculture has initiated many innovative projects and programs to strengthen the drive and establish a strong foundation of sustainability and self-reliance in food security.

Many new projects are envisaged as part of the 100-day action plan announced by the Chief Minister in the first quarter of the fifth year of the Left Democratic Front Government. The successful completion of the 100-day action plans of various departments in the first phase have encouraged the Government to announce the second phase of the 100-days action plan.

Included in the forthcoming second phase are 57 prestigious projects worth Rs.369.9 crore under the Department of Agriculture. These projects are scheduled to be launched in January and February 2021. In the first week of 2021, the Chief Minister inaugurated a special project worth Rs.298 crore for the comprehensive development of Thrissur-Ponnani Kole



fields spread over Thrissur, the rice bowl of Kerala.

The Department of Agriculture has envisaged many more crores worth of projects to be launched in January and February 2021.

Included in the forthcoming second phase are 57 prestigious projects worth Rs.369.9 crore under the Department of Agriculture

The Rs.10 crore worth projects covered under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative for Reconstruction of Post-Flood Kerala are the Thrissur-Kannur Agro Park

for Banana & Honey Production, the Rs.7 crore worth Bio-Resources Centre at the Koothuparambu constituency, formation of Malabar Task Force and training programmes at the expense of Rs.5 crore, the Vandiperiyar Farm Tourism Project at a cost of Rs.68 lakh, the 14 Eco shops set up at a cost of Rs.72 lakh, the jackfruit market set up in Kalayanthani at a cost of Rs.75 lakh under the VFPC are among the prestigious projects to be launched in the coming days.

Another much-awaited project is the inauguration of the Rs.2 crore worth Seed Bank established at the Kerala Agricultural University headquarters. In the second phase of the inauguration of completed projects to be held in February, 22 projects are ready for takeoff. Mamom Coconut Product Factory set up at a cost of Rs.4.02 crores, the manufacturing center of the 9 HP lightweight equipment known as 'Eco leopard' that can

plough and level undulating terrains with ease to make suitable farmlands at a cost of Rs.20.22 crores.

While new, innovative projects to enhance livelihood and living conditions of farming community given prime focus, the infrastructure development for the hostel facilities in Thrissur Vellanikkara Main campus for the Guest Faculty, women's hostels, ICAR women's hospital are some of the other notable projects.

There are many other industrious ventures for the VFPC including the Maithri Organic Farm Information Center (Rs. 2.50 crore), 2 rural markets, 5 fruit and vegetable processing centers, plant clinics and seed banks are among the many opportunities for the farming community to be launched in the next month in the State. Pest management (Rs.1.60 crore), Kerala Agro Fruits Modernization Center in Punalur (Rs.1.95 crore) are also among the much-awaited projects.

In the second phase of inauguration of completed projects to be held in February, 22 projects are ready for takeoff

These high technology projects are intended to reach the grass - root level farming community to strengthen the food security initiatives of the State and lead to a robust green revolution in the State.

Revamping according to changing times...

P. Thilothaman

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



Utmost care is being provided in the upgrading of the public distribution system and state-of-the-art facilities are introduced to run the system in harmony with the changing times. Expansion of sale outlets is happening in a never-before pace. Consumer rights are protected right earnestly.

Being a consumer-oriented state, arresting of the undue rise in prices is not at all possible without an effective public distribution system that intervenes in the open market throughout the year. Due to the existence of a well defined Public Distribution System in the state and the distribution of essential items of pulses, spices, sugar, Rice, Atta, etc. through the Supplyco outlets to the reach of every common man it has been able to curtail artificial price hike of essentials by effectively preventing undue trade practices such as hoarding etc. All the measures taken by the corporation have been widely appreciated and became a role model for the entire country.

More number of outlets are planned by opening more Maveli stores especially in Panchayaths where there are no Supplyco outlets (at present 7 panchayaths out of 941 in Kerala does not have Supplyco retail outlet) and medical stores for widening the arena of services to the common public. Upgradation of Maveli Stores to more Customer Friendly Super Markets and People's Bazars for catering to more customers are also planned.



Inauguration of Supplyco Supermarket, Kannanalloor, Kollam

During the Financial Year (FY) 2020-21, 57 outlets were modernized spending 4.73 crores under Plan fund. In the current FY, it has been planned to revamp 119 outlets by modernizing the outlook, affording more facilities etc. Till date, revamping work has been completed in 25 outlets.

During the hundred days programme scheduled from December 20 to February 28, it is decided to upgrade 20 Maveli Stores to Supermarkets and 5 Mavelies to Maveli Super Stores. Supplyco has also taken steps to modernise 10 Supermarkets and 3 medical stores.

Supplyco is using more than 27 stand alone software programmes with various programming languages and databases. Supplyco management decided to implement a core solution and accordingly a Detailed Project Report(DPR) has been prepared. Based on this comprehensive DPR, RFP prepared for ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) solution and selected a solution provider through e-procurement process.

With the launch of this software, the sales, stock and price information of Supplyco will be available accurately and quickly. Using the Information thus obtained, decisions can be made more efficiently and transparently, so that Supplyco can intervene in the market more efficiently and profitably.

Implementing ERP will facilitate business by

consolidating and protecting all of Supplyco's information, automating processes and creating easy-to-understand trends. The benefits of these will make Supplyco's day-to-day operations and long-term planning more efficient. With the implementation of ERP, more than 27 softwares currently running on Supplyco will be brought under single software using a centralized database. Similarly, data from outlets and depots will be collected accurately, quickly and securely in one place.

The major benefits of switching to ERP for Supplyco

- Improved supply chain management.
- Centralized IT costs: Supplyco's IT costs can be consolidated and efficiency can be increased.
- Total visibility
- Improved reporting and planning
- Improved efficiency
- Improved customer service
- Improved data security and quality : Data recorded by the latest technology such as block chain is encrypted and cannot be manipulated.
- Better collaboration and workflows
- Facilitate the audit based on secure and valid data along with internal reports

System Requirement Specification (SRS) sign off process is in final stage and Software will be developed based on the SRS. ■



Bimal Shivaji
Senior Journalist

Amongst the populace's 'pulse'

With victory in elections to the local bodies, and having delivered on a majority of its promises on its election manifestos, it was time for the Leader of the 'team' to go on a tour of the State to assess the ground reality.

The Chief Minister started his Tour of Kerala from Kollam where he said that all-round development based on social justice was the prime focus of the Government. The Chief Minister during his tour in all districts interacted with people from different sections of society.

“As many as 2.5 lakh houses have been completed through the Life Mission housing scheme. It is a great achievement to have a home for 10 lakh people.” The Chief Minister also said that the State has been made



investment friendly and the world was convinced that Kerala was conducive to investment.

“Due to the COVID-19 situation, large functions cannot be held. It is important to understand the opinions of the community. It is in this context that it was decided to interact with the experts in various fields in the State” – CM added.

According to the CM, “Our State needs to develop further. More facilities should be available. The opinion of the people is also important for that. It will be helpful when making decisions on development issues. The proposals raised in Kollam and Pathanamthitta districts will also benefit the general development of the State. In Kollam, the programme was a debate on the development of the district in particular and the State in general.

During the meeting in Pathanamthitta, the Chief Minister spoke to people from different walks of the district. The participants shared suggestions for further expansion of development activities in the State.



On the second day of the Kerala tour in Kottayam district, individuals from different parts of the district were present at the event. Comments on the need to focus more on issues related to the industrial sector, the rubber sector, rubber parks, MG University and the Medical College were raised at the event.

The Chief Minister during his tour in all districts interacted with people from different sections of society

Many prominent people attended the programme on the third day of the Kerala tour in Thiruvananthapuram district. Participants at the event shared the need to place more emphasis on the well-being of the coastal region, women, transgenders and persons with disabilities.

During the Kerala tour in Kannur district, those who attended made valuable suggestions regarding the revival of traditional industries and the unique development issues of the district. An active discussion on the development issues of North Kerala emerged during the programme in Kasargod district.

The development and history of Kozhikode as well as its limitations were pointed out during the discussion at the district - programme.

Individuals from all walks of life attended the meeting at Kalpetta in Wayanad district. The Chief Minister felt that climate change is significantly affecting Wayanad district.

In Malappuram, the Chief Minister interacted with people from various fields. "A detailed inspection will be carried out regarding the implementation of the

discussions" the CM said.

In Palakkad, some important suggestions related to the agricultural sector came up. In Thrissur, there was a lively discussion about the cultural sector as well as about the changes that need to take place in the basic sectors such as industry, agriculture and the specific problems of urban development.

While addressing a meeting of religious leaders and eminent persons from various fields such as education, health and film in Kochi, the CM said, "This meeting is to hear the views on how the future of the State should be. The State government has completed 570 items that were promised and 30 items are remaining; it could not be fully implemented due to the COVID-19 epidemic."

During his tour of Ernakulam district, he said that Kochi city is on the path of development and comprehensive development projects have been completed and initiated in the last four and a half years.

The Chief Minister assured that the policy of enabling development for the most downtrodden in society would continue to be more robust

During the tour of Alappuzha district, at the end of the first phase of Kerala Tour, he said that the district, which includes Kuttanad, is a symbol of the agricultural prosperity of Kerala. The first phase of the Kerala tour to mobilise public opinion for the leap of

Nava Kerala was completed in Alappuzha. Everywhere, the Chief Minister assured that the policy of enabling development for the most downtrodden in society would continue to be more robust. ■



M.G. Suresh

KFON- innovative and advanced

In the fast-moving and ever-changing world, knowledge exchange and dissemination do happen in lightning pace. The pandemic-time has drawn in an altogether different situation where emergencies have to be dealt with in no time. Internet connectivity became the challenge in these circumstances and a cost-effective system is being developed as the near-perfect solution.



KFON
INTERNET - A BASIC RIGHT

Kerala is a state with a 100 per cent mobile density and 80 per cent e-literacy and was declared as India's first digital state. This enabled the state to easily adapt to the Covid pandemic situation, through digital platforms such as online transactions, online classes, etc, without many gulfs. Still, it requires a stable IT infrastructure that can cater the services at every nook and corners of the state so that the fruits of the governance reach everyone without discrimination. The Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) project envisages such an infrastructure, an IT back born of the state, stretching throughout Kerala. On completion, KFON will connect more than 30,000 Govt and Educational Institutions with high-speed Opticalfiber Connectivity. It is also planned to provide free internet services to about 20 Lakhs economically backward households through the project. This flagship program intends to transform Kerala into an intelligent, innovative, and inclusive society.

The Project

Government of Kerala announced the KFON project as part of its budget proposals during March 2017 and declared the following core project requirements.

- Create a highly scalable and resilient core optical fibre network across the state and also to provide non-discriminatory access to service providers
- Setup an access network to connect more than 30,000 Government and educational institutions and provide scalable bandwidth from 10 Mbps to 1 Gbps on demand
- Creation of infrastructure as a common access carrier and Infrastructure Service Provider to provide non-discriminatory access to service providers.
- Leveraging the potential of the infrastructure to service providers to deliver free internet to 20 lakhs households and subsidized internet to other targeted sections.

With this aim, a Special Purpose Vehicle company was formed with the partnership of Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd., Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd., and Government of Kerala. It is decided to utilize the right of way of transmission and distribution network available with KSEB to lay the fibre cables.

Optical ground wire cable drawn through Transmission lines are intended to connect between these district centres. The network operating centre (NOC) is planned at Infopark - Ernakulam with a data recovery centre at the headquarters of KSEB in Thiruvananthapuram. The

On completion, KFON will connect more than 30,000 Govt and Educational Institutions with high-speed Optical fibre Connectivity

It will reduce the cost of internet data

The project is in rapid progress and the first phase is expected to be completed by February 2021



work was awarded to a consortium led by Bharath Electronics Limited, a central Government PSU at a project value of Rs. 1628 Crores inclusive of capital and seven-year operating expenditures. The project is in rapid progress and the first phase is expected to be completed by February 2021, even though there is a slight delay due to the Covid pandemic.

Why State-Owned Network?

The main purpose of having a state-owned network is to enable all the Government offices at state/district/block/GP level access the Government applications hosted at the state data centre through a secured intranet. It will reduce the cost of internet data. At present intranet, connectivity is available through Kerala State Wide Area Network (KSWAN) up to block level. KSWAN is not available at the Panchayat level. Currently, KSWAN is connected through BSNL leased lines, wireless and extended LAN and it is more than 10 years old. Network coverage up to Panchayat level through State-owned network is not available and hence there is a high dependency on service providers. Hence, expansion of the existing network to cater to about 30,000 offices will incur huge recurring costs.

KFON is not envisaged to provide Internet services on its own. But it will provide non-discriminatory open-access fibre connectivity to internet providers at an affordable rent. KFON helps to share the networking cost among providers. This will enable internet service providers to offer service at a reduced cost, by eliminating monopoly. The economy of the KFON project is worked out considering all these aspects. The project got sanctioned as it found beneficial to the state.



The second coming

Surely some revelation is at hand; Surely the Second Coming is at hand
- W.B. Yeats

Cinema, of course, is entertainment but at the same time, it serves as the only earning source to thousands directly and to more the other means. So, the support given to the revival of the industry in the pandemic-time is welcomed far and wide.

As it has frozen the world, Covid-19 has been a blow to the Indian Film Industry too. Being the largest movie producing country, its impact in Indian economy is so big. To the audience, OTT platforms were a blessing in disguise that helped them enjoy movies online, including a few exclusive releases from all over. On the contrary, unconfirmed statistics reveal that even in the Malayalam film industry, at least Rs. 320 Crore invested got stuck, more than 120 films affected during various stages of production



A. Chandrasekhar
Writer-Journalist-Film Critic

and more than 12,000 people became unemployed due to the lockdown.

Releases of mega movies like Marikkar-Arabikkadalinte Simham, about to be released during the summer vacation became so uncertain, that even big producers like Antony Perumbavoor were forced to resume production of smaller movies immediately after the lockdown and to market it through OTT. Though the Govt. of India through

their Unlock 5 protocols, permitted theatres to function with 50% audience, which got a positive welcome from the producers and distributors, film exhibitors were reluctant to reopen movie halls for reasons obvious. Even though multilingual movies were about to have it nation-wide release, in Kerala, theatre release was in a fix. It was at this juncture that the Government of Kerala had it timely intervention further to which the genuine issues put forth by the theatre-owners were considered favourably and the issue got resolved so that at least the industry will be back to the action after almost a long break.

The Film Fraternity of Kerala appreciates the initiatives of the honourable Chief Minister and for the reliefs offered to the entertainment industry.” Actor - Producer Padmabhushan Mohanlal’s response to Kerala Calling reflects the general emotion of the Industry

“The cinemas in the State are opening after a gap of nine months. The decision to open movie theatres in Kerala by the State Government is highly appreciated. It reflects the Government’s sincere understanding of the core issues faced by the exhibitors and producers who were financially very pressed during the pandemic. It is so positive that it will definitely help the industry to regain its momentum. The Film Fraternity of Kerala appreciates the initiatives of the honourable Chief Minister and for the reliefs offered to the entertainment industry.” Actor - Producer Padmabhushan Mohanlal’s response to Kerala Calling reflects the general emotion of the Industry.

While welcoming the Government intervention as something quite unexpected and extremely positive, J. Rajasekharan Nair, member FIOK State Committee opines that the decision to reduce the Entertainment Tax has been something so vital

As per the initiative of the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Chief Minister of Kerala himself convened a meeting with representatives from all related organisations in the Malayalam film Industry including the Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce, Film Exhibitors United Organisation of Kerala (FEUOK), Kerala Film Producers’ Association and Distributors’ Association etc. It was in this meeting that the exhibitors escalated the magnitude of crises they are facing financially after the outbreak. The discussion came out to be extremely fruitful following which, the Chief Minister did give them very positive assurances which was much appreciated by the Industry bodies following which they had a general agreement to reopen the movie halls adhering to strict protocols. M.C. Bobby, general secretary of the FEUOK as reported by media said that the talks with the CM were positive.

The main issues that the exhibitors raised in the meeting were about relaxing the corporation/ municipality taxes due to be paid so also to get the entertainment tax waived off for the reason that they could operate with only half the capacity due to the Covid protocols. Both these demands were found reasonable by the Government so that the Chief Minister did promise to take immediate action. Industry sources opine that an initiative to waive off entertainment tax for time being will definitely be encouraging gestures from the Government that will help the theatre owners reduce their financial burdens to a big extent. The decision to grant a moratorium for remitting the pending taxes to the local self Government is also hailed by the fraternity. While welcoming the Government intervention as something quite unexpected and extremely positive, J. Rajasekharan Nair, member FIOK State Committee opines that the decision to reduce the Entertainment Tax has been something so vital. “Though temporary, the steps taken to support the film industry are remarkable. As a member of the industry, I presume that the Government will also positively respond to our request to alter the show timings too, as first and second shows are the most demanding as well as collecting ones for movie houses,” he told to Kerala Calling.

Though, theatres in Kerala are being reopened with a Tamil multi-star big - budget movie Master starring Vijay and Vijay Sethupathy, almost 10 movies in Malayalam including the Mammooty starring One as well as The Priest, Jayasurya’s Vellam etc., are expected to be released soon.

Smitha V.J.
Freelance Journalist

GAIL-The saga of determination

Clean, affordable and sustainable energy is no more a reverie since the inception of the GAIL pipeline and the way it got materialized. The determination behind commissioning the project is worth emulating – the ‘feel’ in the air says so.

The New Year took off on yet another victorious note with the commissioning of the Kochi-Mangaluru GAIL pipeline. The ambitious 450-km long natural gas pipeline is expected to serve as a cleaner and cheaper alternative to other fuels, for domestic and industrial use, in South India. It will run from Kochi to Mangaluru and Bengaluru. The pipeline will source LNG (liquefied natural gas) from a terminal that was built in Kochi by Petronet LNG in 2013. The pipeline connects the



terminal with industrial users in the area including Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. IOC (Indian Oil Corporation) entered into an agreement with Adani Gas Ltd. to bring natural gas to domestic users. It is expected to create annual tax revenue of Rs.750Cr.

Capable of LNG-receiving, re-gasification and re-loading, the terminal is South India's first such and has a capacity of 5 million metric tonnes per annum. The project comes as a major push in the right direction for the industrial sector.

Originally, the pipeline project was cleared in 2009 by the then ruling Government. But it faced stiff opposition during land acquisition, delaying the process indefinitely during the tenure of the next Government as well. Planned at an estimated cost of Rs.2, 915Cr in 2009, the delays raised the cost to Rs.5, 750Cr.

This Government revived the project in 2016 soon after



coming to power. It attained priority status, making it to the CM's 100 Days Projects. The Centre backed the decision as the terminal was incurring losses. Work began by first increasing the compensation offered for the acquired land and then reducing the width of the area marked for acquisition. The protestors, mainly from the agriculture sector, were allowed to farm along the route again, provided the crops were not deep-rooted.

In Kochi alone, 2750 domestic gas connections have been given. Supply is expected to cross 4 million cubic meters in the city with the pipeline bringing 3.8 million cubic meters of gas per day to industrial and domestic users. The LNG terminal's capacity utilisation is expected to rise to 25 to 30 per cent. The Kochi-Bengaluru stretch via Palakkad, part of the second phase, passes through seven districts in Kerala and will be completed soon.

It was also decided to begin the city gas project in Kochi corporation limits by January 15. Piped natural gas is available on the Karingachira-Kundanoor-Edapally-Aluva stretch. This will now be expanded to Angamaly, Perumbavoor and Kolenchery. Works are on in six municipalities for the same. Gas supply distribution has commenced to 2500 houses in Thrikkakara. Wellington Island, Kalady, Perumbavoor and Poothotta will also soon receive natural gas supply.

Once the project is fully implemented, piped natural gas will be available 24*7. Every household will be able to avail consumption according to their need. It will cost 30 per cent less than other commonly available fuel. It can also be used for CNG vehicles, and commercial and industrial purposes.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the natural gas pipeline project to the nation on January 5, 2021 via videoconferencing. Chief Ministers Pinarayi Vijayan, BS Yeddiyurappa were present along with the Governors of the states, ministers and other people's representatives.

PM Modi said, "We are working to provide clean, affordable and sustainable energy." Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said people supported the project as they understood that it would usher in an "era of development." He lauded the co-operation of various departments including police and revenue in completing the project.

The Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's efforts in making the project a reality was appreciated by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. He said that the partnership between the Centre and the state in seeing the GAIL project to completion was an example of co-operative federalism.

For the People, forever...



Highlights of the Hon. Governor's Address

Honourable Speaker, Chief Minister, Ministers,
Leader of the Opposition and Members:

It is my honour and privilege to address this august
body of representatives of the people of Kerala,
marking the beginning of the 22nd session of the
14th Kerala Legislative Assembly.

My Government has been facing a catena of
challenges ever since it had assumed office in May
2016. Covid-19 pandemic has considerably impeded
the normal social life in the State. My State has
almost 9 per cent of its population living abroad. The
impact of the pandemic has been quite severe on the

State economy.

A direct consequence of this is a downward slide in
the economic growth of the State.

To overcome the threat of the pandemic,
Community Kitchens were opened in all parts of the
State to provide food to the needy. The treatment
for Covid-19 is being provided free of cost in
all Government hospitals in the State. Essential
commodity kits are being distributed to all ration
card holding families free of cost.

Kerala was the first State in India to announce a
pandemic relief package to the tune of Rs. 20,000
crores. Besides disbursing welfare pensions promptly,
my Government ensured that all families in the
below poverty category who are not getting any kind
of pension got a one time assistance of Rs. 1000.

My Government announced a 100 day programme on September 1, 2020. A major highlight of this programme was the initiative to generate 50,000 job opportunities within the programme period. I am extremely happy to share with you the fact that we have exceeded the target and generated 1,16,440 job opportunities.

My Government is now implementing the second 100 day programme.

As regards containing Covid-19 pandemic, the efforts taken by my Government has won acclaim across the world. The case fatality rate in Kerala at 0.4 per cent is the lowest in the country.

My Government has been able to get renewed confidence of the people in the recently concluded elections to the Local Self Governments.

My Government which will be completing its 5 year term in May 2021 has all along been committed to the infrastructure development and inclusive economic growth. We have undertaken infrastructure development projects worth Rs. 56,000 crores through Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board (KIIFB). My Government has hiked social security pensions to Rs.1,500 per month from Rs.600 in 2016.

Under the Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Mission project 2,50,000 families have got secure houses.

My Government has decided to provide supply of essential article kits to all ration card holders through the Public Distribution System outlets. This is still continuing.

Honours and recognition for Kerala

- The work done by my Government has received national and international recognition. Kerala ranks first among all States of the country in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index prepared by Niti Aayog.
- Kerala has been ranked first in the first and second SDG Index of 2018 and 2019.
- Kerala has been adjudged the Best Governed

State in the country in the Public Affairs Index 2020, prepared by Public Affairs Centre.

The initiatives of my Government, spearheaded by the Health department, in tackling the COVID 19 pandemic have been recognised globally.

- The State won the Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan Award 2019 for the State with the least maternal mortality rate. The State won the National award for the Empowerment of the Differently Abled in the year 2019.
- The Responsible Tourism Mission and Tourism department received several international awards such as the World Travel Market and Asia Pacific Travel Association.

The Central Government has been systematically increasing the additional/special excise duty of petroleum products so as to harness the entire potential surplus created by declining international oil prices.

As the result, fuel prices are rising contributing to inflation. There has been also a spate of central legislations whose common denominator, my Government

holds, is abridgment of State rights. The latest in the series have been the controversial labour code and agrarian laws.

The pandemic threw up challenges in accurate and timely dissemination of information regarding the status of disease in the State. The direct media briefing provided by my Government on a daily basis, shown live through television as well as online news channels, gave up-to-date accurate information to the public. Along with the announcement of the first lock-down in March 2020 itself, my Government launched a mobile-app called GoK Direct for hourly notification on COVID-19 situation in Kerala, which could be also used by users without smartphones.

The pandemic has adversely impacted the progress of Kerala, as it has the whole world, but my Government is committed to the dream that is Kerala. We strive to overcome and we shall overcome.

BUDGET

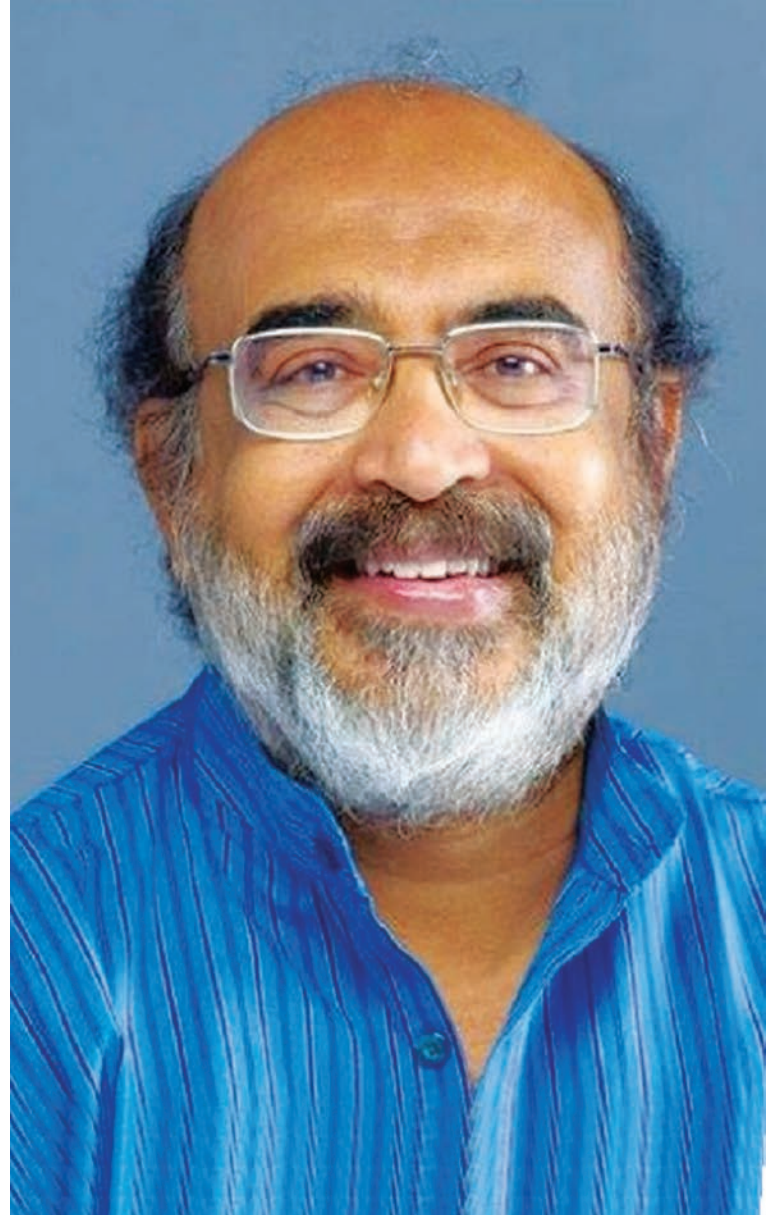


Dr. Shaijumon C.S.
Associate Professor of Economics,
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)

The new edition of the Kerala development model

With the aim of equipping Kerala economy in the standards of the ongoing fourth industrial revolution of the world (Industry 4.0), the finance minister of Kerala Dr. Thomas Isaac has given more emphasis on the programs for transforming Kerala economy into a knowledge economy in his 12th budget for the year 2021-22.

As per Kerala Economic Review, Kerala is relatively high-income - Indian - State even though the economy has faced a number of setbacks over the last four years in the form of natural calamities and the spread of Covid 19. The budget has focussed to address various challenges related to those setbacks in the form of announcing several short-term and



long-term policy measures.

The Finance minister has proposed to establish robust digital infrastructure and its accessibility for transforming Kerala economy into a Knowledge Economy. The budget detailed about the pre-conditions for successfully skilling the educated and linking them with the global market through the digital platform. Along with the proposal of transformation economy into a digital economy, the budget has proposed many programs including programs for ensuring highest quality higher education infrastructure, transform knowledge into innovations and new start-up ecosystems. The budget has also focused on ensuring more Knowledge industries should flourish and the new techniques to be integrated into all sectors of the economy. In short, Kerala should transform into a Knowledge Society.

With the aim of boosting the domestic purchasing

power to address the slowdown of the economy due to Covid19, the budget envisages a raise in all welfare pensions by Rs. 100 to make it Rs.1, 600. An increase of Rs 1000 has announced for the honorarium of ASHA workers. Salary revision for the Government employees has also been announced. The budget proposed to create eight lakh job opportunities in the year 2021-22. The procurement price of paddy has been raised to Rs. 28, coconut to Rs. 32 and the support price of Rubber to Rs. 170. The Finance minister announced that the next aim of the Government is to transform higher education in line with the achievements in school education. The finance minister also announced the initiation of 2,500 start-ups during 2021-22 and will provide employment to an estimated 20,000 people.

The Finance minister has proposed to establish robust digital infrastructure and its accessibility for transforming Kerala economy into a Knowledge – Economy

For imparting adequate skills among the youth population of Kerala, the Finance Minister has announced an extensive programme named Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC). The program aims to provide training to an estimated 50 lakh educated youth of the state.

Kerala Budget 2021-22 is largely a vision document with the details for various development processes for revitalising the economy into a knowledge economy with strides in modern employment opportunities and industrial growth while consolidating various achievements in the social sector

The budget also announced a digital platform for innovators to upload innovation at the regional level and encouraged ‘work-near-home’ for skilled people. The budget has proposed micro - planning strategy for complete poverty eradication from the state by identifying, registering and provide poor families with jobs, ration cards and health cards. It is expected that about



Rs. 6000 crore would be spending for the next five years for poverty alleviation from the state. Three major industrial corridors namely, Kochi-Palakkad high-tech industrial corridor, Kochi-Mangalore industrial corridor and capital city - regional development program have been proposed for a capital investment worth Rs. 50,000 crore. Budget estimates of 2021-22 provide for revenue receipts of Rs. 1, 28,376 crores and revenue expenditure of Rs. 1, 45,286 crores leaving a revenue deficit of 16,910 crores.

Finance minister hopes that there will be a considerable increase in revenue receipts and can avail a part of loan sanctioned during 2020-21 have been earmarked for next year. This is why the fiscal deficit is showing at 3.5% during 2021-22 which is expected to fall to three per cent in the coming years. Kerala Budget 2021-22 is largely a vision document with the details for various development processes for revitalising the economy into a knowledge economy with strides in modern employment opportunities and industrial growth while consolidating various achievements in the social sector. The budget expects the creation of the new edition of the Kerala development model.



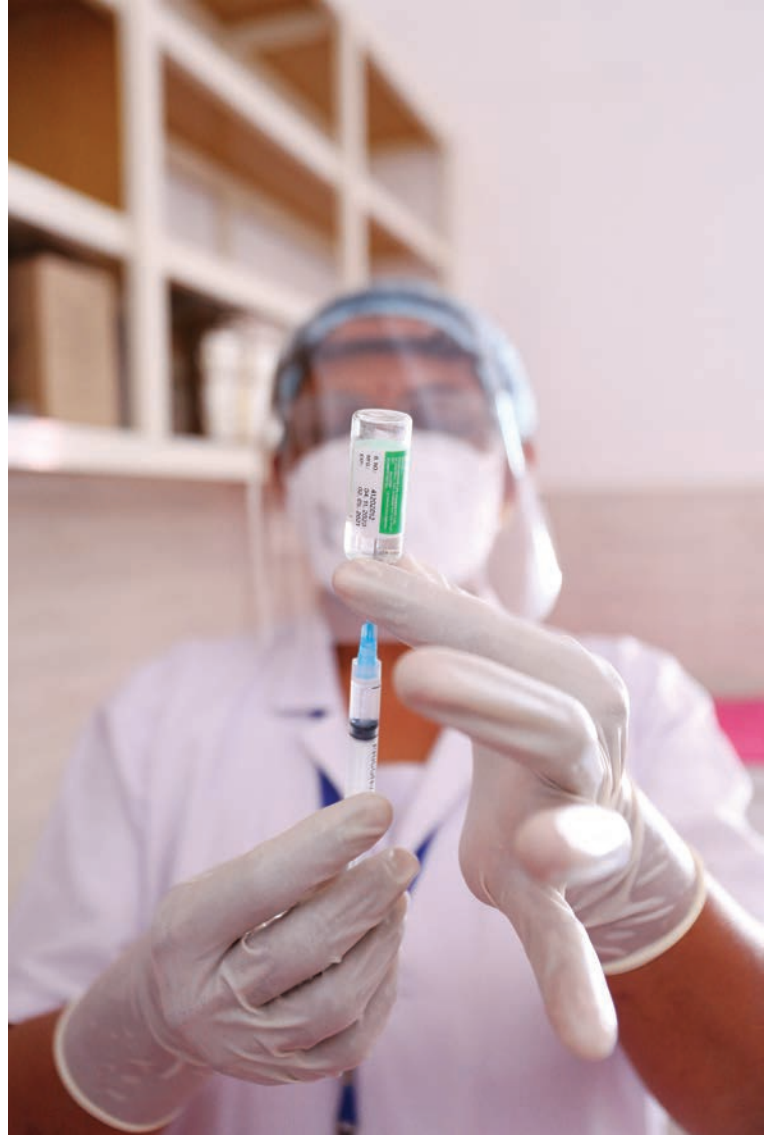
Dr. P.K. Jameela
State Consultant – Aardram Mission

It is vaccine time for a safe tomorrow

The world is in the midst of COVID – 19 pandemic. Efforts to develop safe and effective vaccines have succeeded and many countries have started vaccination programme against the SARS-COV-2 disease.

Taking into consideration of the emergency need for the vaccine, the timelines have been compressed for COVID – 19 vaccine without compromising the key goals ie, safety and efficacy. There are four main types of COVID– 19 vaccines - the whole virus, protein subunit, viral vector and nucleic acid (RNA or DNA).

- **Whole virus vaccine** – Here the vaccines use whole viruses to trigger an immune response.
- **Protein subunit vaccine** – Subunit



vaccines use pieces of the germ – often fragments of protein – to trigger an immune response.

- **Nucleic acid vaccines** – Genetic material – either RNA or DNA – is used to provide cells with the instructions to make the antigen.
- **Viral vector vaccines** – These vaccines also work by giving cells genetic instructions to produce antigens. But they differ from nucleic acid vaccines in that they use a harmless virus which is different from the disease virus, to deliver these instructions into the cell.

In less than a year, the world has come together to develop effective and safe COVID – 19 vaccines and a multilateral platform for allocating them. There are currently more than 50 COVID– 19 vaccines under trial all over the world. Some of them have successfully completed all the development processes and more than fifty countries have started the immunisation programme against COVID – 19. World Health Organisation (WHO), UNICEF, Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and partners



are working together to help prepare countries to be ready to introduce COVID – 19 vaccine. WHO prequalifies vaccines to ensure fast processes especially in countries with poor technical capacity.

Vaccines available in India: - In India, the National Regulatory Authority – Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved two types of vaccines to be used in our country. One is **COVISHIELD** vaccine developed by the combined effort of Serum Institute of India and Oxford University, UK and marketed by Astra Zeneca. The second vaccine approved in our country is **COVAXIN** – an inactivated virus vaccine developed and manufactured by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Virology (NIV).

The rollout of Covid – 19 vaccine will provide priority to the healthcare workers and frontline workers followed by those above 50 years of age and under – 50 population with co-morbidities. Both vaccines are injectables and need two doses at an interval of one month apart.

Covid – 19 vaccine introduction in Kerala

Kerala has taken all possible measures to implement the programme through a smooth and systematic process. At State Level, the State Steering Committee,

State Task Force and State Control Room are functionaries in a well - coordinated manner. All districts have set up District Task force and District Control Rooms and at the block level - Block TaskForce and Block Control rooms. The cold chain network in the state is fully equipped with 3 Regional, 14 District Vaccine Stores and 1240 Cold Chain Points to store the vaccine at +2 to +8 degree celsius at all levels. Vaccinators are selected and trained properly. As per the national guidelines the vaccine will be given to the healthcare workers already registered which comes to around 3.6 Lakhs. This will be followed by vaccination of other persons as per the priority groups.

The WHO has undoubtedly explained that all COVID – 19 vaccines that have come into the market are safe for human use as any other vaccine. Efficacy is around 70 – 90% against all severity of the disease and 100% against hospitalizations. At this juncture, we are not sure about the duration of protection, but it is estimated that the antibodies developed will be present in our body up to 6 months to 1 year. Protective levels of antibodies are generally developed two weeks after receiving the 2nd dose of COVID – 19 vaccine. Side – effects of the vaccine - like fever, pain at the injection site, minor allergic reactions with the COVID – 19 vaccines can happen, like in any vaccine.



Anupama T.V. IAS
Director – Women & Child
Development Department

For a healthy tomorrow

It is high time to redefine and redesign the prevailing eating habits since anaemia has become a threatening reality these days. The State Government of Kerala is out there to control the menace and a special campaign is planned to meet the goal.

When the National Family Health Survey-5 fact-sheets were released in December 2020, a bout of discussions started in Kerala on Nutrition. While we boast of a robust healthcare mechanism further manifested through the Topmost position in most of the health indicators like IMR, MMR, Institutional delivery, the same is not reflected in many indicators related to Nutrition like Stunting, wasting and Anaemia.



We might expect that a good network of Anganwadis and Primary health centres, Trained Human Resources and educated public ensured that malnutrition and Iron deficiency anaemia, in particular, weren't as prevalent. But unfortunately, that is not the case. There are factors, beyond those of health and undoubtedly, the most important reason behind iron deficiency anaemia is the lack of importance we assign to Nutrition (Not to read as 'Food'), the same factor that plays behind the rising lifestyle diseases as well. Nutrition is seen in a very superficial way-merely as the adequacy of food; some even link it to the palatability. We often forget that food is just the source of nutrition and not nutrition itself.

While the menstruation makes a girl/woman more prone to iron deficiency anaemia and necessitates additional iron intake, there are a host of other socio-cultural factors too. The lack of importance assigned to the nutrition of a girl/woman is a problem too.



Ignorance and negligence could be the most prevailing reasons behind the anaemia among children; parents focus on the quantity of food, often prefer to eat-out ignoring the locally available food and traditional recipes, get carried away by the advertisements on food supplements without getting into the details and thus often forget the art of balancing nutrition within the diet. More care is needed in the diet of a baby because she may not have been introduced to an array of Iron sources and therefore the choice is tougher.

Anaemia is a vicious cycle. We cannot expect an unhealthy mother to concentrate on the health of her child. We often see women (slightly higher among working women) too tired by the end of the day to spend time with their children, let alone make right food choices for them.

All these factors have been considered while designing 'CAMPAIGN 12', a campaign planned to fight anaemia among women and children in Kerala. Being implemented under ICDS and SampushtaKeralam (State programme of PoshanAbhiyaan) schemes of Women and Child development department and supported by the

Health Department, the campaign primarily aims at generating awareness about the effect of anaemia among women and children. It also aims at convincing more people to test their Blood Haemoglobin, preparing them to identify the symptoms and make the right choices about Food and Iron supplements. It aims to serve as a reminder to the society that it is high time we watch the food we eat, our women and children eat.





Sajini Sahadevan
Freelance Journalist

Make Way for the Millennial

Young faces at the helm like never before. Local self-government institutions will be having a new-gen facelift this time.

The people have decided. The local body elections at the end of an unprecedentedly challenging year brought about some much-needed excitement. Young women and men with a mind of their own are coming to the fore, occupying positions of authority - won the hard way, and they are all set to change the status quo.

Their ages and gender have brought them into the limelight but the articulate, unassuming winners, be it Arya Rajendran, Anandu Pillai, Saruthi P., Reshma Mariam Roy, Amrita or Anas Rosna Stephi, are here to prove that age is just a number, gender is irrelevant and that they have work to be done.



Reshma Mariam Roy

The winners have already dived headlong into their new responsibilities, confident of learning on the go and taking the insight of senior leaders into account. All of them are still students too.

Arya, a B.Sc Mathematics student of All Saints College, whose posting grabbed headlines across the country. Saruthi, president of Olavanna panchayat, Kozhikode has just given her final year law exams. Anas Rosna Stephi, a student of disaster management voted for the first time and incidentally, contested the same elections. She is now president of Pozhuthana panchayat. Anandu Pillai, a Kollam district panchayat member, who, all of 25, defeated a veteran in Kollam's Thalavoor division also plans to take his studies along with his new responsibilities. Anyone saying they don't have time can take pointers from these no-nonsense leaders.

When MLA Prasanth became the youngest mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, he gave the title a refreshing makeover. That he came to be called 'Mayor Bro' is



Saruthi



Anandu Pillai



Anas Rosna Stephi

telling of the extent to which the youth could relate to him. While it was a conscious decision to have more youngsters contest the polls this time, he notes that the floods of 2018 proved an eye-opener to the power of youth.

As times change, the issues that surmount people are not the same anymore.

Anandu says that is where young minds become relevant. “The importance of youth having a say in governance has now become a reality. Young people have a better understanding of the needs of the times and can find the right solutions to deal with them.”

Renowned author, political commentator and sociologist Dr. N.P. Hafiz Mohammed says the power of the youth is becoming visible in all spheres including social

work. Popular among students from his days as head of the sociology department at Farook College in Kozhikode, Hafiz says the participation of youth in the elections is because they are fed up and have started to react to corruption, political opportunism

Young women and men with a mind of their hold are coming to the fore, occupying positions of authority

The winners have already dived headlong into their new responsibilities, confident of learning on the go and taking the insight of senior leaders into account

and caste politics. “Now, they have become a force to reckon with. If the old is ready to give them a chance, they will truly shine.”

Reshma, who also made headlines as the youngest panchayat president at 21, of Aruvappulam panchayat in Pathanamthitta, earnestly noted down the issues people raised with her during her campaign. “This role requires more interaction with people on a daily basis.”

“The people have given me an opportunity,” Anas Rosna Stephi says. She had attended a year’s civil services coaching before being unexpectedly called upon as a candidate. With no background in politics, it is watching her parents being actively involved in social work that gave her confidence. “I feel that if one has the intent to serve people that make them eligible as a candidate.” Anas won a general seat and believe there is no place for gender discrimination in Kerala.

With so many young faces in the political arena, Anandu believes it will bring about change. “With these elections, parents who till now wished to bring up their children with an apolitical stand are having second thoughts,” he says, adding, “A surprising number of youth will enter politics in the future.”

Hafiz’s only fear is parliamentary democracy. “It ruins and corrupts all, so they have to show the integrity of resistance which may not be an easy task.” But the former ‘Mayor Bro’ has the final word: “Having educated, quality youth in politics raises the quality of politics too.” ■



Jisha Surya
Freelance Journalist

Age is just a number...

The State of Kerala is being noticed for umpteen numbers of feats – be it the literacy- success or the taming of the pandemics – the youngest mayor in the country also comes from this part of the world, maybe those who know the history of the State won't wonder at the 'right' picking from the 'left' think tank.

Arya S. Rajendran was born four years after V. Sivankutty took charge as the 39th mayor of Thiruvananthapuram in October 1995. While taking oath of affirmation as the 46th mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation on December 28, 2020, Arya scripted history as the youngest mayor in the country.

"I don't think age is an indicator of maturity," says



Arya, who will turn 22 on January 12. She feels that the leadership and decision-making skills she gained while serving as the state president of children's organisation Balasangham might have turned things in her favour.

While contesting from Mudavanmugal ward, Arya, a second year BSc Mathematics student of All Saints College, had no idea about getting elected as mayor. Her family, consisting of father K. M. Rajendan mother K. M. Sreelatha and Brother Aravind K. S. are all engaged in active politics.

Arya's parents K. M. Rajendran is an electrician while her mother K.M. Sreelatha is an LIC agent. The family has been staying at a modest rented house at Mudavanmugal for the last 10 years. As the road leading to the house is too narrow, the mayor's official vehicle could not enter the premises. "We had to sell a three-cent property while building a house due to financial constraints. Since then, we are staying in this house," said Sreelatha. Aravind,



two years elder to Arya, is working at a firm in Abu Dhabi for the last one year.

Soon after she assumed charge, the mayor took up cleaning of tanks ahead of school reopening as an immediate task.

Arya scripted history as the youngest mayor in the country

“Exploring use of modern technology for waste management will be given priority. Decentralised waste management methods, suitable for each ward, will be finalised in consultation with the respective councillors,” she said.

Stating that she is not in favour of a confrontation with opposition parties, Arya said that she would like to associate with all members of the council irrespective of their political differences. “I am optimistic in bringing all together for the welfare of the city. Opposition parties have offered all support,” she said.

On criticism that the mayor post would hinder her studies, Arya said that she planned not just to complete her graduation, but also take up a post graduation course. Interestingly, days after assuming charge as mayor, Arya attended her second semester examination at her college. “My teachers

The mayor took up cleaning of tanks ahead of school reopening as an immediate task

have offered all support. They have promised to send me notes of the missing days,” she said.

Arya, a trained classical singer, has been active in band and drama in her school days at Carmel GHSS and Government HSS, Cotton hill. Ever since she was selected as Mayor, Arya is getting congratulatory messages from ordinary persons to celebrities. Actor Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal, Suresh Gopi, among others, called her to congratulate on her achievement. However, selection of Arya as

Actor Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal, Suresh Gopi, among others, called her to congratulate on her achievement

the mayor was also getting criticism due to factors such as her young age and gender. “There are people who think even at this age that a young woman could not take up such important responsibility. I will reply through my

actions, not words,” she said.

When asked about her political ambitions, Arya said that she did not aim for any posts. “My ambition is to be known as a good politician,” she said. Arya added that she chose politics as she felt that it was her duty to ensure a better life for the future generation.

While Arya assumed charge, some cited Suman Kholi of Bharatpur in Rajasthan as the youngest mayor. However, while Suman assumed charge as a 21-year-old, Bharatpur was a municipality. It was declared a corporation only in 2014.



N.V. Ravindranathan Nair
Senior Journalist

Sailing over challenges finding success

Crossing over the challenge posed by the Covid pandemic, Tourism sector in the state is trying to return on track these days.

While the entire world discusses the scope of achieving local area development through promoting tourism, Kerala has already started efforts to achieve this goal to a certain extent. Even during the lockdown when the growth trajectory got plummeted in almost all sectors, the State Government did not succumb and its efforts to revive tourism is showing positive results.

The responsible tourism being adopted by the state is truly helping the state to generate more employment at the rural sectors. The Tourism policy envisaging a



comprehensive development of the state had already been launched in 2017. The current growth in the sector could be seen as the result of such a policy. The thrust is given on the vision that the citizens involved in the sector also should get benefited.

It is important to be noted that in the last four years Kerala made maximum revenue from this sector. There was a giant leap both in the inflow of domestic and international tourists into the state. While 11.9 foreign tourists came to the state last year, the number of tourists from other parts of the country was 1.84 crore. It was an increase by 8.52 per cent and 117.81 per cent respectively. Compared to 2018, there was an increase of Rs.10,000 crore in revenue during the 2019 fiscal year marking the highest ever increase in the tourism history of the state. While the state earned Rs.46,000 crores during the last fiscal, it is estimated that state has lost at least 25,000 crores following the covid spread from the tourism

sector. However, the Rs.450 crore worth loan facility announced for the entrepreneurs and workers have made a perceptible change in the temper of the industry. Further, 26 major tourism projects were launched under the Government's 100 days action programme to revive the sector. In the Thiruvananthapuram district, the newly added infrastructure facilities at Ponmudi, Veli and Sanghumugham are luring crowds. A playground for children, landscaping and new seatings have been arranged here at the Lower sanatorium area of Ponmudi.

Kerala has already started efforts to achieve this goal to a certain extent

In the Kollam district, the Malamel tourism project set up at 700 feet above the sea level, the Palaruvi eco-tourism project, renovated facilities at Thanni and Kollam beaches are beckoning crowds.

The beautification of the poet Moolur Memorial at Ealvumthitta in the Pathanamthitta district spending Rs.49 lakh has been a major effort adding to the tourism potential. The green tourism complex at Pala was one of the projects launched under the hundred days' action programme. The Aruvikkuzhi Tourism project and Elappara amenity centre set up in the Idukki district are major steps to boost the tourism potential of the high ranges.

As part of the revival package the pathway at the finishing point of the Nehru trophy Snake Boat race in Alapuzha and boat jetties here have been made attractive. In the Ernakulam district, the Bhoothathankettu dam was an attractive destination for tourists from within the country and abroad. Over two lakh tourists visit here annually. The development of the project has also been realised during this period.

The State Government did not succumb and its efforts to revive tourism is showing positive results

The Peechi dam and Botanical garden here have been beautified to help increase the footfalls. One of the newly launched projects include the Thoompoormoozhi project under the Athirappally, Vazhachal and Malakkappara circuit. The renovated gardens of Pothundi and Mangalam, dams are also major

tourist attractions.

The Miracle garden set up at Kottakunnu, Malappuram, the Snehapatha project on the river bank at Chamravattom first and second phases all have been adding to the tourism potentials. The development projects which are part of the green carpet project at Vadakara estuary in the Kozhikode district has also been completed.

Moreover, the beautification and renovation of the Mananchira square in the heart of the Kozhikode city was completed in a time bound manner.

The Swamymathom park in the Kannur district, beautification of the Chokli bund road are the



prestigious projects commissioned during the hundred days' programme. One of the major tourist projects completed these days in the north Kerala is the Parassinikkadavu Boat terminal and Pazhayangadi Boat Terminal constructed as part of the Malanadu-NorthMalabar RiverCruise Tourism project.

Wayandu district has greater prospects for adventure tourism to attract foreign tourists. Cheengerimala rock adventure tourism project is attracting tourists from all across the globe. The pathway beautification and construction of the ornamental gate in front of the Bakel fort are the attractions added to the fort during the pandemic-time.

Rs.5 crore has been spent for developing adventure tourism project at Wayandu. The Tourism projects include mud football which is a popular sport at the local level.

Rs.600 crore worth projects have been designed to focus the development of north Kerala's tourism. Malabar -Malknadu river cruise circuit when completed will make a face lift of the region. Already works are progressing at 15 boat terminals.

Radhika P. Menon
Freelance writer

Kerala: The most welcoming State in India!

Even amid a raging pandemic, Kerala was ranked the most welcoming region in the country! As part of its Traveller Review Awards 2021, digital travel company Booking.com revealed the top five most welcoming regions in India, and the state of Kerala topped this list, followed by Rajasthan, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

The 'method' - the state Government of Kerala devices to garner the riches of the State's tourism potential is hailed, pretty accepted broadly these days.



The tourism destinations are developed in such a manner that a travel buff could never forget the kind of experience hither - at 'God's own Country' now transformed 'plentiful'. Awards galore and the ignited stimulus makes the state stay 'godly - abundant' persistently.

Does it surprise you that Kerala is the warmest state in India? Well, not in terms of climate but human sentiment and hospitality... As the recipient of the Traveler Review Award for the third consecutive year, Kerala's top rank should not take anyone by surprise, even though her varied and kaleidoscopic riches - natural and cultural - surprise first-time visitors as well as regularly returning tourists.



The selection of Kerala for the prestigious award by travelling portal Booking.com was made on rigorous parameters, levels of hospitality and friendliness is a couple of them.

The key element in Kerala's potential as a tourist destination is her unmappable diversity in terms of terrain, natural scenery, tangible and intangible cultural assets, eco-friendly medical treatment and healthcare, and the sheer range of experiences she offers, from time-travel to pre-colonial times within history museums to a plunge into the outer space through state-of-the-art planetariums. Small wonder that Kerala outmatched places like Rajasthan, Goa, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Unlike Rajasthan, famous for her royal palaces and forts and camel rides through the deserts, unlike Goa, feted for her beaches and parties, and unlike Tamil Nadu celebrated for her gargantuan temples,

Kerala cannot be pegged down to any single type of tourist experiences. She has any number of beaches, lakes, rivers, waterfalls, hills, valleys, forests, orchards and gardens; accommodates thousands of temples, mosques, churches, synagogues; houses all kinds of museums from those that showcase ancient historical artefacts to others that give a feel of virtual reality; offers a mind-boggling variety of cuisines from the indigenous and traditional to the exotic and continental; provides opportunities to participate in the activities of various cottage industries; shares the benefits of Ayurvedic medicine; and so on.

Tourists can feel Kerala at various levels – the aesthetics of her own Kathakali and Mohiniyattom, Margamkali and Oppana, the vitality of the martial art form of Kalarippayattu, the variety of Kochi-Muziris Biennale, the ancient mural paintings on temple walls . . . **Here's God's own plenty!**

BOOKER PRIZE

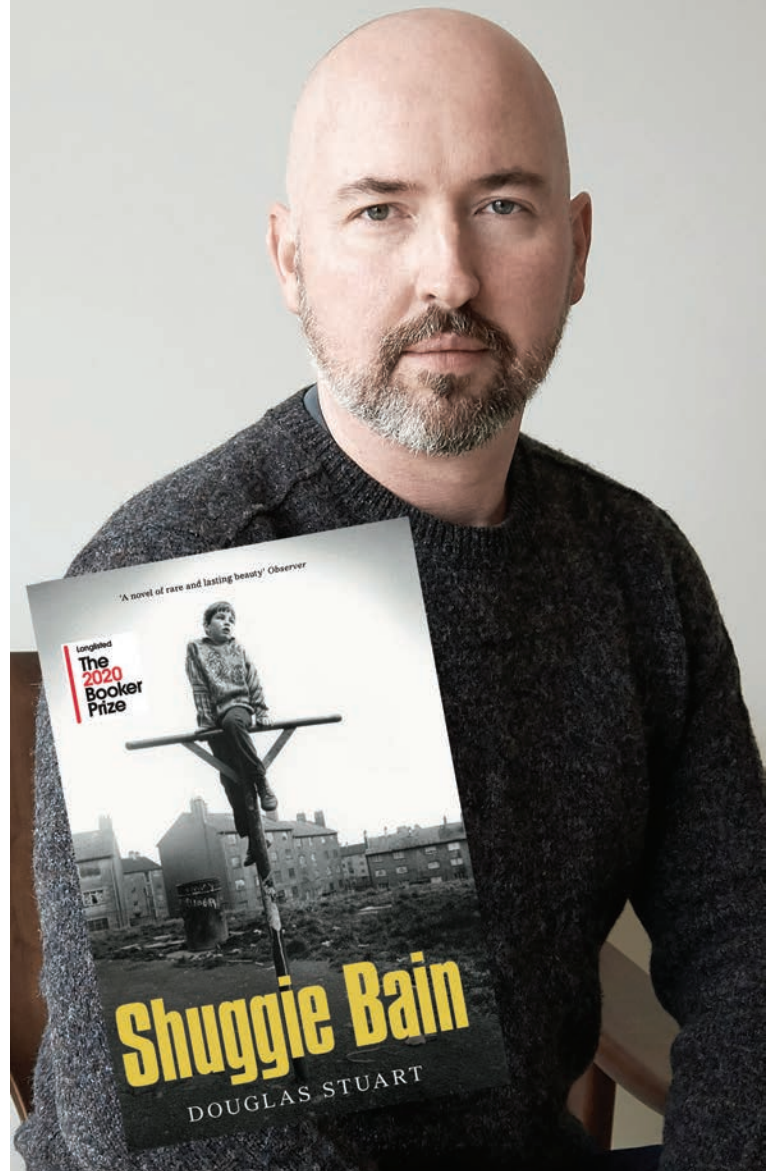


Adarsh Onatt
Literary Critic

Winning hearts even if there is agony

***Shuggie Bain* written by the debutante Douglas Stuart that won the Booker recently is a searing, grim, and often depressing account of a world of poverty in downtown Glasgow Britain in the 1980s.**

The book according to the judges of the Booker is a near-masterpiece. They have said in the judgment that they were bowled over by this first novel, “which creates an amazingly intimate, compassionate, gripping portrait of addiction, courage, and love. The book gives a vivid glimpse of a marginalized, impoverished community in a bygone era of British history. It’s desperately sad, almost-hopeful



examination of family and the destructive powers of desire”.

This Booker Prize marks a rarity as so many debut books were in the final list of the coveted literary prize. Shuggie, among all, is a deserving win. Douglas Stuart, the writer of Shuggie Bain, maybe is holding a US passport but had lived a life of hardships in early childhood as Shuggie in the book in Glasgow, UK. This marvellous book, even before winning the Booker, had been the centre of discussion at the Good reads with readers pouring in with praise for the book’s way of depicting the 80’s Glasgow and the close-knit relationship between an alcoholic mother and son.

The narrative of the book centered on a young boy, Shuggie, in 80s Glasgow and his alcoholic mother, Agnes. Theirs is a story of squalor,

abuse, deprivation, isolation. Much of the story is excruciatingly painful and every reader has to wade through it with a heavy heart to make it through. The novel has been compared to the works of Edouard Lous, Frank McCourt, Hanya Yanagihara; all are novelists. The novel had also deep liking to the books by Karl Ove Knausgaard; the My Struggles series. Shuggie Bain also comes in the category of the 'agony novels', as is wisely called by the critic Sam Sacks. The book that had really made this much of a lasting impression on me as a reader, as Shuggie Bain is the Yanagihara's fat novel; A Little Life. It is also telling the depressing and a brutal story of child abuse told through the memories of an attorney in the downtown Manhattan during the boom-era.

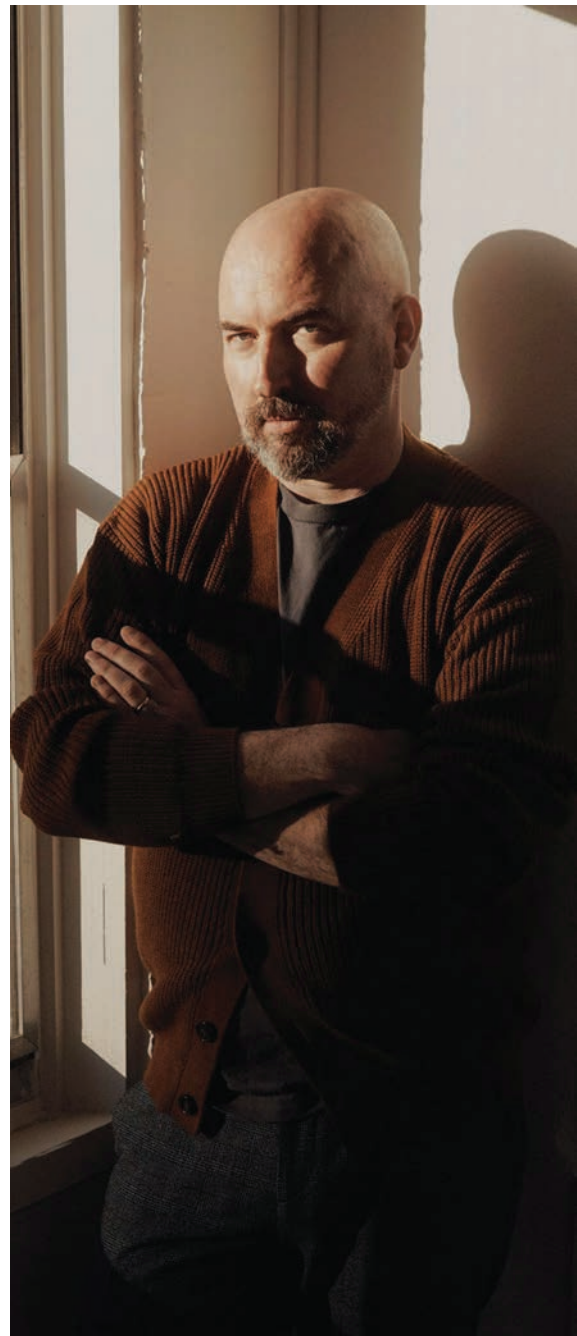
Shuggie Bain is written in a harsh, bruising and powerful way. Its strong use of language laced with realism and Gothic touches had made the bleak life of Agnes and Shuggie more penetrating. The novel tells a decade of harsh and bleak time in Glasgow with people losing their jobs to Maggie Thatcher's unpolite reformations. The writer had said soon after winning the prize in an interview that the novel is a "love-letter to Glasgow". Yes, one could find hope in the novel is between the love and care the Shuggie and his mother Agnes.

Shuggie is the youngest of three children of their mother Agnes, born to different fathers. He is gentle, frightened and an effeminate boy. At the beginning of the novel, Shuggie is 16 and lost his mother, is living in a rented bed-sit owned by a Pakistani woman. He was also working at a takeaway counter. He is gay. His life had been around his mother's helper before that. Agnes is a beautiful woman and is an alcoholic addict. The daughter of devout and loving Catholics, she had two children, Catherine and Leek with her first husband before leaving him for Shug, a Protestant taxi-driver, who lure her to marry him. He is a wheedler. He dumps her and the children in a wretched scheme on the fringe of mining country. Though her returns to her often but is in no way helps Agnes and family to come out from their trauma. Daughter Catherine marries and leaves for Scotland one day. Leek, the other son, a talented artist but deeply troubled, absents himself much of the time, the duty of care devolves to Shuggie, the small boy who fits in nowhere else.

This was the warmest part of the novel. The relationship between Agnes and Shuggie is beautiful. Stuart makes it precise and beautiful without over

sentimentalising it. Stuart doesn't hide the demonic stature of alcoholism creeping on Agnes which ultimately leads to her death. She once even tries to come out of it. She had a brief period of sobriety but another relationship (another taxi driver) she had into takes her to a celebration party. That was enough to ruin her. The efforts of the little Shuggie go in vain and he loses his mother...

Shuggie Bain is one book that one should not miss this year.



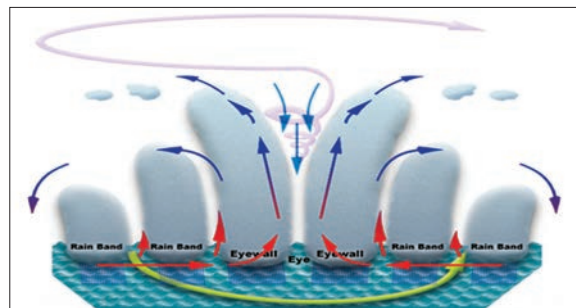
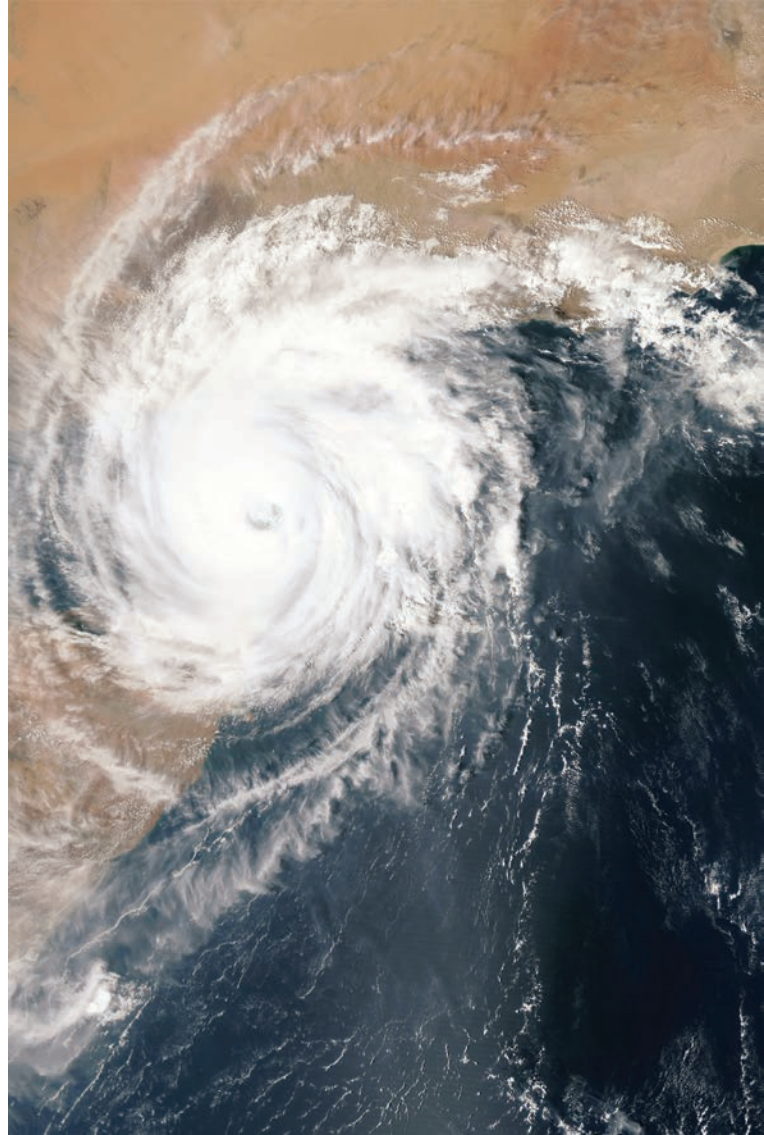


Dr. Gopakumar Cholayil
Scientific Officer, Academy of Climate Change
Education and Research, Kerala Agricultural University

Burevi-the Cyclone that 'spared' the State

Global warming is having its impact across continents and nations, even to the smaller parts of the world. Kerala is no exception and cyclones might hit this part of the land as well.

The Indian Seas have historically been the deadliest basin with several cyclones responsible for more than 1 lakh of casualties. The 1970 Bhola cyclone killed about 3 lakhs people, perhaps, the maximum number as per the recorded history. Recently, cyclone, Nargis caused the loss of 1, 40,000 human lives in Myanmar in May 2008. After the availability of satellites for monitoring of cyclones, Odisha super cyclone of 1999 over the Bay of Bengal could be rated as the most intense tropical cyclone (Super cyclone) crossing Indian coast. The genesis of cyclonic disturbances varies with respect to the season.



(Fig 1) Vertical structure of a tropical cyclone

Genesis of Burevi

Low pressure was formed in the Bay of Bengal on 28th November in the South Andaman Sea and South- East Bay of Bengal in the Eastern Indian Ocean. On 30th November, this low- pressure system intensified into a depression (D) and then into a deep depression (DD). Subsequently, it intensified into a Cyclonic Storm (CS).

The system moved to northern Sri Lanka and then

to Gulf of Mannar. When the system entered Sri Lankan landmass at the northern end it had to lose its potential energy and thereby the system weakened into a deep depression. It then took a west-northwest direction. The system dissipated there itself. This is the very rare situation as far as a cyclone is concerned. The cyclone followed exactly the path forecasted by the IMD up to Gulf of Mannar.

The probability of hitting a cyclone in the West Coast of Kerala is practically zero



Fig.2 Forecasted track of Burevi by IMD as on 04/12/2020

Cyclone Burevi though made landfall over Sri Lanka's Northern Province on 2nd December night, has not caused much damage. IMD's untiring effort in predicting the track helped the States viz., Tamil Nadu and Kerala to take all necessary precautions including the evacuation of people to shelter camps and other emergency preparedness measures. The State has taken all possible precautionary steps to minimize the catastrophic wind damage and flooding due to storm surges. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was called for to tackle the situation in the event of any causality. Fishing operations were totally suspended in the wake of the cyclonic storm both in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal, where the cyclonic effect prevailed. Fishermen engaged in fishing in the outer sea were called back. Authorities opened 2,849 relief camps to accommodate people who will be evacuated from vulnerable areas.

The cyclone followed exactly the path forecasted by the IMD up to Gulf of Mannar

No cyclone is escaping from being tracked by our satellites or radars' eye. In a global warming and climate change scenario, our oceans are warming, which is the source of energy for the growth and development of tropical cyclones. Due to the chaotic nature of the atmosphere, low-pressure systems are rapidly intensifying into cyclones and super cyclones.

The probability of hitting a cyclone in the West Coast of Kerala is practically zero. But, in a warming and climate change scenario, the State must be ready to face the consequences if a cyclone by chance happens to change its path and hit Kerala Coast.

At the same time, a cyclone originating in the Bay of Bengal usually travels towards Chennai, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Orissa, Bangladesh, West Bengal etc. Some of the systems may travel towards southern Tamil Nadu coastal districts and may pass through the landmass of Kerala after crossing the Western Ghats. We

Studies indicate that the Arabian Sea will become a basin of Severe Cyclonic Storms in future

expected such a track in case of Burevi. Since the Arabian Sea is getting warmer and warmer in the ensuing recent decades of climate change scenario, the probability of cyclogenesis is high

in the Arabian Sea. Studies indicate that the Arabian Sea will become a basin of Severe Cyclonic Storms in future.





Krishnakumar C.S.
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The migration through marriage

Marriage migration, deep-rooted in social structure, is the largest stream of migration in Kerala with highly skewed gender balance. The COVID 19 pandemic would make significant changes in the patterns of marriage migration.

Kerala is well known for its model of socio-economic development and its large quantum of migration that is intertwined. International and interstate migrations from the state were instrumental in uplifting the socio-economic wellbeing of households, particularly in terms of their human, social and physical capital.



The most important and at the very same time the least unearthed and rarely discussed social aspect of migration would be that related to marriage. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant changes in the patterns of marriage migration.

Across religions, migration is allied to marriage as an indispensable cultural practice that has a highly skewed gender balance. The Census (2011) of India shows that marriage is the reason for migration for around 51 per cent of women as against 7.4 per cent of men in the state.

Marriages appear

It is notable that COVID19 has ignited thoughts for austerity in all walks of life including marriage expenditure



to be so patterned that the bride usually moves to and settles down in the groom's house or place. Thus, marriage at large separates women from their place of origin/birth and forges to the place of destination. This has significant economic, social, cultural, physical, and demographic implications. Marriage migration makes significant structural changes in the labour force, work participation, demographic dividend, human capital and wealth transfer.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant changes in the patterns of marriage migration

The pattern of this migration changes according to the change in residence from patri-local to neo-local, where the newly married couples shift to a new place where both or any one of them is/are currently employed. Case studies show that work participation

Work participation of women affects the pattern of marriage migration

of women affects the pattern of marriage migration as they tend to move on to places other than that of their spouses.

In the past, the distance covered in marriage migration in the state was usually quite short. But now, consequent to economic liberalization, globalization and industrial and technological developments across the globe have opened new avenues for young Malayalis.

Reports indicate significant changes in the patterns of marriage and marriage migration during the COVID-19 pandemic. In most of the families, lockdown and other restrictions have badly impacted livelihood. Besides, return migration from the Gulf and other regions would escalate unemployment, economic constraints, and social issues in the state. It is observed that many have postponed their marriage for some time, or even discarded their decision to marry for the time being. The possibility of opting alliances from nearby places is also most likely. If pandemic conditions persist for long, it would increase the age-limit of marriage and would affect marriage migration rates. It is notable that COVID19 has ignited thoughts for austerity in all walks of life including marriage expenditure.

OBIT



E.V. Ramakrishnan
Poet-Writer

The poet and the activist

Sugathakumari (1934-2020)

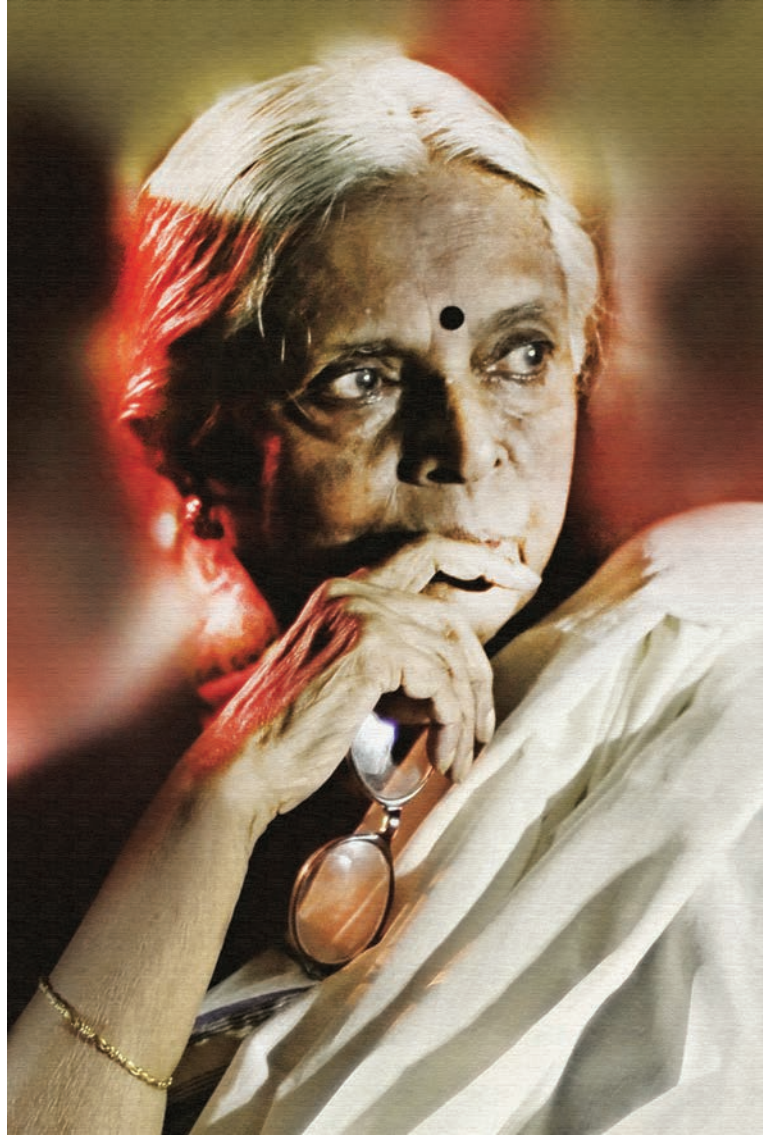
Her humanist vision and deep empathy define her path-breaking work as a poet and an activist

Sugathakumari began publishing poetry in the 1950s a time when some of the legendary Malayalam poets of the twentieth century such as G. SankaraKurup and Balamani Amma were active. Sugathakumari's poems appealed to a large audience because she conveyed the anguish and the angst of a distraught mind caught in the existential struggles of a changing society. She followed her own instincts in chartering a poetic journey which explored the intimate emotional states of a mind in turmoil. In one of her well-known poems, "Pavam Manavahridayam" (The Poor Human Heart) she conveys (wo)man's need to cling to hope and look for signs of life in any bleak landscape. The poem ends with these lines:

*When it sees a star, it forgets the night
When it sees the first showers,
it forgets the long drought
When it sees a baby's milky smile, it forgets death
Happiness fills it then
This poor human heart.*
(Translated by Hridayakumari)

Her poems often invoke the figure of Krishna in such moments of extreme anguish. Her volume of poems, titled Krishnakavitakal, captures the range of moods and themes associated with the various shades of the Krishna myth. In her best poems, she is able to objectify the moral crisis of the modern woman caught in the everyday struggles of a male-dominated world.

The voice of the distraught soul that pervades her early poetry progressively deepens into a deep social concern in her post-1980 poems. It is a natural development which did not disrupt her poetic style. It is her ability to assimilate new themes and



a refreshingly personal critical voice that enabled her to reinvent her poetry in the post-1980 period. Even when her concerns increasingly turn towards the public world, she did not write 'public' poetry with a strident voice. Her brooding poetic voice now becomes more reflective and she questions the nature of evil in the world.

She followed her own instincts in chartering a poetic journey which explored the intimate emotional states of a mind in turmoil

It is her inclusive vision rooted in the personal that enabled her to walk with the five generations of poets from the 1950s onwards and remain contemporaneous with all of them. Faced with the horrors of the new century, she wrote: "Be silent, it is the hour to/ stand mute with bent heads". In many of her poems, her personal voice merged into the collective voice of all suffering women.

Sugathakumari's role as an environmentalist merits a detailed paper. She could not sleep for days together when she heard that a hydro-electric project was to come up in the rain forests of the Silent Valley. She was one of the founders of Prakriti Samrakshana Samiti, an alliance of writers, scientists, activists and common people. The poems of Sugathakumari played an important role in mobilizing public opinion. She often encountered criticism from many quarters, but she faced the fury of the opponents with composure and understanding.

She founded institutions like Abhaya and Athani

With the passing away of Sugathakumari in Thiruvananthapuram, on 23 December 2020, at the age of eighty-six, an era has ended in Malayalam literature. She produced some of the most iconic works of Malayalam poetry for which she won major honours and awards such as Sahitya Akademi Award (1979), Saraswati Samman (2012), Ezhuthachan Award (2009) and Padmasree (2006). Her transformation into a leading social activist from the

We may not see one like her for a long time to come

1980s onwards marks a phase of dedicated work for the cause of environmental justice.

Her social work for the cause of the oppressed women trapped in mental asylums and the victims of sexual violence followed her first-hand experiences of their horrors. She founded institutions like Abhaya and Athani for their benefit. When she became the Chairperson of Kerala State Women's Commission in 1996, she initiated many grass-root levels programmes to ensure women's safety. Hers was the voice of Kerala's conscience.

Sugathakumari's father, Bodheswaran was a Gandhian social worker and her mother, Karthyayani Amma was a Professor of Sanskrit. Both her sisters, Hridayakumari and Sujathadevi were well-known writers. She married Dr. Velayudhan Nair, an educationist. Her only daughter, Lakshmi is a poet with two published volumes.

It is important to put on record what Sugathakumari stood for and fought for. In pursuing her personal truth and inner voice, her poetic self-evolved into a public figure with a moral vision, showing the way in a world torn between greed and violence. We may not see one like her for a long time to come.



POETRY



K. Satchidanandan
Poet

NO, I WON'T COME

(In Memoriam, Sugathakumari)

*No, I won't visit your humble dwelling again,
We won't sit together again on that
Verandah with its jasmine scent and chat,
Caressing with our memory the moonlight
Blossomed in the last night's rain,
You won't recite your new-born poem
In your feeble beautiful voice and the snow
Within me won't melt in it and no lotus, bloom.*

*No, you won't come again to the banks
Of the Yamuna poisoned blue
To recite your verse as soft as silk
Or to speak like a crystal forest stream. (1)*

*No, we won't sit together like two vagrant griefs
Washed ashore on the shore of the gulf, (2)
Won't together fight to retrieve
Our land's vanishing green.*

*You sit there like the last drop
Of a dried up river on the sand, blow
As a breeze where the forests were,
Flash like a midnight lightning in the bungalows
Built over the filled-up pools.*

*Those who feed greed, speed for its god,
with green paddy fields,
Who gather crowds to chain the water-fall
Even as she begins to roll down laughing
and shouting
And reach for the carpenter's scale to measure her
Depth and electric roar,
Who, jealous of Mount Sahya's height,
Tear his broad chest and sell those bleeding muscles,
Who look for gold even in the river's sand
To fatten someone's purse,
For all of them you become a nightmare that bites.*

*You rise like love's moonlight in the darkness
Of the deprived, and turn the tribal cottage
Into a castle with your earthen lamp,
You grow wild violet flowers in deserts
Undaunted you launch your tiny canoe
In the surging, roaring sea ahead.*

*I saw you, who had learnt to stay alone,
Leave your lone body to the ever-burning fire
Waiting beyond the door like a mother
Bidding farewell to none, saying in silent affection,
"How many times haven't I melted like this!
No, this fire's longing cannot digest me",
Detached, covered in dharma turned black,
Leaving no foot-print at all on earth,
Simple like a blue coneflower.*

*You are the goddess of the woods,
The darling of the wandering nocturnal rain,
The divine daughter guarding the Sahya Mountains.
Go light, leaving your griefs on earth,
O, star that marks the sunset of an age.
In you, you carry the mankind's future.
Give me just a handful of your ashes,
For me to plant a banyan tree,
Who knows, tomorrow a new Thathaagata may
Arrive in its shade!*

(1) Our meetings in Delhi
(2) Our meeting in Dubai to explain to the NRIs the reasons to fight the Aranmula Airport plan
(Translated from Malayalam by the poet)

Recognition Galore



National recognition for Kerala's health sectors again. 'Akshaya Keralam', Tuberculosis Prevention Scheme of the State Health Department has been selected as the Best Model Public Health Scheme in the country. Akshaya Keralam has been selected by the Central Department of Health for its excellence in the field of tuberculosis prevention activities during the covid crisis and for delivering tuberculosis services to all deserving households.

As part of achieving the sustainable development goals, 'My Tuberculosis Free Kerala' project has been implemented by the Local Self Government Institutions in collaboration with the Department of Health to achieve the goal of eradicating tuberculosis by 2025. The Akshaya Kerala project is the third phase of this project. The Department of Health has been able to provide free treatment and public health services to all those diagnosed with tuberculosis.



'5' on a trot

Kerala wins National Energy Conservation Award for 5th consecutive year. The award is for saving 581 million units of electricity by 2020. Various institutions in the state had saved 4100 million units over the last 5 years. Industrial and commercial establishments and consumers in the state together contributed to the power saving activities.

For saving energy, KSEB decided to distribute 1 crore LED bulbs to the consumers, who have registered on the KSEB website. The aim of the Government is to enhance solar power projects which would help surge in energy conservation.

Kundannoor flyover



Vyttila flyover



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