



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

22ND JANUARY, 2018

**BY
SHRI JUSTICE (RETD) P. SATHASIVAM
GOVERNOR OF KERALA**

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

1. It is my honour and privilege to address this august body of representatives of the people of Kerala, marking the beginning of the 9th session of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly.

2. My Government has been serving the people of Kerala for the past 20 months. We have made significant achievements in many fields over the last year and have taken every effort to live up to the expectations generated by our mandate. However, more progress needs to be made as we are on the cusp of unparalleled challenges.

3. During the past year, there have been several campaigns against the State of Kerala, particularly on social media and conventional media. Despite being a State with some of the best law and order indices in the country, a month long campaign was carried out across India, on certain flimsy ground by some communal outfits. Keralites en masse responded to this campaign featuring the hashtags.

4. Kerala was declared by the United Nations as the only State in the country which figures at the top of the Human Development Index. More recently, particularly since my Government has assumed power in the State, Kerala was adjudged as the best state in India, in the category of law and order, by the 'India Today'. 'India Today' judged Kerala as leaders in several other fronts too. The Centre for Media Studies rated Kerala as one of the least corrupt states in the country. Based on a study conducted by the Public Affairs Centre, Kerala topped other Indian states in the Public Affairs Index. Kerala Police bagged the Police Excellence Award from 'Cops Today International' as well, during this period. Considering the unique programmes like 'Vayomithra', Kerala was accorded the 'Vayojan Sreshta Award' for the care of old aged people as well.

5. Kerala is a state that continues to lead the country in literacy and it has furthered its enviable position in leading the Indian states on various counts, during my Government's tenure. Kerala became the first Indian state with high population density to become 'Open Defecation Free'. Kerala became the only state in the country to achieve 100% electrification. Last year, Kerala was the only state which had a population proportionate allocation, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the state budget. The percentage allocation made under those heads was higher than what was allotted in any other state in the country.

6. In fact, Kerala even went to the extent of becoming the first to declare access to internet as a right to its citizens. The list of firsts associated to the State of Kerala is almost endless. It is the first state in India to have a transgender policy and transgenders have been employed in the Kochi Metro. We are also the first to maintain a registry of sex offenders. Kerala leads the country with the lowest infant mortality rates, highest sex ratio, highest health and life indices, one of the highest foreign remittances, presence of modern roads in villages, availability of free education, access to free health and so on and so forth.

7. Giving further focus on women, my Government have even set up a separate department for them and reintroduced gender budgeting with a share of 16% in the State's previous budget. We are also moving towards increasing the strength of women in our police force to 25%. We have a dedicated battalion that consists of only women. We also have police stations entirely run by women.

8. With the highest minimum wage in the country, Kerala attracts a large number of migrant labourers and my Government have even instituted an innovative health insurance scheme for them. They are accorded a warm reception in the state and are treated at par with the fellow citizens. Yet, recently there was a heinous effort to spread fear among them, circulating fake images and voice messages on 'WhatsApp' and other social media. But, all those who have gone to the ground to assess situations have realised that there is no threat to migrant workers anywhere in Kerala.

9. During the past one year, there have been slanderous attacks on the secular traditions of our state, doubts thrown on our social sector achievements and vilification of the law and order situation from various quarters. But the people of Kerala unitedly stood together to defend our traditions and achievements. Kerala has once again been identified as first in the country in maintenance of law and order and top the country in the ranking of quality life. There has not been any instance of communal riot in our state despite the plotting by certain communal outfits. We are also perturbed by the tendency of the Central Government to roughshod the best traditions of co-operative federalism by bypassing the State Government and directly dealing with the district authorities and local bodies. The GST has resulted in serious abridgement of the fiscal powers of the State Government. The terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission also betray the tendency to curb the fiscal autonomy of the state. The demonetisation and the introduction of GST in an inappropriate manner and time has resulted in serious deceleration in the economy and mounting unemployment. Our state has also been caught within this downturn and economic growth in the state has also slowed down due to the crisis in the Gulf. It is in these trying times that we are working towards fulfilling the promises made to the people.

10. Today, I am delighted to highlight some of our major achievements and more importantly, lay out my Government's vision for crafting a sustainable future for

Kerala through appropriate stewardship of her social, environmental and economic spheres. This vision of prosperity has to be fuelled by unleashing the spirits of innovation, entrepreneurship, good governance and shared responsibility. It should be noted that my speech is more policy oriented than an attempt to enumerate all the initiatives that are being pursued by my Government.

11. Sustainability is defined as our ability to meet our needs without compromising the ability of our children and grandchildren to meet theirs. The United Nations identifies social, economic and environmental sustainability as the three pillars of sustainable development. The progressive aspects of Kerala's development often referred to as the '**Kerala Model**', have attracted notable attention around the world. My Government is proud of Kerala's unique example in development and is eager to write the next chapter in the story of the Kerala miracle. In addition to consolidating our social gains, there is also a need to preserve our fragile environment in the background of climate change and widespread pollution. This is a new dimension that '**Kerala Model**' has to tackle.

12. Kerala's future is also challenged by the rapid technological breakthroughs and innovations that often disrupt the business-as-usual approach familiar to us. However, they also provide unique opportunities. Changes in the domestic as well as global demand for Kerala's agricultural produce such as spices and rubber have dramatically altered the labour and industrial climate in the

plantation sector. Similarly, rapid changes are happening in the automotive sector including changeover from traditional fuels to hybrid and electrically powered transport. Technology acts as a unique disruptor that is poised to change the world of work and life. Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Nano Technology and Robotics will change our world and make many of the current jobs obsolete and create new jobs of the future. This will require the State to invest in a large number of new technologies and technology driven enterprises, borrowing the best from global competition and taking innovation to commercial success and employment generation.

13. A serious variable for consideration would be the phenomenon of climate change and the ensuing disruptions in weather patterns. We had the recent experience of Cyclone Okhi sowing huge misery along the Kerala coast, causing losses to lives and properties of fisherfolk. Though my Government activated its disaster management system as soon as we were alerted, the intensity of the rapidly shifting event affected a large number of fishing vessels at sea. The State Government unleashed every capability in its arsenal to rescue the men and vessels at risk and succeeded in providing relief to a large number. However, despite our co-ordinated efforts with the Naval and Air Forces of the Union Government in rescue operations, a number of fisherfolk have not returned home. My heart goes out to the ones who have been affected by this calamity. My Government considers

this experience as a call not only to strengthen both Union and State capabilities in handling climate change, but also to enhance capacity in human capability and technology when dealing with the consequences of such disasters. My Government is committed to compensate every life lost in the disaster and also provide support to the families who have missing persons. The Central aid received will be well spent to provide such support, enhance capabilities in the coastal belt and improve the State disaster management system to cope better with future risks. My Government places on record the admiration and gratitude to the members of our Union Armed Services and the men and women who strived extremely hard in the unprecedented rescue mission to recover the lost at sea.

14. Good stewardship requires recognising and managing the current situation, proactively crafting and simulating the future through appropriate investments and operating in an environment of transparency, integrity and accountability. Cyclone Okhi highlights the need to address environmental concerns as a key factor in determining developmental priorities. These lessons learned will be used to refine the basic framework of a sustainable Kerala unveiled through the four missions launched last year. Given its importance in my Government's development priorities, it is appropriate to outline its dimensions and report the progress made during the previous year.

Missions

15. My Government have laid out an ambitious way to brave the new world through its new scheme, which is organised around four missions spanning the priority sectors, targeting the poorest of the poor, the most vulnerable sections of the society, including widows without support, the aged and terminally ill, the tribal peoples and so on. The central tenets of these missions and our achievements over the past year are as follows:

16. The Harithakeralam mission aims to promote cultivation of safe food, sanitation, waste management and sustainable development of water resources.

17. The mission on health - 'Aardram' focuses on improving the three tier health care services for the poor and needy citizens of the state.

18. The mission on education is a comprehensive public education rejuvenation mission that aims primarily at upgrading the infrastructure and academic standards of Government schools with ICT (Information & Communication Technology) learning, converting class rooms into smart class rooms.

19. The Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) mission aims to provide safe, modern houses or flats to 4.32 lakh homeless people with the participation of Local Self-Government Institutions and create sustainable employment and livelihood around those dwellings.

20. During the last year, the missions have firmly grounded themselves and registered impressive work. The 'Harithakeralam' mission launched its 'Freedom from Waste Campaign' in August, 2017 and waste management activities were initiated in 300 local self governments. Apart from this, a large number of ponds, wells, canals and long stretches of streams were cleaned and rejuvenated for improved water conservation. To combat the severe water shortage experienced last summer, the mission has set up the 'Jalamanu Jeevan' campaign through neighbourhood groups, Kudumbasree and other social organisations. And to top it all, the mission was able to plant 85 lakh tree saplings marking the World Environment Day, helping to preserve Kerala's salubrious and healthy climate for future generations.

21. Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) was created to implement the physical infrastructure objectives of the education mission. A total of 370 schools have been selected for funding by Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for an amount of 1392 crores and two-third of the schools have been granted financial sanction. Apart from this, 45,000 hi-tech classrooms are being created in 4775 schools for a financial outlay of 494 crores. Besides, academic master plans being developed for all Government owned schools, biodiversity parks to sensitise students on ecological sustainability are also on the anvil in 1200 schools.

22. As part of the 'Aardram' mission, Out Patient Department (OPD) transformation work began at 8 medical colleges and 17 district hospitals and a major expansion of infrastructure of the tertiary sector is taking place. In the first phase, 170 Primary Health Centres (PHC) are being converted into Family Health Centers (FHC) and 80 of them have been completed and the balance will be completed before the end of financial year.

23. My Government is in the process of completing 66,939 unfinished houses across Kerala. Already 2000 houses have been completed and the mission is in the process of preparing a comprehensive list of the 4.32 lakh homeless people in the State. Besides, under various departments, 12,336 new houses have been completed already. The mission will provide individual houses for about 1.76 lakh persons who own land and accommodate the landless by constructing tower flats.

24. Kudumbasree, the internationally acclaimed model for women empowerment, has achieved entrepreneurial and creative dimensions from its humbler beginnings. It is now taking on diverse activities such as addressing the shortage of broiler chicken, setting up 'startup village entrepreneurship programme' and establishing micro business enterprises. It will also join hands with 'Harithakeralam' mission by forming 'Harithakarma Sena' units to implement mission objectives.

25. The vision provided in this speech is an elaboration of the framework outlined above and an application of it in a wider systemic context. It groups my Government's initiatives into social, economic and environmental sustainability categories and frames them in a biocentric approach, which places humans within the greater context of their natural environment.

Social Stewardship

26. Investing in people is at the heart of social sustainability. Amartya Sen, the Nobel laureate reminds us that the main thrust of all governmental activity must be the social development of its citizens. My Government is totally committed to social investments. In addition to shoring up current investments in sectors such as food and civil supplies, education, health, law & order and security, my Government is spearheading a number of new initiatives for anchoring social sustainability.

Food & Civil Supplies

27. Effective and efficient distribution of food and civil supplies remains a top priority for my Government. Reforms will be made in the Kerala Rationing Order (KRO) and Civil Supplies Manual on the basis of National Food Security (NFSA) Act of 2013 and Targeted Public Distribution Systems (TPDS) Act of 2015. As part of the proper implementation of NFSA of 2013, a Social Audit Advisory Committee and Social Audit Society are being planned. Consumer responsiveness will be improved

through the formation of an independent Consumer Affairs Department, which would have a resource center. District Consumer Information Desks with an officer- in- charge would be set up in all 14 districts for information dissemination and liaising with Consumer Disputes Redressal Forum (CDRF) and Legal Services Authority to render legal help to consumers.

Education

28. Kerala is world famous for its high rate of literacy and universal access to primary education. Kerala has to further its excellence in higher and professional education sectors, especially enhancing its research and innovation systems to emerge as a true global leader in education. Therefore, one of the priorities of my Government is to strengthen the education system. The very foundation of a quality education system is the positioning of teaching as a rewarding profession. My Government recognises that teachers imparting knowledge in private unaided schools will have to be guaranteed a minimum wage and therefore will enact a '**Teachers Minimum Wages Act**', to ensure basic remuneration and attract the best minds to the teaching profession. It will also convey a vital element of social justice to those engaged in teaching.

29. My Government is committed to taking the education sector to the next level by requiring higher standards, encouraging institutions of higher learning to pursue accreditation and providing skilling and practical, hands-on-experience to complement theoretical

knowledge. We would like to see educational institutions emphasise citizen rights and duties, civic engagement and soft skills to create a generation of citizens who are fully engaged in helping to shape their world. My Government plans to improve the quality of general education by providing better infrastructure facilities, encouraging the use of technology in classrooms and emphasising academic excellence. A comprehensive e-governance mechanism would be implemented within the General Education Department. Digitisation of school libraries will be one of our initiatives.

30. The Department of Higher Education has already embarked on the ambitious programme of upgrading all Universities, Government Arts & Science Colleges, Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics in the State with financial assistance of KIIFB. The bulk of the work will be completed this year. During 2018-19, focus will be given to waste water management, non- conventional energy generation initiatives, energy conservation and establishment of student amenity centres at all higher education institutions in the State. Interdisciplinary research centers will be started in Government Engineering Colleges and other institutions. As a pilot project in this direction, College of Engineering, Thiruvananthapuram has started work on launching a student satellite.

Skilling

31. Today, the world of work requires not just degrees, but employable skills. Our education system is challenged by its confinement to long years of imparting theoretical knowledge and awarding of degrees, without providing employable skills that are required in business and industry. Education is a process of learning or acquiring knowledge. Skill, on the other hand, is the ability to use one's knowledge effectively and readily in execution. Skill development is crucial in reaping the rich rewards from the advantage of the 'Demographic Dividend' India possesses. The design of skilling programmes has to factor the impact of disruptive technological changes altering the nature of businesses, professions and governance. With technological disruptions happening at a frenzied pace, the shape and character of tomorrow's work world will alter dramatically. Jobs as we know them are going to be changed and redesigned. We cannot prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow by using the roadmap of the 20th century. My Government, therefore, is actively considering establishing a '**World Skills Lyceum**' under the Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) that will foster research, initiatives and innovation to prepare our youth for tomorrow's jobs. Programs will be initiated for the upgrade of Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) to international standards, in accordance with the skill development policy of the State. My Government also aims to start 10 new ITIs at identified locations.

Health

32. During the first year, Government announced sustainable development goals to be achieved in health sector. As part of this, lymphatic filariasis will be eliminated this year and substantial progress will be achieved in eradicating leprosy by the year 2020. To eradicate Tuberculosis (TB) in Kerala by 2025, my Government has commenced active TB screening in vulnerable populations for drug resistance at the beginning of treatment itself.

33. While the health care system in Kerala is one of the best in India, my Government proposes to raise its level by revamping the emergency medical care system and establishing trauma care centres to provide instantaneous relief to accident victims. In order to standardise and enhance the quality of healthcare in private as well as government hospitals, my Government will implement the '**Clinical Establishment Act**' this year. As part of 'Aardram' project, stroke management units and stroke ICUs will be set up in all district hospitals. Cardiac care facilities will be added to Government Medical Colleges of Manjeri and Kollam. Interventional radiology services including digital subtraction angiography, which will provide minimally invasive treatment for many ailments, will be made available in the medical colleges of Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Kottayam.

34. To combat the increasing number of cancer cases, a cancer care strategy involving a care grid for knowledge sharing and capacity building will be formulated.

Similarly, management of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, will be given special attention. Genomic sequencing, which detects polymorphisms and variations in the genome, will be set up in Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

35. Through the Department of 'Ayush', my Government continues to leverage our strengths in traditional medicine. My Government plans to establish the first 'Child and Adolescent Care Centre' in the Ayurveda sector in Kozhikode and ophthalmic and ENT super specialty hospital in Kannur. Other plans include expansion of mental health care in the Government Ayurveda Colleges. New Homeopathic Dispensaries will be started in those Panchayats which do not have such facilities. Mobile technology will be used to increase the access to Homeopathic care.

Law & Order and Safety

36. My Government's priorities with respect to the Home Department include: reduction and prevention of crimes against women and children through application of technology, proactive intelligence, better surveillance and increased presence of female police officers; creation of an integrated digital traffic enforcement system; development of one model Police Station in each Police District and opening of new Police Stations. Promoting a climate of corruption-free interactions remains an important consideration of the Government. Technology infusion into practices is a common theme across the various

departmental goals; from e-verification of passports to traffic management, technology will be used to enhance services. The Department of Home envisions the formation of two stand-alone divisions for improved management of coastal security, faster and effective disaster management response. Better training and development opportunities will be provided for police officers. Building a state-of-the-art forensic laboratory for effective investigation of cases will also be a priority.

37. My Government also plans to enhance the services of the Fire & Rescue Services Department by creating Rural Assistant Divisional Offices at the five Corporations and increasing the number of Fire and Rescue Stations. Modernisation of services will be implemented through e-governance initiatives, computerisation of offices and web portal services for the issuance of certificates.

38. My Government also continues to emphasise accountability and demands integrity from all public servants. With the stated mission of achieving a 'Corruption Free State' through accountability and good governance, we strive to ensure that the fruits of development are enjoyed by all.

Scheduled Castes & Tribes

39. My Government is totally committed to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the scheduled castes and tribes and proposes a number of initiatives to achieve this goal. First, we want to strengthen

the old scheduled caste co-operative societies and start new ones. Employment and income generating activities such as new construction and agricultural works will be supported through this scheme. Support will be provided with respect to the availability of capital/credit and the marketing of the products through '**Gaddhika**' and other trade fairs. The second initiative is the '**Dr. Ambedkar Village Development Scheme**', which is for the holistic development of 1000 scheduled caste colonies where more than 30 scheduled caste families reside. This scheme intends to solve the problem of poor infrastructure and create income generating activities. Third, '**Gothrabandhu**', which was successfully introduced in Wayanad District to address the issue of school dropouts and ensure proper education to tribal children, will be duplicated throughout the State. Fourth, '**Samuhya Patanamuri**' (community study centre), aimed at creating the right ambience for education in hamlets, will be implemented across the State. During 2017-18, 100 such centres were established and our goal is to start another 500 new study centers.

Labour Rights

40. As Mahatma Gandhi repeatedly emphasised, acknowledgment of the dignity of labour is fundamental to a well-balanced society. Workplace safety and appropriate compensation of labour are at the heart of labour rights. Recognising this factor, my Government has taken measures to encourage safer workplaces and introduced

a notification of minimum wages for nurses working in Kerala. Besides, to encourage productivity and professionalism, the Government is planning to institute 'Thozhilali Shrestha Awards' in different sectors. My Government has also taken steps to set up a health insurance program called 'Aawas' for the large number of guest workers from all parts of India working in Kerala. Revamping of the ailing plantation sector is also one of the top priorities of my Government. For this, a special rejuvenation package will be implemented in the plantation sector.

41. The Directorate of Factories & Boilers is planning to set up a special industrial disaster management programme called 'Remote Sensing Enabled Online Chemical Emergency Response System' (ROCERS) in association with National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research (IGCAR). Diagnosis of occupational health hazards in work places is one of the major challenges that Kerala faces today. Programs for periodic health checkup, treatment and control measures will also be implemented. The Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants (ODEPC) will explore the possibility of job openings in European countries for qualified Kerala Youth.

Women's Empowerment

42. Ending gender discrimination and empowering women to achieve their full potential is a stated thrust area of my Government. My Government also intends to set up

crèches and hostels for women in the industrial estates and parks in the long run. The gender budgeting and auditing will be strengthened.

Youth

43. Kerala is blessed with a talented and educated youth population. My Government intends to harness the untapped potential of the young population of the State. The Youth Welfare Board in the name "Yuva Club" will channelize the constructive capabilities of the youth for service of the society. My Government has the responsibility to protect the rights of young generation.

44. Parliamentary democracy plays a very vital role in the overall development of the nation. The Institute of Parliamentary Affairs intends to extend the youth parliament competition programme, parliamentary literacy clubs and human rights education clubs to all government and aided colleges in Kerala to inculcate respect and create awareness among students and youth about the importance and values of **secularism** in parliamentary democracy. Realising the importance of setting up good quality infrastructure, my Government will set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) called 'Sports Infrastructure Management Services Company' for creating quality sports infrastructure and operating the same in a sustainable mode.

Social Justice

45. My Government will ensure social justice and provide adequate support for the social, educational and economic development of backward communities. The major Government schemes to achieve this include self-employment initiatives, loan assistance to those who live below the poverty line and housing loan assistance. My Government proposes health insurance schemes and safe housing initiatives to transgender people. We propose to extend the comprehensive "**Sayamprabha**" to senior citizens. My Government plans to introduce a comprehensive empowerment scheme to provide skills training and a reformation therapy package to increase the general well-being of the residents of the 72 homes functioning under the Social Justice Department. A number of other initiatives for the differently abled people, including providing courses on occupational therapy, instituting disability management services, offering early screening and detection of diseases are also on the anvil.

46. Through the Sainik Welfare, my Government will provide financial assistance to the immediate family of defence personnel who die in action. We also plan to provide support for the rehabilitation of ex-service people and their dependents through Kerala State Ex-servicemen Development and Rehabilitation Corporation (KEXCON).

Information & Public Relations

47. Information & Public Relations Department once again made remarkable achievements in the year 2017. Government of Kerala received silver medal for the best State pavilion for its participation in India International Trade Fair, 2017 held in New Delhi. Other notable achievements include: the launching of '**Nam Munnott**', the Chief Minister's interactive television programme, promoting the '**Nava Kerala Karma Padhathi**' and organising special exhibitions. This Department's proposed initiatives include establishment of PRD programme production centre, introduction of new social media campaigns and development of the Kerala Media Conclave, with an exclusive section for the welfare of journalists and other individuals concerned.

Culture

48. Through a number of initiatives supporting arts, sports, entertainment and museums, my Government has tried to enhance our citizens' lives and to improve tourism. My Government proposes to set up cultural corridors called '**Natarangu**' in villages and towns where suitable open spaces are available. These will be amphitheaters where local artistic and cultural performances could be held.

49. Discovering our heritage, protecting and preserving it for future generations and displaying it for edutainment of the current generation are important functions performed by the Departments of Archeology,

Archives and Museums. The Department of Archaeology intends to improve the amenities and research facilities at the Padmanabhapuram Palace, which has been included in the tentative list of World Heritage sites by UNESCO and take over and protect other heritage sites. The Kerala State Archives Department is the store house of volumes of historical records including palm leaves and is in the process of digitising these records. Other initiatives with respect to museums are also being envisioned, the most significant of which is the construction of a museum in Dharmadam, depicting the life and times of the late Shri A. K. Gopalan.

Economic Stewardship

50. Responsible stewardship of the economy is essential for prosperity, harmony and peace. My Government takes its economic stewardship responsibilities very seriously. Kerala's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, tourism, expatriate remittances and industry. Careful attention is paid to each of these areas and a number of initiatives are underway to shore up our traditional advantages in these areas and craft new strategies to broaden our appeal.

Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

51. From the ubiquitous coconut trees found all over, to the paddy fields of Kuttanad and the rubber holdings of central Kerala, the State has had a romance with agriculture through the centuries. It has provided for a

comfortable living for generations. My Government plans to increase productivity in all spheres of cultivation including cereals, vegetables and fruits. Conversion of paddy lands for other purposes without any public interest has always been a problem for successive Governments. My Government has taken effective steps to implement appropriate laws against such practices in a manner that is beneficial to the strategic interests of the State. Apart from this, floriculture for domestic and export market is an opportunity that will be explored. Millet cultivation and vegetable production will be promoted and adequate support in storage, distribution and marketing will be provided. Better agri-management practices will be popularised, including integrated farming, risk mitigation and healthy soil initiatives. Water conservation measures, organic farming and farm-tourism will be promoted. My Government intends to partner with farmers in improving value addition, distribution and marketing of agricultural products. My Government will continue to emphasis value addition in agriculture and moving up the value chain by speedy completion of the agro parks.

52. The animal husbandry sector also plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of Kerala. My Government proposes a number of initiatives in the diary sector including the establishment of heifer parks and dairy zones, provision of a calf-adoption scheme and assistance for purchase of indigenous breed of cattle. We also plan to provide an insurance programme for cattle and cattle owners. A number of initiatives including scientific calf-

rearing and animal resource development programs are envisaged to attain self-sufficiency in milk, egg and meat production. Besides, emergency veterinary care services during night hours is proposed to be extended to additional blocks.

Tourism

53. Given Kerala's natural beauty, rich heritage and distinctive competencies, it is no wonder that tourism plays an important role in our economy. Tourism Department promotes arts and literary festivals like Cochin Biennale, Nishagandhi Dance Festival and International Book Fairs for attracting international and domestic tourists. My Government will encourage further development of different types of tourism, such as eco, cruise, medical, farm and adventure. The New Tourism Policy, 2017 focuses on achieving a 100% increase in foreign tourists as well 50% increase in domestic tourists. It also aims to address the key issues of the tourism industry in co-operation with the local bodies. Our vision is to create an environment friendly, waste free and responsible tourism infrastructure in all tourist destinations. A new 'Tourism Regulatory Authority Kerala' (TRAK) will be set up to ensure quality services for tourists and curb unhealthy practices in the sector. 'Malabar River Cruise Project' connecting seven rivers of North Malabar will be implemented under eight special themes with the assistance of Government of India.

Non-Resident Keralite (NRK) Services

54. My Government has taken its engagement with NRKs to a new level by constituting the 351 member Loka Kerala Sabha with NRK delegates and special invitees along with Parliamentary and Legislative Assembly legislators. The first meeting of the Loka Kerala Sabha was held recently, and it gave a forum where NRKs could engage with the legislators and thought leaders to contribute to the State not only through investments but also by sharing their expertise and ideas to make the State a better place. My Government is committed to support our NRKs in a variety of ways, including awareness campaigns for safe migration, pre-departure orientation programmes, skill upgrade programmes and assistance to stranded people. Rehabilitation of returnees and reintegration training are some of the other proposed initiatives in this area. My Government is also committed to harness the goodwill and financial capabilities of expatriates in the process of modernisation and further development of Kerala.

Industry, Commerce and Technology

55. It is my Government's policy to create conditions conducive to industrial development without compromising on labour and environmental standards and make Kerala more business friendly. My Government has simplified clearances to start new ventures in the State by carrying out amendments in statutes and notifications of the

departments concerned. The Single Window Clearance Mechanism has been strengthened to issue licenses. A portal for online clearances will be introduced. Approval for building plans in the urban Local Bodies shall be given online. The Local Bodies are being encouraged to promote entrepreneurial activity and it is hoped that they will eventually compete among themselves like the Local Governments in China in wooing potential investors by offering them a business-friendly environment to start and run industries. Private industrial estates will be promoted to augment the efforts of the State funded agencies to acquire land and develop it as industrial estates. To encourage commercial activities in the State, my Government will commence a Commerce Mission. We shall develop multi-level parking facilities near the central business districts of all important cities in phased manner to facilitate shopping. A permanent exhibition center for trade exhibitions in Kochi has been a longstanding dream and we intend to realize it. My Government also has taken the initiative to lay the GAIL. We shall work along with the concerned agencies to extend City Gas Distribution in as many areas as possible.

56. For effective marketing of our traditional handicrafts, handloom and other traditional sector products, my Government will endeavour to create brand identities, which will not only improve employment opportunities, but also help enhance the image of Kerala.

57. The emerging potential of life sciences will be tapped by creating a conducive ecosystem. Towards this goal, a joint venture between KSIDC & Sri Chithira Tirunal Institute for Medical Science & Technology is being planned in the Life Sciences Park at Thonnakkal for manufacturing medical devices at low cost, which will benefit the people. The Government also intends to declare 2018 as the year of Life Sciences.

Electronics & Information Technology

58. My Government will continue to emphasize the electronics and IT sector for industrial growth. As envisaged in the Information Technology Policy, the Government would focus on making all G-to-C (Government to Citizens) services, particularly with respect to payment and certificates, in electronic mode during the current year. My Government is proud to point out that Kerala won the national award from the Ministry of Electronics & IT for effective use of e-tender platform. For total number of certificates issued through electronic mode, Kerala now ranks third in the country. In order to enhance IT services, another 1000 public Wi-Fi hotspots are planned during 2018-19. My Government also proposes to convert Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management (IITM) into a research cum learning institution of emerging technologies that will function as a knowledge center.

Science and Technology

59. In the 2017 Policy for Science and Technology, my Government provides its vision for Kerala to gain a competitive advantage in the field through an increased emphasis on research and development, enhanced partnerships with industry and better training opportunities for researchers. My Government proposes the creation of an Institute for Advanced Virology Research in recognition of Kerala's unique geological, climatic and social movement patterns. The Chief Minister's 'Career Advancement in Biotechnology Programme' is an example of the Kerala Biotechnology Commission's commitment to provide training opportunities for young scientists in world-class organisations.

Fisheries

60. My Government plans to conduct a 3D mapping of west coast to a width of 250 meters along the Kerala coast for Probabilistic Hazard Analysis, to identify vulnerable areas and facilitate emergency preparedness to meet natural disasters. In the wake of Cyclone Okhi, a satellite based navigation and weather forecasting system is being planned in association with ISRO to assist seagoing fisherfolk. Special thrust will be given to equip fishing vessels with lifesaving equipment on board. Only such vessels will be allowed to operate in the sea and movement of fishing craft will be regulated with crew details so that future rescue operations are more streamlined. Fish migratory pathways will also be cleared wherever possible

to ensure migratory movement of fish and sustain its stock. New fishing harbours at selected places are also being mooted.

Ports

61. Kerala has a glorious maritime tradition. My Government is committed to reviving this. We have constituted the Maritime Board. It is proposed to increase the incentive given for cargo & passenger movement for coastal and inland shipping. My Government is also proposing to set up two river sea terminals at Kodungalloor and Kayamkulam to integrate coastal and inland waterways transport.

Excise

62. My Government believes that with respect to alcohol consumption, containment is more effective than prohibition. My Government hopes to create a sea-change in people's attitude towards alcohol through better awareness campaigns regarding the dangers of alcohol. We have a 'Zero-Tolerance Policy' regarding alcohol consumption among minors and will take stringent measures to prevent substance abuse among youngsters. In order to help persons addicted to alcohol and narcotics, my Government will set up a modern de-addiction center in Kinalur, Kozhikode.

Co-operation

63. Co-operative organisations form the backbone of developmental activities in Kerala. My Government will formulate a comprehensive co-operative policy for streamlining the co-operative sector. The Kerala Bank is poised to become a reality this year. This Bank will provide all modern services through innovative technologies. All functional credit co-operatives will be integrated into the Core Banking System of the Kerala Bank. My Government also plans to develop Co-operative Academy of Professional Education (CAPE) into a center of excellence. Formation of a co-operative consortium to procure, process and market paddy and rice is mooted to ensure fair price to farmers.

Transport

64. Investment in transport and energy infrastructure is one of the important ingredients in facilitating economic development as well as improving the quality of life for our citizens. My Government has taken a number of steps in this regard and intends to pursue all the different transportation options for the citizens, including water transportation, metro and light rail. The KSRTC will be restructured and rehabilitated in a time bound manner.

Public Works & Highways

65. Highways play the biggest role in socio-economic development of any country. Without good roads, trade, commerce and many interactions would come to a grinding

halt. My Government had made significant progress in road transport. From the development and improvements of State highways to the proposed Hill Highway and Coastal Highway, my Government has made investments in infrastructure to be one of its top priorities. During the year 2017-18, amongst the 497 roads and bridges projects under KfIFB, 103 projects were approved and 34 works have been tendered. Based on the new policy, 'New Times-New Construction', the PWD is adopting modern sustainable technologies in execution of its projects.

66. Given the high number of road accidents in Kerala, road safety will be a priority area for my Government. A number of road safety improvement initiatives such as development and improvement of junctions, erection of traffic sign boards and handrails, provision of traffic lights, development of school zones, installation of surveillance cameras, reflectors and crash barriers are being undertaken.

Railways

67. Government of Kerala and Ministry of Railways have incorporated a joint venture company, Kerala Rail Development Corporation (KRDC), for undertaking viable railway projects in the State. Among the many initiatives proposed, four projects - a new broad-gauge line from Thalassery to Mysore, 2 semi-high speed broad-gauge lines alongside the existing lines from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod, re-development of abandoned Ernakulam

terminal and rail connectivity to Vizhinjam International Seaport have been submitted to the Railway Board for consideration.

Power

68. Kerala has already extended power to all households in the State, something that the rest of the country is still trying to achieve. My Government will now focus on providing quality power on 24x7 basis in all the regions of the State. For this purpose, a transgrid project is being implemented, specially to improve quality of transmission and distribution in Malabar region.

69. My Government believes in encouraging renewable power. Not only is roof top power generation by private households being promoted, it is being made mandatory in households beyond a specified size. My Government is also promoting wind power generation; one outstanding model that is under implementation is an 8 Mega Watt Project in Agali by NHPC on land owned by tribals, with the tribals getting 5% of the gross revenue directly from KSEBL.

70. My Government will promote use of electronic vehicles in the State. KSEBL will put up a chain of charging stations along the National Highways and in cities in a phased manner to provide an enabling ecosystem for use of these vehicles.

Planning

71. My Government has continued with the idea and practice of planned development on the five-year plan model, with specific annual plans, despite the Union Government having disassociated itself from the process. As I announced last year, the intent of this Government is to prepare plans at the district level. I am happy to note that the State and the District Planning Machinery are finalising the blue-print of the district plans. My Government has made the planning process people-oriented; it plans to make it more participatory. In order to enrich the planning process, efforts are underway by the Kerala State Land Use Board and the Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre to scientifically map and validate ground level data. Examples of such efforts include the terrain analysis for eco-restoration of the Neyyar Basin and the proposed Wet Land Information System (WLIS). My Government intends to harness the power of technology to map the resources of Kerala using geographic information systems and satellite based systems for planning efficacy.

Treasury

72. I am happy to note that the Treasury Department of the State boasts of a fully computerised financial system. The Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) has ensured automated service delivery at our treasuries. Customer facilitation centres are also proposed to be set up in all treasuries. Our treasuries are currently acting as

the support centres for 'New Pension Scheme' (NPS) enrolment for pensioners. My Government has also initiated the process for ISO 27001 certification for our treasuries.

Revenue

73. Considering the importance of land, my Government proposes to complete digital survey in all 1664 villages in the State by outsourcing the digital survey to competent agencies. Mutation, or 'Pokkuvaravu', will be 100% online in all villages of the State by March, 2018. Remittance of the tax by the public shall also be made online. All certificates issued by the Village Officer will be digital and linked together through Digilocker. Necessary action will be taken to update the existing land laws to meet the current social needs. 'Citizen Support Desk' will be established in 500 village offices this year. Time bound action will be taken for the speedy disposal of the 1304 land ceiling cases pending before various Taluk Land Boards.

Registration Department

74. My Government has implemented e-stamping and e-payment systems for bringing in more transparency. Digitization of documents and a special scheme for the scientific conservation of documents that are more than 100 years old will be implemented.

Local Self-Government

75. My Government intends to further strengthen the democratic decentralised planning process through district plans. Government plans to leverage e-governance technologies to improve service delivery standards and augment mobilisation of resources. An online integrated enterprise solution model for delivery of all services and transactions with Government will be implemented with the objective of transforming Local Self-Government Institutions to smart entities. The scope of the 'Arts & Heritage Commission' will be enhanced and statutory powers will be given to the Commission to ensure the preservation of invaluable heritage properties.

76. My Government will help Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGI) to comprehensively reform the property tax structure, including assigning a unique number to all the houses and buildings in the State, so as to improve their tax receipts. My Government plans to incentivize environmental sustainability through the provision of tax subsidies to properties that adhere to green building norms.

Environmental Stewardship

77. Kerala's famous natural beauty has inspired numerous poets throughout the ages. Nature has abundantly blessed Kerala; however, climate change and human made environmental degradation are posing major

challenges that if left unchecked can lead to an existential threat to our way of life and an economy dependent on agriculture and tourism. Today, many of Kerala's traditional advantages with respect to natural resources are under assault. The rising sea levels and the intermittent flood and drought patterns caused by climate change are projected to cause large scale disruptions for Keralites. The State needs to address these challenges by applying not the tired old formulae, but a radically different philosophy.

78. The two world trends that are reshaping human existence are environmental degradation and the sophistication and pervasiveness of technological development. Unless we manage both well, Homo sapiens will be doomed as a species. What we need is a paradigm shift in terms of how we view and manage environmental degradation. Instead of considering waste and pollution as unavoidable externalities, we need to view them as existential threats and use technological solutions to minimise, manage and dispose.

79. My Government takes its responsibility as stewards of Kerala's natural resources very seriously and is undertaking a number of major initiatives to clean up Kerala. We recognise that we have a sacred duty to preserve Kerala's rich natural resources not only for future generations, but also for the continued health, vitality and prosperity of the present populations.

Water Resources Department

80. Our access to safe water supply is becoming more of a challenge with every passing year. This problem is projected to increase as climate change makes weather patterns unpredictable and the effects of urbanisation, overcrowding and pollution become more acute. It is estimated that by 2025, over 70% of the world population would struggle to access year-round fresh water to meet their daily needs.

81. My Government understands the large-scale water scarcity issue looming on our horizon and is proactively planning prudent water management strategies. The major initiatives of the Water Resources Department include construction and improvements to flood embankments, rejuvenation of rivers and streams for flood management, provision of shutter arrangements along rivers, construction of a network of canals and dam rehabilitation and improvement projects. The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) plans to complete 40 water supply schemes, expand sewerage system management to more cities and launch innovation zones for research into cost effective solutions to water distribution problems. Completion of large-scale projects to resolve water scarcity issues in Kuttanad and Kollam is another priority of the KWA.

82. Kerala is blessed with a number of water bodies, including rivers. Unfortunately, these have become polluted and many of them are not navigable because of the accumulation of silt.

83. My Government plans to fully develop the Inland Water Transport Sector to capitalise on our State's intricate systems of canals, backwaters and water bodies for both water transport and tourism development along the waterways. Examples include development of the following projects - West Coast Canal (WCC), Kozhikode-Neeleswaram reach of WCC, Parvathy Puthanar and Urban Regeneration & Integrated Water Transport Development in Kochi.

Forest

84. Extensive stretches of natural forests have been cleared in the past and converted as plantations and farm lands to accommodate the growing population. In view of the great eco-system services provided by the natural forests, the extent of exotic plantations raised to meet the raw material requirements of industries would be strictly limited to the actual minimum required for meeting the commitments already made and the remaining areas will be restored with forestry species naturally occurring in Kerala forests.

85. My Government would ensure that there would be no encroachments on forests and that the core areas of forests would be protected as untouched; entire forest boundaries will be demarcated with permanent cairns during the tenure of this Government.

86. Sandalwood (*Santalum album*) is a highly endemic species limited to the Western Ghats of Kerala, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. My Government proposes to enhance levels of protection provided to the species around Attappady area of Palakkad district to facilitate its regeneration and notify Attappady as Sandalwood Reserve.

87. Human - wildlife conflict results in crop predation, losses of human and animal lives and damage to property. My Government believes in reducing such conflicts to a minimum and advocates peaceful co-existence between humans and animals. Steps will be taken to mitigate such conflicts all over the State.

88. Supporting and improving the livelihood of the forest dependent tribal communities is another thrust area that my Government intends to carry forward. The Department has organised 400 'Vana Samrakshana Samithies' and 190 'Eco Development Committees' for participatory forest management and actively involves them in forest protection and in management of eco-tourism sites.

89. Fire is an important cause for forest degradation. Most forest fires in the State are anthropogenic in nature. In view of the importance of managing forest fires, the Fire Training Centre, Arippa in Thiruvananthapuram District will be rejuvenated so that a state specific comprehensive strategy for managing forest fires is developed. Proper training will be given to the frontline staff involved in fighting forest fires.

Waste Management

90. Talking about trash and waste collection is not glamorous; however, the uncomfortable truth is that waste accumulation along the roads and streets has become an open source of embarrassment and shame. In addition to being an eyesore and a nuisance for people, it is polluting our waters through seepage and creating unsanitary and unhealthy conditions for all of us. It is, therefore, imperative that we take immediate steps to remedy this situation. I have already mentioned the initiatives of 'Haritha Keralam Mission' in decentralised waste management at source. While this campaign would go on my Government would also explore the possibilities of centralized waste to energy programs particularly in the large cities. 'Waste-to-Energy' (WtE) plants employing the most modern technology for effective and scientific management of solid waste are being planned in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) mode.

Biodiversity Protection

91. My Government aims to protect the biodiversity that has been one of Kerala's blessings. The Kerala State Biodiversity Board plans a number of initiatives during the 2018-19 period including strengthening biodiversity management committees, digitizing people's Biodiversity Register, developing a Kerala Biodiversity Information Register and establishing three new themes-based biodiversity gardens/parks. My Government plans to declare two important sites, Ashramam in Kollam district and Kalasamala near Kunnamkulam in Thrissur district as biodiversity heritage sites.

92. Environmental sustainability is a collective responsibility as almost every department has at least an ecological initiative within their yearly plans. However, through the Kerala State Pollution Control Board and the Department of Environment, my Government aims to manage our environmental stewardship responsibilities effectively including air quality monitoring.

Enablers & Catalysts

93. Modernisation of public services through the selective application of technology for improved effectiveness and efficiency is a common theme across the different departments. In order to better facilitate my Government's vision of a sustainable Kerala, innovation, entrepreneurship, good governance and shared responsibility play important parts as catalysts and enablers. My Government will continue to invest in these facilitators.

Innovation

94. Albert Einstein said, "Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is the definition of insanity". The future belongs to those who innovate. The influence of geographical and other factors diminish as technology grows. The features of a particular terrain may offer advantages in agriculture or trade. But only the imagination and initiative of the people can transform possibilities into realities. Herein lies the importance of innovation. My Government will be nurturing

innovation to ensure that the vision of a sustainable Kerala is vigorously pursued. We cannot afford the same business-as-usual mentality to confront the challenges facing us today. To bring a fresh perspective to our approaches and spread the spirit of innovation, my Government has constituted a 'Development and Innovation Strategic Council' (DISC).

Entrepreneurship

95. My Government will be pursuing policies to promote entrepreneurship to encourage citizens to be job creators instead of job seekers. Globalisation and technological development have ushered in a period of entrepreneurship, which is only going to accelerate in the future. Using the brainpower and experiences of entrepreneurs from Kerala who have created world class enterprises, the Government will promote entrepreneurship strategies in partnership with educational and training institutions.

Good Governance

96. My Government is committed to the practice of good governance. It seeks to promote the values of responsible stewardship, integrity, transparency and accountability to the people. My Government takes its role as the social conscience of the people seriously and seeks to: prevent the exploitation of the defenceless, provide a voice for the voiceless, and promote equality of opportunity for all.

Shared Responsibility

97. As numerous people have pointed out over the years, democracy is not a spectator sport; it requires active and engaged citizens doing their part. Creating a sustainable Kerala is too big a job for the Government to go at it alone. Sustainability requires a culture change in not only how we, as individual citizens, approach our collective resources, but also how we conduct ourselves to be the very best that we can be, as productive members of our society. It requires us to provide a helping hand to fellow citizens, engage in a constructive dialogue with policy makers and work to strengthen our social institutions.

Call for Action

98. This is our moment. While being proud of our past heritage and optimistic about our future, we must seize the opportunity of here and now to create the world we want to live in and leave for future generations. Let me end with one of the most quoted lines of **Mahatma Gandhi** "You must be the change you wish to see in the world". Together, let us write the next chapter in the Kerala Development Model.

99. Thank you for your attention and resolve to make our shared vision come true.

Jai Hind

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