

**Honourable Speaker, Chief Minister, Ministers, Leader of the 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 1<sup>st</sup> session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly. Before proceeding to elaborate on the current situation and the policies of my Government, let me state that my Government has come into office by winning a renewed mandate from the people of Kerala. My Government will continue to implement the welfare and development programmes of the previous Government and is committed to lead the State towards far reaching growth in all sectors of the economy benefitting all sections of the society. The fruits of economic growth shall bypass none. There shall not be a divide in the society with some of its sections being marginalised. There shall be no divide on the digital front either. The policies and programmes of my Government will always have these goals built into them.
2. My Government has unflinching faith in democracy, secularism and welfare of the people. My Government is committed to protect the unity and integrity of the nation, while recognising the spirit of unity in diversity. Our strength is the underlying cord of unity in spite of linguistic, religious and ideological differences. To strengthen this unity, we

need to strive to eradicate the inequalities based on gender, socio-economic status and physical disabilities.

3. My Government is committed to make the promises made in the election manifesto a reality. My Government believes that pledges made to the people are to be redeemed continuously and are not ones merely to be reiterated at five-year intervals. My Government has begun its functioning by initiating steps to implement key promises made in the election manifesto. I state with satisfaction that my Government remains committed to the promises made to the people.
  
4. We meet today as the spectre of the COVID-19 pandemic is still haunting countries across the world. Kerala too has been affected badly, but we have been able to contain the case fatality rate. This has been made possible by effective and co-ordinated functioning of the Departments concerned. The Health, Police, Disaster Management, Local Self Government, Revenue were in the lead. The people's participation within the framework of empowered Local Self Governments deserves special mention. The administrative machinery has been working much beyond their normal call of duty.

5. In the face of this unprecedented challenge, a counter-cyclical fiscal policy to stimulate the economy has been initiated lest the economic slowdown should become steeper. My Government is trying its level best to provide care to the vulnerable sections of the society. My Government believes that it is its first duty to foster the feeling that getting care is the right of everyone and not a favour or privilege. In the initial days of the first wave of the pandemic, my Government came out with a comprehensive COVID-19 relief package to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore aimed at benefitting almost every section of the society. As part of this package:
  - 5.1. Payment of welfare pensions were made up-to-date benefitting 47.2 lakh beneficiaries.
  - 5.2. Rs. 150 crore was set aside for payment of one time relief of Rs. 1,000 per family for 14.7 lakh BPL households, which are not getting welfare pensions.
  - 5.3. Rs. 100 crore was set aside for providing free food grains to families in need, while Rs. 50 crore was set aside for provision of subsidised meal at Rs. 20/- through *Janakeeya* hotels
  - 5.4. Universal distribution of free kits containing essential articles at a monthly cost of Rs. 400 crore was done for around 90 lakh families in the State. My Government is of the view that the trauma of COVID-19 has affected people irrespective of their economic status. Hence, the decision to make this benefit not a targeted one, at least initially.

- 5.5. Rs. 1,000 crore was set aside for a comprehensive health package, focus of which was to improve public health infrastructure and to equip the State to face the pandemic.
- 5.6. Loans worth Rs. 2,000 crore were distributed through the *Kudumbashree* Mission to women Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- 5.7. Rs. 2,000 crore was set aside for the expansion of the employment guarantee programme.
- 5.8. Rs.14,000 crore was set aside to clear all the arrear payments by my Government till April 2020, including pension, welfare assistance to informal sector workers, deferred bill payments of contractors, and scholarships for students.
- 5.9. Deferment in payment of various utility charges including electricity bills and water charges.
6. In the current second wave of the pandemic which is now raging in Kerala, my Government has announced Rs. 1,000/- as ex-gratia payments to all the 14.7 lakh BPL families who are not in receipt of any other welfare pensions. Other beneficial measures like distribution of kits of essential articles and prompt payment of social security and welfare board pensions have also been initiated. My Government has clearly stated that it will provide preventive vaccination against Covid-19 free of cost to all. This is essential for building herd immunity against the pandemic. My Government is of the considered opinion that preventive vaccine against

COVID-19 shall be treated as a Public Good, the access to which shall be non-rivalled and non-excludible. Due to the policy of differential pricing of vaccines, the additional cost to the State exchequer will be at least Rs. 1,000 crore. Despite the fiscal constraints, my Government has stepped forward to meet these fresh commitments by floating a global tender for the procurement of three crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines as well as by placing orders with domestic manufacturers for one crore doses. It is pertinent to mention that many including those who are not from the well-to-do sections of the society have come forward to donate substantial amounts to Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) for enabling my Government to meet the cost of procurement of vaccine. Here, the undaunted willpower of the people of Kerala is on display again.

7. In the health sector, the quick expansion of institutional capacity by addition of ICU beds, ventilators and enhanced oxygen supply was bolstered through the setting up of field hospitals as COVID First Line and Second Line Treatment Centres to cater to patients in a graded manner. The creation of this surge capacity has enabled Kerala to divert some of the pressure on its core hospital facilities and thus ensure that some of the distressing scenes witnessed elsewhere are avoided in Kerala. This is combined with free

treatment for COVID-19 in Government hospitals across the State and cashless treatment coverage for 42 lakh poor families under the *Karunya Arogya Suraksha Pathadhi* in 584 private hospitals in the State.

8. The strength and ability of Kerala's health systems to withstand the unprecedented challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic are derived from the decentralised people-centric systems-building approach. This has come in for mention as a model worthy of emulation in publications of institutions like the Reserve Bank of India.
9. The State of Kerala also aligned itself to the Sustainable Development Goals approach by imbibing its essence and carving out a unique mission called '*Aardram Mission*'. It focuses mainly on strengthening primary health care by invigorating Primary Health Centres with more human resources and transforming them into Family Health Centres with more functional elements such as enhanced field-level activities engaging local communities.
10. Even though over 22 lakh COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Kerala till date, we could limit the mortality to 6,612. In the early phase of the pandemic, the scrupulous tracing and isolation of persons coming into contact with infected

individuals was ensured, thereby preventing the spread of the virus within the community. This public health strategy, perfected through the effective containment of the Nipah virus, was supplemented with the immensely successful 'Break the Chain' campaign that urged the people to partner in these efforts through self-protection, hygiene, and social distancing. As the pandemic then progressed, public messaging was continuously modified to evolve with it, leading to other successful campaigns such as 'Back to Basics' and the recent 'Crush the Curve.'

11. The District administrations and the Local Self Governments of Kerala, both rural and urban, have played a critical role in the management of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as its second surge. The Ward Level Committees in all the Local Self Governments across the State, with the participation of community volunteers, are taking a lead role in co-ordinating the field level activities including surveillance, managing the COVID First Line Treatment Centres (CFLTCs), the Domiciliary Care Centres (DCCs), and supporting people in home isolation. They also ensure that regular supply of food and medicines are made available to the households in need. Local Self Governments are also running community kitchens with the aim to ensure food security and prevent starvation. *Janakeeya* hotels to provide meals at affordable rates are also being run with *Kudumbashree* taking the lead role.

12. The last year was an extremely difficult one for the State's economy and the society. It is estimated that our Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) would decline by about 3.82 percent in 2020-21. We expected a sharp recovery in the economic growth to 6.60 per cent in 2021-22. But the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic can be an impediment to this expectation. The downturn in the growth of GSDP would naturally have its adverse consequences on the State's revenue receipts. It has already witnessed a decline of 18.77 percentage in 2020-21 as against the original budget estimate. Though we expected a sharp rise of 37.87 percent growth in revenue receipts in 2021-22, the consequences of lockdown necessitated by a surge in COVID-19 cases, is likely to constrain this. Coupled with the additional expenditure commitments, the State finances is likely to witness higher revenue deficit as well as fiscal deficit. Once we achieve a higher growth rate, we can grow out of the deficits and debt.
  
13. I would like to point out that as per the estimates of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the State's GSDP is expected to grow at 13.1 percent in the five-year period of 2021-26. Our State has been placed in the category of highest growing States. We need to achieve this projected growth rate to meet the emerging challenges. But this task has been made harder by the unprecedented challenges consequent to the pandemic.



14. We achieved high levels of plan and social sector spending, including on health, in the last financial year through higher levels of borrowing which has pushed our debt to GSDP ratio to over 36 percent. Consequent to the strident demand of the States including Kerala, the Union Government relented to raise the annual borrowing limit from 3 to 5 percent of the GSDP. However, only 0.5 percent of this additional borrowing limit was unconditional. Though my Government has its considered opinion on the imposition of conditionalities in this as they run counter to the basic principles of co-operative federalism, we agreed to implement the reforms suggested, in a manner, which did not adversely affect the citizens. It is noteworthy that we have been successful in getting the entire 1.5 percent additional borrowing limit based on conditionalities relating to the power sector, public distribution system (“one nation - one ration card”), “Ease of doing business” and urban sector.
  
15. Despite financial constraints, my Government also implemented the five-year pay revision for Government employees as per our commitment. My Government is committed to travel along the path of fiscal consolidation. But the resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent scissor effect, that is, falling revenues and rise in expenditure commitments, might constrain us to press the pause button on deficit targets.

16. My Government remains committed to ensure that the State continues on a path of growth with equity, that has brought it to the first position in the NITI Aayog's Index on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), among all Indian States. My Government hopes to restructure and transform the State into a knowledge economy. The budget presented on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021 highlighted this model and focused on providing higher employment opportunities for the educated unemployed in the State through various new schemes including a digital platform through K-DISC to ensure jobs for at least 20 lakh people over a five-year period. The Budget had also proposed higher levels of investment in Higher Education, in the digital economy and in setting up Centres of Excellence in higher education in the State. It focused on facilitating 2,500 startups, setting up of an innovation fund for the Local Self Governments and providing higher levels of assistance to major Universities for building their infrastructure, higher levels of investment in the digital economy including completion of the K-Fone project and distribution of laptops to students. These initiatives will transform the Kerala's economy.
  
17. Kerala's development experience has unique characteristics that make it distinct. In the past, we achieved a high level of human development

indicators with a low percapita income. This was made possible by public intervention in social sectors sustained by the community based mass movements. This helped our people to migrate within the country and abroad and send a part of their earnings as remittances to the State. This catalysed the growth of our percapita incomes. Presently, our percapita GSDP is 60 percent higher than the national average.

18. As already mentioned, Kerala not only ranks first in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index of the NITI Aayog for 2019, it also tops the Devolution Index across all the States with regard to devolution of Funds, Functions and Functionaries to Local Self Governments. However, Kerala's development experience faces two key challenges which cannot be lost sight of. Kerala's capital expenditure in the areas of social and physical infrastructure needs to be augmented and more quality jobs need to be created for our youth and those who faced career break. It is to meet these twin challenges that my Government created a dedicated and unique investment agency named Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), for ensuring adequate investment in both social and physical infrastructural sectors. This has also been supplemented by attracting support from multilateral and bilateral donors for the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) to create climate resilient

infrastructure in the State. Our budget has manifold schemes for tackling the second major challenge, of providing employment.

19. I now turn to the details of the Schemes and Programs of the different Departments, their notable achievements and their plans for the future.

### **Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare Department**

20. All Krishi Bhavans in the State will be converted to Smart Krishi Bhavans.
21. Research findings of Scientists from the Kerala Agricultural University and allied sector institutions will be fully utilized for increasing the production potential of crops in the State.
22. My Government is committed to raise farmers' incomes by 50 percent in the next five years. Value addition will be strengthened for this purpose by agro-processing and marketing, and establishing new small scale food processing industries and agro-parks.
23. The production of vegetables in Kerala will be increased to attain self-sufficiency in vegetables during the next five years.

24. The production of planting materials will be doubled during the next five years and the availability and distribution to farmers will be done through online portal.
25. New nursery law will be enacted to ensure the quality of planting materials supplied to farmers.
26. The base price of the crops included in the base price programme will be enhanced every year and more crops will be included in the programme.
27. For improving and creating awareness among the public about public health new 'Nutrition Garden' will be established.
28. For enhancing the paddy cultivation, block level monitoring committee will be formed.
29. New Block level call centres will be established.
30. Opportunity of urban farming will be explored.

## **Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Department**

31. As part of the comprehensive reorganisation of Animal Husbandry Department in a farmer friendly manner, round the clock veterinary services will be extended to all the 77 Taluks.
32. A new Centre of Excellence in Goat will be made functional at Parassala in Thiruvananthapuram District under the National Livestock Mission.
33. To ensure optimum milk production and reproductive capacity, the calf rearing scheme will be expanded in scope and coverage.
34. The employment opportunity in animal husbandry and dairy sectors will be increased by 50 percent by providing assistance to farmers through Animal Resource Development Scheme. Value addition to make milk-based products will be focused upon.
35. Ambulances will be provided in all 152 Block Panchayats for doorstep veterinary services to farmers.

36. Kerala State Dairy Management Information Centre will be established as a repository for accessing information and data by all stakeholders.

## **Ayush Department**

37. Through 1,206 specialised Ayur-Raksha clinics under the Departments of Indian Systems of Medicine and Ayurveda Medical Education, Ayurvedic preventive medicines were distributed to quarantined people, those at high risk and senior citizens. The data compiled by the Department shows that more than 23 lakh people have been covered under the Ayurvedic Prevention Strategy as on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021. *Bheshajam*, the Ayurvedic Management Programme for Category A COVID-19 patients has reached out to about 1,57,000 COVID-19 positive patients, while *Punarjani*, the Ayurvedic Convalescent Care Programme for post-COVID patients covered around 1,53,000 people as on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021. In the current second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ayush Department has worked out a detailed plan to expand the scope and reach of the Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic prevention strategy.
38. The proposed International Research Institute for Ayurveda at Kannur, once established, will facilitate the scientific validation and systematic documentation of Ayurvedic therapies.

## **Backward Communities Development Department**

39. My Government is committed to fiscally empower the Backward Classes Development Corporation. My Government has given additional guarantee for an amount of Rs. 300 crore to the Corporation. The issues faced by the converted Christians will also be addressed in adequate measure.

## **Coastal Shipping and Inland Navigation Department**

40. The main arterial waterway of the State is the West Coast Canal (WCC), which connects Kovalam in the South to Bakel in the North extending to a length of 616 KM. The development of West Coast Canal and the proposed new canal formation are envisaged in three stages. Improving the basic amenities and enhancing the standards of the State Waterways commensurate with the standards of National Waterways and improving the cargo movement by facilitating up to 500 tonnes are the targets envisaged in the third stage by the end of 2025.

## **Co-Operation Department**

41. The recent policies of the Central Government have been retrogressive as far as the co-operative sector is concerned. However, my Government will continue its efforts to strengthen co-operative sector.



42. Twentyfive co-operative societies will be formed in the State for young entrepreneurs and service providers to attract more youth to cooperation.
43. A paddy co-operative society with Statewide jurisdiction will be formed and two modern rice mills in the model of Palakkad rice mill will be established.
44. A society for artists-musicians, performing artists, dramatists etc. will be formed in the model of *Sahithya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham* (SPCS).
45. The integrated software for the Kerala Bank will be put in place during this year and State will continue its efforts to include Malappuram District also in the service network of Kerala Bank.
46. The Kerala Bank came into existence on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020. My Government made an equity infusion of Rs. 400 crore in the Kerala Bank. The Bank will be able to provide all modern banking facilities such as Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, IMPS, RTGS/NEFT, ATM, Wallet/ UPI services to Member societies and the general public at affordable rate. Core Banking Solution (CBS) will be introduced among all Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) in the State.

47. Co-operative Markets will start functioning in all Districts in the year 2021-22. An e-marketing platform under COOP MART Scheme will be developed and made operational. The Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Development Co-operatives of the State will be revamped under *Punarjani* Scheme out of assistance under State Plan Funds for ensuring employment opportunities to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes population. PAPCOS, the modern rice mill at Palakkad, under the co-operative sector, implemented with the consultancy support of NABARD will start commercial production during this financial year.

### **Devaswom Department**

48. My Government is implementing the *Sabarimala Idathavalam* Project with the assistance of KIIFB to provide better facilities for Sabarimala pilgrims to meet their primary requirements of rest and comfort.

### **Culture Department**

49. In order to extend livelihood support to the Kerala traditional and rural craftsmen, and to create stable market avenues for them, a new project called the Rural Art Hub Scheme is being implemented in 14 heritage art /craft villages in the State. Around two thousand craftsmen are targeted to receive benefits under the Scheme.

50. A financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 10.25 crore has been disbursed to around 66,000 artists and cultural activists as COVID assistance during the first wave of the pandemic in 2020.
51. Construction of 14 major cultural complexes in the name of Kerala's Renaissance leaders, one each in every district, is a landmark project undertaken under the Cultural Affairs Department.
52. The Malayalam Mission was able to setup Chapters in 32 Foreign Countries and 22 Indian States. It launched an internet radio service called 'Radio Malayalam', which is a notable achievement.
53. During this Financial Year 2021-22, a Kerala Culture Museum will be setup to showcase the unique culture of Kerala. The proposed museum will throw light on Kerala's past ethnic and community life.
54. Local cultural centres would be setup as Cultural Activity Hubs to create a venue for the local artists and promote literary discourses. The Rural Art Hub Scheme would be extended as Rural Art and Craft Hubs to include more art and craft villages.
55. In the wake of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, an online cultural festival will be organised to create a platform for the performance of the artists and extend support to them.

## **Electronics and Information Technology Department**

56. The focus of Kerala State IT Mission (KSITM) in 2021-22 will be to upgrade the Data Centres forming the backbone of the IT infrastructure, setting up of an Aadhaar Data Vault, Unified State Portal, Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence and Implementation of Single Sign On.
57. Currently 2,000 public Wi-Fi hotspots have been set up in the State to provide free Internet in public places; this will be expanded. K-FON project with a vision to ensure lastmile connectivity to Government offices in the State and to provide free high-speed internet to the poor families will be expanded. State Service Delivery Gateway (SSDG) portal and m-keralam app will bring e-Governance facilities to the common people. Electronic file processing system will be implemented in all the Government establishments to ensure timely action and more transparency.
58. By the end of the Financial Year 2020-21, Technopark had built around 10.27 million square feet and Infopark had built around 9 Million square feet space for the IT Industry. 450 and 425 IT/ ITES companies are established in Technopark and Infopark respectively and they provide direct employment opportunities to 1.2 lakh IT staff.

My Government supported the technology companies operating from the Government owned IT buildings, by way of providing 3 months' rent waver schemes and rent-free period scheme in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several multinational companies are in the process of functioning/expanding their establishments in the IT parks of the State. TCS is expected to start the construction work of TCS Aerospace Hub in the 97 acres allotted at the Technocity Campus, Thiruvananthapuram during 2020-21. Infopark, Thrissur with 39 companies is functioning across different verticals and categories and has created over 1,100 employment opportunities in a semi urban location.

59. Infrastructure buildup of the Projects viz. Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ), Kalamassery and Village Knowledge Centre, Kannur will be commissioned by the Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited. Kalamassery will become the biggest hardware ecosystem in the country with the launching of TIZ.
60. The Kerala Startup Mission executes major Programs such as 'Youth Entrepreneurship Program' and 'Technology Innovation Project', for the establishment and growth of technology startup ecosystem in Kerala. 3,900 Startups, 4 Accelerators, 40 Incubators and 280 Mini Incubators and 30,000 aspiring entrepreneurs have been created so far by the Kerala Startup Mission

(KSUM). The ongoing schemes of Kerala Startup Mission will continue in 2021-22 too. K-WINS, a Program focused on tapping the capacity of educated unemployed women initiated in 2020-21 will continue.

61. My Government has promulgated an Ordinance for restructuring Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITMK) into a University named “The Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology”. The University would focus mainly on Research, Education, Outreach programs and thereby develop itself as a Centre of Excellence in Digital Technology and allied areas. Maker Village, Kochi is the country's largest hardware deep tech incubator and is implemented by the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala (IIITMK) and with Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) as the partner. The University will be encouraged to reachout to support Government in the skilling of youth to tap the new age digital jobs.
  
62. International Centre for Free and Open-Source Software (ICFOSS) is working in collaboration with free software organizations in India and abroad for the promotion, propagation and application of free software. ICFOSS, designated as the State Nodal Agency for Malayalam Computing has developed and released ten software solutions for public use as part of the localisation of technology and aims to

setup a research centre to make effective use of Malayalam language in the field of e-governance.

63. The Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT) has been functioning as a technology solution provider in the Government sector for more than three decades now. In the coming year C-DIT's focus is in strengthening Managed Security Services, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality facilities, Augmentation of Research and Development activities, upgradation of Security Document Forensics Lab, augmentation of Video Production facility for Web Channel, augmentation of infrastructure facilities of Digital Archiving Centre in C-DIT and the completion of ICT building for C-DIT at Thiruvananthapuram.
64. My Government is committed to provide all Government Services online to citizens without any applicant having to visit a Government Office. The project will be inaugurated on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

### **Environment Department**

65. As per Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2019, the draft Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) for all the coastal districts was prepared by the Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA) and is pending finalization.

66. Under the Plan Scheme 'Climate Resilient Farming', development of a Model Climate Resilient Agriculture Practice in Munro Island in Kollam District is in progress.
67. In the current year, State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) shall be revised in accordance with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to support the State in responding to global climate change by building capacities for climate change actions (mitigation and adaptation) and to make Kerala a climate resilient State through improved climate change governance and services linking climate science, policies and people.
68. Online processing of applications for Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance for residential buildings shall also commence by Financial Year 2021- 22.

### **Excise Department**

69. The "*Vimukthi*" Mission has been launched by my Government to achieve the goal of "Drug Free Kerala". The *Vimukthi* Mission in collaboration with Government hospitals has set up 14 *Vimukthi* De-Addiction Centres to provide treatment to persons who got into the habit of drug abuse. Till date 44,673 people have been treated through these de-addiction centres.



70. A *Vimukthi Jagratha Samithi* will be formed with the Ward Member or Councillor of the respective Local Self Governments as its convenor to traceout the illicit use and consumption of drugs. This *Samithi* will intimate the Excise Department in case any further follow up is required on this issue.
71. My Government aims to make school and college campuses drug-free. There are currently 5,741 anti-drug clubs functioning at school and college levels. Anti-drug clubs will be extended to all schools, public and private, and the "Awakening Project" will be implemented in selected schools in all Districts.

### **Fisheries and Harbour Engineering Department**

72. The "*Punargeham*" Project with an outlay of Rs.2,450 crore for the rehabilitation of 18,685 fisherfolk families residing within 50 m of high tide line will be expedited.
73. Inland fish production shall be doubled by focusing on new technologies like Biofloc Aquaculture Systems, Re-circulatory Aquaculture Systems and intensive aquaculture.
74. In the present COVID-19 situation, door to door delivery of fresh fish at reasonable price will be promoted. This will be channelized through selected fish marts of Matysafed in all Districts.

75. Several fishing harbours including the Muthalapozhy, Chellanam, Thanur, Koyilandy, Vellayil and Manjeshwaram were commissioned in 2020-21. Further, extension works of breakwaters at Tanur and Vellayil Fishing Harbours and berthing jetties at Beypore, and Chombal Fishing Harbours were completed. The Thalai–Chalil Gopalapetta Finger Jetty in Kannur District is nearing completion.
76. In the modernisation of fishing harbours Shakthikulangara, Neendakara, Thangasseri and Kayamkulam harbours will be taken up in the first phase.
77. New fishing harbours at Parappanangadi and Chethi will be constructed. The works under Ockhi Package will be completed.

### **Food and Civil Supplies Department**

78. The Food and Civil Supplies Department effectively implemented the policy of my Government that no one in the State will suffer hunger during the pandemic. The needs of Guest Workers were specially taken care of. Vigilant market intervention was done by the Department to avoid the price hike and shortage of foodgrains, vegetables etc. My Government distributed free grocery kits to all 90 lakhs families with 10 to 14 essential items, as well as free ration to all families in the State including to

those persons who had no ration card based on Aadhaar Card. Free food kit and food grains were issued to members of orphanage and welfare institutions also.

79. The launch of e-ration card was a historical change and has ensured that the concept of 'one nation– one ration card' with portability of ration card across States was implemented. These initiatives also enabled the State to access an additional borrowing limit of 0.25% of the GSDP in the last financial year with respect to the performance targets mandated by Government of India thus leveraging critical resources for the State.
80. The Department envisages the distribution of fortified rice through the Public Distribution System to realise the goal of nutritional security. Mobile ration shops would be extended to all inaccessible tribal and settlement areas. The Centre for Food Research and Development would be strengthened with new courses and new facilities to open new avenues for the State in the Food Processing sector and provide gainful employment to the youth.
81. The dehydration plant for advancing the shelf life of agricultural produce would be operationalised for livelihood security of farmers of perishables.
82. The new Consumer Protection Act, 2019 encompassing the e-commerce sector would be

implemented in letter and spirit to prevent consumer exploitation.

83. An ERP solution would be put in place to streamline and consolidate the activities of Supplyco so as to ensure that the PSU operates profitably.
84. Paddy procurement would be made more farmer centric. Agricultural produce, especially edible cash crops, of Kerala will be procured and marketed through Supplyco outlets after converting them into value added products. The online home delivery network under Supplyco would be further extended across the State.
85. A new technical lab would be operationalized under the aegis of Legal Metrology Department towards making the system more people and business friendly. Gold assaying and testing labs will be set up by the Legal Metrology Department at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

### **Forest and Wild Life Department**

86. The largest state of the art Elephant Rehabilitation Centre project in India spanning 176 Hectares at Kotoor, Thiruvananthapuram, was inaugurated on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

87. A Zoological Park of international standards at Puthur in Thrissur District, the first phase of which has been inaugurated, shall be completed by 2022.
88. The field units of the Forest Department will be reorganized on landscape basis, so that the forests and adjoining areas come under holistic and coordinated management which will improve their hydrological planning. Appropriate training and equipment will be given to Forest staff and Forest Stations will be established in a phased manner.
89. My Government also intends to establish 500 demonstrative green plots or miniature forests in school /college premises called "Vidyavanam", which will inculcate love and belonging towards nature and forests among the students. *Nagara Vanam* will be established in collaboration with the Local Self Government Institutions, Residence Associations and other agencies.

### **General Administration Department**

#### **Kerala State Welfare Corporation for Forward Communities Ltd**

90. The Corporation has launched a project for farming for the uplift of the economically backward classes in the forward communities.

91. The Corporation has already given financial support to 178 Joint Liability Groups and 23 individuals across Kerala amounting to Rs. 1,61,38,350/- in the Financial Year 2020-21.
  
92. As part of economic intervention in Women's Empowerment, KSWCFC had launched a new project named 'Samunnathi Thoosanila Mini Cafe', which is intended to prepare and serve quality food to the common people at lower cost. For this, the Corporation has implemented the project in collaboration with the Commissionerate of Food Safety and Dhanalaxmi Bank. This programme will also increase the employment opportunities among the women Joint Liability Groups among economically backward sections in forward communities. As a first step, the Corporation had given support to 4 women JLG's across the State amounting to Rs. 6,00,000/-. Three Thoosanila Mini Cafe at Kottarakara, Alappuzha and Thalavady have already opened and in this financial year, the KSWCFC is planning to open 96 more cafes across the State.

### **Kerala Youth Leadership Academy**

93. Kerala Youth Leadership Academy (KYLA) is a first of its kind unique institution in the country, incubated by my Government, to empower the Youth across the State to integrate their potential and

commitment towards social development and governance in Kerala.

### **Samoohika Sannadhasena (Community Volunteer Corps)**

94. *Samoohika Sannadhasena* is the unique volunteer community taskforce under my Government to create or develop a disaster resilient community. There are around 3.8 Lakh registered Sannadhasena Volunteers across the State. Around 10,000 Volunteers are active on ground as Police Volunteers. 7,000 Volunteers have been deployed in various CFLTCs for COVID duty. Around 6,000 volunteers are currently active under various LSGIs for COVID-19 related activities. Sannadhasena Volunteers have ensured adequate intervention during all crisis in the State, assisting the State Governance and District Administrations to help contain disasters more effectively.
95. The renovation of the Travancore Palace in New Delhi has been entrusted to NBCC and the work is to start soon.

### **General Education Department**

96. The infrastructural standards have been enhanced in all levels of schools. As a consequence, the enrolment of students in Government and Aided Schools in the State has gone up considerably.

97. Despite the pandemic situation, the Department continued to conduct classes through the online mode.
98. My Government aims to enhance the quality of school education so as to make it more oriented to development of life skills.

### **Health and Family Welfare Department**

99. The Health Department successfully handled the problem of massive surges in COVID-19 incidence with the co-operation and co-ordination with other frontline Departments. Major government healthcare facilities in the State were expanded on a real time basis. A total of 148 CFLTCs (19,093 beds), 88 CSLTCs (8,470 beds), and 608 domiciliary care centres (26,679 beds) are arranged for admitting patients in addition to the hospital facilities. The lab network, too, was strengthened from a single testing lab at the beginning to 2,667 labs at present for COVID-19 testing in Kerala.
100. Our Health Department has received widespread acclaim for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Continuous training programmes and volunteer recruitment through the 'COVID Brigade' and utilising the services of the 3.8 lakh strong



Community Volunteer Corps ensured a steady flow of trained human resources to these centres.

101. My Government also took proactive steps to empanel private healthcare institutions in its Mission through the 'Kerala Arogya Suraksha Padhathi' health insurance scheme. A treatment package for COVID-19 walk-in patients into private hospitals was also declared for bringing fairness in treatment costs across various hospitals.
102. Kerala has also performed exceptionally well in rolling out its COVID-19 vaccination drive across the State, with 65,92,745 people having been administered the first dose of vaccine and 20,19,936 people having being administered both doses of vaccines. Kerala's vaccination program has been lauded for its efficiency and zero wastage of vaccines.
103. Under the 'Aardram Mission', Out Patient Department (OPD) transformation work in eight Medical Colleges, nine District /General Hospitals, and one Taluk Hospital has been completed.
104. The 'Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi' (KASP), implemented by the State Health Agency (SHA), provides health care cover and cashless treatment of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to over 42 Lakhs poor and vulnerable families in the State.

## Higher Education Department

105. The academic quality and physical infrastructure of higher education institutions will be enhanced to national and international standards so as to ensure Kerala's steady transformation into a modern knowledge society.
106. The quality of self-financed Higher Education Institutions will be ensured through a State- level accreditation mechanism.
107. To cater to the increasing demand for higher education, there will be an increase in the number of seats, new courses and research facilities. It is expected that 3 to 4 lakh more students will get an opportunity to pursue higher education as a result of this initiative.
108. The 'Eminent Scholars Online Programme', an online interactive lecture series given by world class eminent Professors in various fields for graduate and postgraduate students of our colleges/ Universities is being implemented.
109. My Government started the Digital and the Sree Narayana Guru Open Universities during 2020-21.
110. University Departments and Centres will be elevated as centres of excellence.

## **Home Department**

111. The State has always been a pioneer in adopting technology in policing. Artificial Intelligence Projects in the Police Department will be initiated in the year 2021-22. Cyberdomes at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode will be strengthened. It is proposed to setup a High Tech Cyber Security Centre at Thiruvananthapuram.
112. It is proposed to constitute a Coastal Police Division and a Counter Intelligence Cell (CIC) for neutralizing activities of foreign agencies. Starting of Cyber Crime Investigation Division and setting up of Economic Offence Wing are also proposed.
113. An initiative to provide enhanced security for senior citizens, women and children will be implemented with the aid of technology.

## **Housing Department**

114. The Housing Board will implement 'Grihasree Housing Scheme' by disbursing subsidy to 1,000 beneficiaries with an outlay of Rs.20 crore.
115. An *Aswas Rental Scheme* for providing rental accommodation for the patients who require constant medical attention and who are undergoing treatment in Medical Colleges of the State will be taken up.

116. As part of the Kerala State Housing Board's (KSHB) Golden Jubilee Celebrations in the year 2021, the KSHB has launched the '*Souhrudam Parpida Padhathi*', an innovative self-financing housing loan scheme with the participation of the people for the home security of the community.
117. KSHB has also invited expression of interest to select Consultant/ Developer to implement the International Exhibition Nagar Project through PPP mode in the 17.9 acres of land owned by KSHB at Marine Drive, Kochi.
118. *Pravasi* Housing Scheme started in last financial year will be continued more effectively to fulfil the housing needs of the low income group of *Pravasis*.

## **Industries Department**

119. Kerala has witnessed a perceptible growth in industrial investments in the last five years. Close to 48 percent of the MSME establishments (68,419) in the State were formed during the same period. An estimated 3,00,000 employment opportunities were created in the MSME sector. The reform process in the Industrial area encapsulated in the online platform K-SWIFT, provides 79 online services spread across 14 Departments. All new and renewal process of licensing are delivered on this portal, which has changed the landscape of industrial licensing in the State.

120. Automatic approvals for MSMEs highlight the change in my Government's approach from investigation or enquiries to issuance of approvals on self-declarations. Close to 11,878 MSME Acknowledge Certificates (instant approvals) for starting MSMEs have been issued in the State. On the other hand, the Innovation Index ranking made by NITI Aayog has ranked Kerala at 10<sup>th</sup> place and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) have placed Kerala in 6<sup>th</sup> position under the Investment Potential Index.
121. My Government has taken the policy decision to form a State Level Complaints Redressal Committee for dealing with complaints and grievances from investors. A Committee has been formed to suggest draft legislation for this.
122. The industrial model of MSME based industrial growth is further strengthened by adopting a strategy to attract large scale investors or anchor investors. The State is one of the better performing States under the Government of India's Cluster Development Programme (CDP).
123. My Government while formulating projects has taken care to handhold and develop traditional sectors like Textiles, Khadi, Handicrafts, Handloom, Coir and Rubber.

124. In order to safeguard employment and revive industrial activity, my Government has offered to takeover three loss making central PSUs viz. Instrumentation Ltd in Palakkad, Hindustan Newsprint Ltd in Kottayam and BHEL-EML in Kasaragod.
125. The number of PSUs making profit has increased from 14 to 16 in the last year.
126. An open-source platform is being developed by the Electronics and Information Technology Department which will soon link all the stakeholders. This is in addition to the already existing e-market platform. This programme is expected to create at least 1,00,000 jobs every year and in a period of five years the State could add up to 5,00,000 jobs on a sustained basis.
127. My Government is committed to developing the Kochi-Palakkad Industrial Corridor to overcome the logistic cost and hurdles of bringing goods from outside the State.
128. Fast-track development of 481 acres of KINFRA Petrochemical Park in Ambalamugal with all supporting infrastructure for the anchor investor BPCL and 13 other units will be ensured.
129. Fast track development of Kochi-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (KBIC) by developing Palakkad

as a Node and GIFT (Global Industrial Finance and Trade) City as the hub in Kochi. This initiative is likely to generate investments of Rs.20,000 crore and has an employment potential of 15,000.

130. A Spices Park is proposed to be developed by KINFRA at Thodupuzha.

131. Integrated Rice Technology Parks (IRTP) are planned by KINFRA at Palakkad and Alappuzha Districts.

### **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**

132. In 2016, my Government set for itself the ambitious target of transforming the infrastructural landscape in the State. Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) was designated as the agency for achieving this ambitious objective through a unique and innovative model. After 4 years of its relentless services to the State, KIIFB's achievements speak for themselves.

133. KIIFB has so far approved 903 projects with an outlay of Rs. 63,224.42 crore. These projects comprise both physical and social infrastructure across a range of sectors including hospitals and health centres, schools and colleges, roads and bridges, water supply and sanitation, electricity and communication networks, industrial parks and cultural complexes etc. Out of these, 488 projects

worth Rs. 21,309.68 crore have been tendered and 27 projects worth Rs. 732 crore and 160 project components worth Rs. 560.29 Crore have been commissioned.

134. KIIFB has also become a pioneer in adopting the green building agenda in the State by mandating that all KIIFB funded buildings above a certain size shall be certified as Green Buildings. KIIFB has also recently entered into a MOU with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to help structure some KIIFB projects as PPP projects.

### **Information and Public Relations Department**

135. The Department was instrumental in ensuring effective communication to the public during the crisis of COVID-19. In addition, the 'Break the chain' campaign of my Government to arrest COVID-19 was successfully disseminated to all sections of the society through the Department.
136. 'Iniyum Munnottu', the flagship campaign led by the Department effectively communicated the policies of my Government to people and it helped to raise awareness of Government schemes and programs, so that they can approach or apply as per eligibility. In the last year, the Department took many novel initiatives and implemented programs like completing the visual history of Kerala, starting of a new Fact Check Division in the Department for fighting fake news, strengthening communication to



the public through Public Relations Information Service Management (PRISM) project and developing a new strategy and campaign for effective communication through social media.

137. Following the completion of initial works of Visual History project, I&PRD would now embark on setting up a digital museum, online library and digital replication of the content to maximise sharing of the content to a variety of users. In 2021-22, as part of the Integrated News Grid (PRISM) Project, I&PRD intends to enhance the penetration of information gathering and dissemination by additional deployment of trained personnel, who would closely work with Local Self Government institutions. An Info-Cultural Hub would be set up by incorporating some of the best in multimedia technologies to showcase, learn, share, experience and enjoy the many facets of the State's art, culture and theatre and the Department would set up a well-equipped IEC division that would undertake IEC interventions on behalf of various Government Departments.

### **Labour and Skills Department**

138. My Government has decided to award 'Thozhilalishreshta' in 15 employment sectors in order to promote the productivity and upgrade professional skills of the workers.

139. The Phase I of the Guest Worker's Friendly Residence in Kerala Project, AALAY will be started in three localities namely, Payppad in Kottayam, Bengal Colony in Ernakulam and Pattambi in Palakkad Districts.
140. A unique Health Insurance Scheme namely, AAWAZ has been implemented for the Guest Workers in Kerala with Rs. 2 lakh as Accidental Death Insurance Claim for each insured person. 5,09,451 guest workers have already been registered under the Scheme.
141. Minimum rates of wages have been revised in 9 scheduled employment categories.
142. More Employability Centres will be established to promote employment opportunities. An e-employment exchange with a digital database of 37.9 lakh job seekers, training and self employment programs for different sections of society, a mobile app for registration of migrant workers, an online taxi service on an aggregator model, are just some of the other major initiatives being implemented by the Department.

### **Land Revenue Department**

143. My Government's aim is to ensure that there will be "no landless people in Kerala". Pattayam will be issued to all the entitled landless people during the period of my Government. All necessary steps will

be initiated to recover and protect Government land under the unauthorised possession of encroachers.

144. Village Offices are the basic units to render services to the public. Hence, strengthening Village Offices is another goal of my Government. Out of 1,666 villages in the State, 126 Village Offices have been converted to Smart Village Offices and the rest of the villages shall also be made smart. All Village Offices in the State will be converted to Smart Village Offices during the period of my Government. E-Office has been implemented in 155 offices. This system will be implemented in all the offices under the Revenue Department. Websites for village offices, mobile applications for issuing of certificates and payment of land tax will be implemented in this year.
145. My Government has already started the digitization of the revenue records. This process will be completed in a time bound manner. A Unique Thandapper System' will be implemented so that the details of property owned by a single person can be easily assessed. This will help to control Benami transactions and to find out the excess land under the Land Reforms Act. Thus, excess lands can be effectively recovered and distributed among the entitled landless persons.
146. Integrated Land Record Information System implemented in Vanchiyoor in Thiruvananthapuram

District and Kaduthuruthy village in Kottayam District to deliver prompt and efficient services to the citizens, is proposed to be extended to all villages. A common platform will be developed by integrating the services of Revenue, Registration and Survey Departments. A comprehensive Revenue Portal will also be implemented. Citizenfriendly interfaces for payment system and certificate services, and end-to-end computerization to deliver services to citizens in a speedy and efficient manner are envisaged.

### **Local Self Government Department**

147. My Government will move to new horizons of outcome-based planning, disaster resilient urban planning and resource mobilisation with advanced Geographic Information System (GIS) and other technology support.
148. Improving citizen interface by simplifying and reducing burden of compliances will be an important thrust area. Issuance of online building permits in urban and rural local bodies will be fast-tracked.
149. The digitisation of the local Biodiversity Registers, will be an important digital intervention going forward. The Integrated Local Governance Management System (ILGMS) will be extended to all the Grama Panchayats.

150. Kudumbashree, the poverty eradication mission of Kerala, also played a vital role in providing welfare measures to people in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic through operation of Community Kitchens and running of Janakeeya hotels. 1,017 Janakeeya hotels have been established in the State and they provide meals to people at Rs. 20/-.
151. The Chief Minister's Helping Hand Loan Scheme, implemented through Kudumbashree provided interest free loans amounting to Rs. 1,917.55 crore to 25.17 lakh families. This scheme will be extended to the current year also.
152. The elections to the Local Self Governments in the State have been held smoothly following COVID-19 protocol. My Government through the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) has organised training programmes for all the newly elected representatives.
153. The project 'NILAAVU', targeting replacement of all conventional street lights with energy efficient LED lights with longer life expectancy is being implemented in a phased manner.
154. 'Risk Informed Master Plans' to make cities disaster resilient and safe have been initiated for two towns in the State (Mananthavady and Chengannur) by the Town and Country Planning Department under

Rebuild Kerala Initiative. Preparation of Master Plans for 86 out of 93 cities in the State are in an advanced stage.

155. In the context of Ease of Doing Business and online processing of building applications, the building rules were amended and the new Kerala Municipality Building Rules, 2019 and Kerala Panchayat Building Rules, 2019 were enacted.
156. The Total Housing Programme LIFE (The Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment) Mission in the State has completed 2,62,402 houses. Out of these, 2,50,547 houses have been provided with free insurance coverage and an amount of Rs. 8,823.20 crores have been spent by my Government for providing houses to eligible houseless families.
157. "Suchitwa Padavi" status was obtained by 711 out of 1,034 Local Self Governments in the State. The Clean Kerala Company Ltd entered into agreements with 424 Local Self Governments for waste transportation and recovery. 968 Material Collection Facilities and 175 Resource Recovery Facilities, with the support of *Haritha Karma Senas*, started functioning in the State to address door-to-door collection of waste.
158. Repair of 5,296 rural roads damaged during the floods of 2018 and 2019 (approximate length of

12,000 KM) amounting to Rs.1,000crores have been taken up under the Chief Minister's Local Road Rebuild Project (CMLRRP). In addition to this, development of 408 roads have been taken up worth Rs. 469 crores under Rebuild Kerala initiative (RKI).

159. The Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML) completed Projects such as Integrated Command Control and Communication Centre, Integrated Traffic Management System (ITMS), Roof Top Solar Project of 1,000 KW in the public buildings in Kochi Municipal Corporation area and E-health solutions at General Hospital Ernakulam. "Online e-health solutions" Project has received the "Best Smart Health Project" award from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

160. The Local Self Government will take up the following initiatives during 2021-22;

160.1. All agricultural development activities would be based on watershed.

160.2. Longterm institutional capability will be developed for waste management, especially in liquid waste management including sewage and septage. The newly approved World Bank supported Kerala Solid Waste Management Project will be taken up on priority for the waste management in ULBs in the State.

- 160.3. At least one regional land fill will be developed in the State for closure of historic waste dumps through capping or bioremediation.
- 160.4. The '*Naipunya Karmasena*' was formed by the Department to rectify electrical, plumbing, carpentry works of the damaged houses that emerged subsequent to the 2018 floods. In the present scenario of repeated natural hazards, my Government aims to stepup *Naipunya Karmasena* as a permanent setup during the Financial Year 2021-22.
- 160.5. As part of the environmental friendly initiatives, my Government has put in place a Green Rebate in property tax levied by the Local Governments for buildings constructed in eco-sustainable manner.

### **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme**

161. For the first time in the history of the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, the Scheme has generated more than 10 crore Person Days. The State achieved 102.3 per cent of the Labour Budget and generated 1,023 lakh Person Days, against the approved Labour Budget of 1,000 lakh Person Days.



162. Average Person Days for households under the Scheme in the year was 63.25. 4,70,412 households completed 100 days of employment under the Scheme in Financial Year 2020-21, out of which 33,951 are Tribal households. Women Person Days out of Total Person Days generated is 90.49 percentage.

### **Minority Welfare Department**

163. My Government is committed to address the problems faced by the minority communities in right earnest. A Commission headed by a retired judge of the Kerala High Court has been appointed to study the issues faced by the Christian minority. It's report is awaited.

164. My Government has started a Coaching Centre for youth belonging to the minority communities in Thalassery in the last financial year. Scholarships worth Rs. 15.81 crore for students undergoing courses in various stages and streams have been disbursed. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram' (PMJVK), sanction has been accorded for the construction of Buds Schools, Dialysis Centres, Common Service Centres, Women facilitation and skill development centre. COVID relief at Rs. 2,000/- each has been provided to 12,500 Madarasa teachers.

## **NORKA Department**

165. The COVID – 19 pandemic has affected the Pravasi (Non-Resident Keralities) in diverse ways. From March 2020 to May 2021, an estimated 14.01 Lakh NRKs have returned to Kerala. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered the return, with over 60% of them losing their job overseas.
166. As a result, my Government has implemented rescue, relief, and rehabilitative measures to reduce the impact of the pandemic on the lives of the returnee migrants. My Government established helpdesks in 16 countries for providing information and help in evacuation measures initiated by the Government of India and Kerala.
167. The existing Schemes of *Santhwana* and NDPREM (Norka Department Programme for Returnee Migrant) were strengthened to extend financial assistance to the Pravasi community.
168. NORKA Department is implementing 24 plan programs through its four organisations. The Pravasi Welfare Board implements several welfare programs like Pension Schemes and Pravasi Dividend Scheme. Pravasi Dividend Scheme has so far collected a deposit of Rs. 181.1 crore.
169. My Government proposes to facilitate safer, ethical, and economically advantageous migration to new markets with additional skill training in language and other skills.

## **Planning and Economic Affairs Department**

170. My Government will prepare 'Vision Document 2030' during the year 2021-22 which is aligned with its policies and programmes and in tune with the Goals set in the United Nations' SDGs.

## **Ports Department**

171. My Government has completed construction of 101 metre length (first phase) of the Passenger cum Multipurpose Berth at Kollam Port as part of enabling the port to facilitate commercial shipping operations.

172. My Government through the Maritime Board has also provided all facilities for implementation of crew change to the international ships at Vizhinjam. In the year 2020-21, 67 international ships used the facilities at Vizhinjam Port for crew change and the Department could earn more than Rs. 50 lakh from this activity.

173. Beypore is the busiest minor port in the State catering to the needs of Lakshadweep Islands also. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase, it is proposed to undertake capital dredging amounting to Rs. 60 crore to increase the depth of the port to 6 meters.

174. It is expected that the foundation stone for the green field port at Azhikkal can be laid in the second half of the year 2021.

## **Power Department**

175. My Government has ensured 24x7 power supply to its consumers, without imposing any load shedding or powercut during the last 5 years.

176. The technical loss in power transmission was brought down to an all-time low of 9.86 percent from 14.37 percent in 2015-16.

177. The 'Transgrid-2.0' Project, with a project outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore is transforming the power transmission infrastructure to meet the requirements of the State for the next two decades.

178. The construction of 400KV substations in Wayanad and Kasaragod and interconnecting line from Kozhikode to Udipi in the next phase will complete the 400 KV transmission corridor of the State, eliminating chance of powercuts in future.

179. My Government has also made substantial strides in tapping renewable energy. Till date 290 MW of solar power has been added. It is projected that 900 MW of solar power capacity will be added in the next 2 years.

180. My Government will undertake intensified efforts to provide electrical connections to the remotest areas which are not yet covered under the distribution networks, within a definite time frame, by adopting appropriate technology.
181. Focused programmes will be designed and implemented to smoothen out the hurdles faced by agro-processing units under MSME sector in effecting electrical connection, including financial assistance, subject to sector specific norms.
182. Projects will be developed and implemented for commissioning projects under “**PM-KUSUM**”, enabling farmers to have a sustainable support in meeting the energy needs.
183. Whole hearted efforts will be undertaken for augmenting the domestic generating capacity of the State, so that import of power through power purchase agreements are regulated with a long term perspective, leading the State to self-sufficiency in power. The second stage of the Idukki Power Project with an installed generating capacity of 780 MW and an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crore will be commenced. The progress of various hydro electrical projects under construction totalling a generation capacity of 170 MW will be closely monitored and commissioned. The present power purchase agreements may be relooked, in the background of present energy supply/ demand scenario at the national level.

184. All avenues will be explored to provide electricity at affordable rates to the poorest of the poor, subject to the norms applicable to the power sector.

### **Public Works Department**

185. The Department is implementing Rs. 20,000 crore worth of works under KIIFB funding. Out of 320 projects approved, 184 projects are in progress and 115 are under evaluation.

186. Administrative Sanction has also been accorded for the Alappuzha-Changanassery road for an amount of Rs.671.66 crore. Out of the 29 RKI projects, agreement has been executed for 24 works for Rs.3,712crore. These will be disaster resilient roads with long term maintenance contracts and a design life of 15 years.

187. National Highway-66 widening for a length of 644 KM has achieved remarkable progress in the last year. Awards for acquisition of 1,028 Hectare land with approved amount of Rs. 16,388 crores including 25 percent funding by the State through KIIFB were passed last year, which is one of the highest in any State for NH development. The award for the land acquisition would be completed during first half of this year. The entire NH-66 in Kerala State consists of 24 projects, out of which

2 projects are already completed and others are under implementation.

188. An enhanced and userfriendly Web-based Road Maintenance Management System (RMMS) is being established covering 7,000 KM of Core Road Network with a Mobile App for registering complaints and field data collection apps for the use of field engineers of the Road Maintenance Wing. The new RMMS system will be functional by the end of June 2021 and maintenance plans for Core Road Network can be generated.
189. Output and Performance Based Road Management Contracts (OPBRC) have been introduced in Kerala. This novel contract for the maintenance of road will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Road Asset Management.

### **Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI)**

190. The State of Kerala was designated as a Development Partner by the World Bank and provided a Development Policy Loan (DPL) of US\$ 250 million (Rs.1,779.58 crore) as its first tranche for the project for rebuilding the infrastructure in Kerala after the devastating floods of 2018.
191. Recently, the negotiation meetings with the Government of India, World Bank and the AIIB for an additional amount of US\$ 250 million for RKI-2

are over, and the project is likely to be approved soon.

192. The total external assistance tied up from World Bank, KFW and AIIB towards the RKDP project implementation so far is Rs. 5,898 crore, and this when added to the State share of 30 percent, comes to a total of Rs. 8,425 crore.

193. Against this, Administrative Sanctions have been issued for Rs. 7,405 crore for projects under 12 Departments, which are now in various stages of implementation. Rs.4,677 crore worth projects have already been tendered and are under implementation.

### **Sainik Welfare Department**

194. The initial work on the long awaited War Memorial at Akkulam near Southern Air Command will be undertaken during the current financial year.

### **Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Development Department**

195. In order to ensure placements in private and public sectors, my Government will setup a 'Virtual Tribal Employment Exchange' by bringing potential employers, industry leaders, line departments and unemployed tribal youth on a common platform.



196. In order to eliminate the linguistic barriers in education and learning of tribal children, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department had formulated an innovative program called 'Gothrabandhu' (Tribal Mentor Teacher). Under this program, educated tribal youth preferably with TTC/ B.Ed. qualification with knowledge in tribal dialect and Malayalam are being selected and trained to function as mentor teacher / education facilitator in selected Primary Schools throughout the State.
197. 500 new community study centres will be established during 2021-22 thereby helping at least 15,000 tribal children in achieving academic excellence.
198. Under the 'Gothrajeevika' Program, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department has trained 1,170 tribal youth so far in skills related to construction industry viz., masonry, plumbing, electrification, carpentry, etc. and constituted 54 Self Help Groups. It is intended to expand this program in 2021-22 and train 2,000 tribal youth.
199. It is also proposed to set up Tribal Village Markets (Apna Mandi) in required locations to help in the marketing of tribal products.
200. Special Scheme to support Tribal Startups will be implemented by the Department during 2021-22. It is proposed to ensure internet connectivity in all

tribal hamlets in the State wherever it is not available at present, through a special program thereby improving service delivery.

201. Through LIFE Mission, 4,000 houses will be constructed under Phase II and Phase III during 2021-22.
202. 'Gothravalsalya Nidhi' is another flagship Program of my Government which is an insurance based endowment scheme aimed at the overall development of every tribal girl child. About 1,000 girl children are expected to be brought under the protection of this Scheme during 2021-22.
203. 18,690 Scheduled Caste families benefitted from the Scheme for provision of land to landless families for construction of houses.
204. Dr.Ambedkar Village Development Scheme for Scheduled Caste colonies, foreign employment subsidy and facilitating startup dreams of Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs, are other notable schemes of the Department which will be continued with renewed vigour in the current financial year.
205. The Integrated Institute of Medical Sciences (IIMS), Palakkad will be made fully functional in the year 2021-22.

## **Science and Technology Department**

206. My Government had envisioned establishing a research institute exclusively for virology research given the fact that the State had been severely hit by different viral infections in recent years. Consequently, the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) has formally started functioning at Life Science Park, Thonnakal, Thiruvananthapuram on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Infrastructure, including laboratory equipment and manpower, has been established for the IAV. The IAV is expected to conduct cutting edge research in the field of virology.

## **Social Justice Department**

207. With the establishment of the Women and Child Development Department, the Social Justice Department could focus its attention more to the needs of the marginalised sections of the society such as persons with disabilities, senior citizens and transgenders. The State will ensure reservation in jobs as per the RPWD Act in a time bound manner. My Government recognises the needs of the aging population. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 will be implemented with renewed vigour. The last five years have witnessed the mainstreaming of the voiceless transgenders. They will be brought to the forefront of civil society and empowered to climb up to reach the heights of societal ladder. The last

five years also witnessed the importance of probation system. This will be further strengthened.

## **Survey and Land Records**

208. My Government has taken steps regarding establishment of Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in the State to facilitate the Survey activities of the State by introducing and establishing modern technologies. Administrative Sanction was issued for Rs. 12 crore for the procurement, installation and commissioning of CORS system and MoU was executed with the Survey of India on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the purpose. The Survey of India has started the work and along with the surveyors of Department of Survey and Land Records have identified 3 locations each for 28 stations on the ground for conducting Signal Tests and the work is in progress.

## **Sports and Youth Affairs Department**

209. This Department proposes to establish G. V. Raja Centre of Excellence in Menamkulam with KIIFB assistance.

## **Taxes Department**

210. There has been significant increase in GST collections in the last quarter (January-March) of the Financial Year 2020-21. This has been the combined result of various compliance measures introduced in the GST portal and intense

technologybased interventions introduced for risk-based scrutiny of returns and meticulous follow up of compliance at the State level.

211. The focus of the Department is to use information technology tools thereby enabling data-driven decisions for revenue augmentation. The installation of ANPR system (Automatic Number Plate Recognition System) was implemented last year and is already in operation in 22 locations of the State. This facilitates intelligence-based vehicle checking system based on risk parameters provided through analysis of e-way bills and returns.
212. The entire VAT arrears have been made available online for the first time. This has made the arrear position more transparent and helped in the management of arrear reconciliation. This year, the Department would focus entirely on GST as majority of VAT assessments have already been completed.
213. My Government has decided to provide the facility of online remittance of sales proceeds and GST to lottery agents through an “Agents Portal”. It is also proposed to track lottery ticket sales and prize payment seamlessly starting from Lottery offices to the final point of sales to eliminate leakages and to arrest malpractices. All the lottery agents in the

State will be provided with shop registration in aid of their employment.

214. Registration Department has implemented a series of reforms to improve service deliveries to the citizens. The main focus is to eliminate the outdated procedures and to embrace modern technologies and improve effective and efficient service delivery to the common man. "Anywhere registration" Programme permits document registration in any of the Sub Registry Offices within the Revenue District.

215. My Government will implement the Digital document execution for digital execution of contracts from citizens' own premises. Digitization of the registered documents will be completed shortly. Standard and simplified document templates will be published and integrated into the property registration system for enabling template-based registration process. The document registration process will be automated and the registered deed will be delivered on the same day of registration and E-stamping for all the denominations will be implemented by engaging with all the stakeholders.

### **Tourism Department**

216. 'Human by Nature' – the marketing strategy adopted by Kerala Tourism during 2019-20 to tide over the

crisis due to the massive floods in 2018 has been recognized by PATA, and was bestowed with PATA Gold award during 2020-21. The Print Campaign and Film Campaign of 'Human by Nature' won two DAS GOLDENE STADTTOR awards 2020 as well.

217. In order to extend support to the tourism stakeholders, a COVID-19 Relief Assistance Package has been sanctioned in 2020-21 through Tourism Working Capital Support Scheme, Tourism Employment Support Scheme, Tourism House Boat Support Scheme, and Tourism Guides Support Scheme.
218. The ongoing Projects of Malanad Malabar River Cruise, Miyawaki model afforestation in 12 Districts, waste management at 79 destinations, Thalassery Heritage Project–Phase 2, projects at Veli, Kovalam, and Shanghumukham, Travancore Heritage Project, Muziris Heritage Projects–Phase 2, Travancore-Anchuthengu Heritage Corridor Project and Vinodasanchara Bhavan at Thiruvananthapuram are worth mentioning.
219. My Government proposes to take up 12 more World Class Toilets projects at selected tourism destinations in the coming year also.
220. Kerala Tourism would focus on extending Responsible Tourism in all the destinations in Kerala and to promote Rural Tourism and create employment to the local community.

221. A Special Marketing Campaign would be initiated to revive Kerala Tourism which has again suffered a setback due to the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Transport Department**

222. The policy of my Government will be to incentivise the public transport system including road transport, taxis and auto rickshaws. At the same time, the private transport modes will be disincentivized, to reduce traffic blocks, environmental pollution, accidents and time delays. All the heavy vehicles and public transport vehicles will be encouraged to switch over to green fuels- CNG, LNG, Electricity and Hydrogen.

223. Installation of GPS devices will be made compulsory for all public service vehicles and the data will be shared with all law enforcement agencies—Police, Excise, GST etc.

224. Kerala with its high density of vehicles and narrow roads witnesses about 4,000 accidents every year during the pre-pandemic times. My Government will strictly implement measures for ensuring the policy of “footpath for pedestrians and road for vehicles” as part of its drive to reduce accidents in urban areas. The number of accidents will be brought down in the next five years of my Government.



225. The systems and procedures of the Motor Vehicles Department will be made more transparent and citizen friendly through the elaborate use of information technology and identifying areas of red-tapism and corruption.
226. My Government will ensure multi-modal connectivity at all main bus depots and boat jetties as well as Railway stations and airports. Walking and use of bicycles will be encouraged in major cities and towns. My Government will encourage investment in the public transport and cargo/logistics sector to create more job opportunities.

### **Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)**

227. The management of KSRTC will be made professional and several cost-cutting and efficiency enhancing measures will be implemented through “KSRTC Restructure 2.0”. As part of this, my Government will go ahead with a separate company for long distance service operations, namely, KSRTC Swift Ltd. KSRTC will be transformed into a reliable, affordable, commuter friendly, and clean transport system for the Kerala.
228. KSRTC will switch over to green fuel for 80% of its buses in the next three years. A paradigm shift in the operation of buses will be brought in by

classifying the routes into trunk road, radial road, circular road and a hub and spoke model will be implemented in all depots with Puthukkad in Thrissur District as the central hub of its operations.

229. In the Thiruvananthapuram District, KSRTC services will be revamped to ensure connectivity in all the bus pliable routes connecting major offices and establishments through intersecting services such as core city circular, radial and Outer Ring services.
230. My Government is poised to revamp the bus depots and other facilities by providing hygienic toilets, resting places for both commuters and operating crew and entertainment facilities, grocery shops, restaurants, etc. for the travelling public. One of the priority areas is to ensure safety and convenience of the travelling women and every depot of KSRTC will have women friendly accommodation on hourly basis. Better wages, safety, health and welfare facilities will be provided to employees.
231. Every operation/activity of KSRTC will be made efficient through extensive use of Information technology for providing passengers with facilities for trip planning, information on arrival and departure of buses, online booking etc. My Government will ensure first mile and last mile connectivity to KSRTC buses through operation of feeder services. Seamless integration with Rail, Air

and Water transport systems will also be taken up as a policy.

232. KSRTC cannot sustain through revenues from fare collection alone. The huge potential of non-fare revenue avenues will be tapped. The idle assets and capacity of the Corporation will be put to better utilization by venturing into new areas like logistics, fuel retail, advertisements, tourism etc.—areas of non-fare collection - will reduce the burden to the exchequer.

### **State Water Transport Department**

233. The entire fleet of water transport boats will be switched over to CNG or Solar power. The Department has decided to introduce India's first Solar Electric RO-RO Service and Kerala's first amphibious type water bus during the year 2021- 2022.
234. The modernization of the water transport will be undertaken to dovetail with other public transport systems. The potential for cargo movement, tourism avenues and ferry services will be utilized fully.
235. The Department has introduced a high-speed A/C Vessel Vega 2, a passenger - cum-tourist service along Kottayam -Alappuzha Kumarakom route and was inaugurated on 10-03-2020.

236. India's first Solar powered boat named Aditya on the Vaikkom-Thavanakadavu route won the Goustave-trove award-2020 and has been successfully ferrying passengers for the last 4 years.

### **Kerala Rail Development Corporation Limited**

237. The ambitious Silver Line project envisaged by my Government will introduce cost effective Semi High-Speed Rail travel for the first time in Kerala. The Silver Line will be a game-changer providing a convenient mode of transport to the people of Kerala by reducing the travel time from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod to 4 hours from existing 12 hours.

238. The project is planned to be completed at an approximate cost of Rs. 63,900 crore. The Detailed Project Report and alignment of this flagship project had been approved by my Government. NITI Aayog, Railway Board and Department of Expenditure have already recommended the project to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for proposing the project to Bilateral and Multilateral funding agencies for an amount of Rs. 33,700 crore. Formal sanction of this project from the Central Government is expected shortly.

## **Kochi Metro Rail Limited**

239. Kochi Metro Rail has achieved completion of the Phase I of the project from Aluva to Petta (25.612 KM with 22 stations) with inauguration of the last stretch on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
240. The work of Phase IA of Kochi Metro Project, (Petta to SN Junction with 2 KM and 2 stations) is progressing well and it is expected to be commissioned by March 2022. As of now 47 per cent has been completed.
241. The work of Phase IB of Kochi Metro Project (SN junction to Thripunithura with 1.2 KM and 1 station) is also progressing well with an intention to commission by June 2022.
242. The Phase II of Kochi Metro Rail Project from JLN stadium to Infopark via Kakkanad, at a cost of Rs. 1,957.05 crores, with a length of 11.17 KM and 11 stations has been approved by my Government. Government of India's approval is expected in the current financial year. The project would be completed within 4 years from commencement of works.
243. Kochi Metropolitan Transport Authority has been constituted on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It is the first authority of its kind in India to integrate, plan and regulate different commuting modes of the city.

## **Water Resources Department**

244. The Water Resources Department has resolved to constitute a River Basin Conservation and Management Authority (RBCMA) for co-ordinating all water related activities at the river basin. A draft bill has been finalised and my Government will enact the legislation for the constitution of RBCMA in this year.
245. Specific thrust shall be given towards Community Based Micro-Irrigation Systems for the benefit of farmers co-operatives as well as farming clusters. My Government intends to bring out a 'Community Based Micro Irrigation Project' in memory of the late Sri. K. M. Mani. Focus shall be on assimilation of lift irrigation potential coupled with micro-irrigation techniques. This shall empower the farmers especially in the "irrigation-neglected" cash crop (Pepper, Cardamom, Coconut, Arecanut, Nutmeg, Coffee etc), fruit tree crop and vegetable segments attain enhanced productivity.
246. My Government has achieved significant progress in providing functional tap connections to the rural households in the State as part of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). A total of 4,04,464 individual water supply connections were provided to the rural households during 2020-21 despite the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. Urban JJM has been rolled out by the Central Government in this year's

budget. State shall gear up for ensuring 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to all Urban households over the next 4 years.

247. Water Resources Department will commission 'Kerala Water Resources Information System' (K-WRIS), which is a single authoritative web-based platform for all water resources related information especially weather forecasts, flood forecasts, water management at reservoir, water quality, irrigated area, surface water and ground water etc.
248. Highly vulnerable stretches of coastline prone to sea erosion as in Chellanam, Kaipamangalam, Cherthala and Poonthura shall be given focused attention to ensure security to life and property of inhabitants.
249. Proper functionality auditing of already installed rainwater harvesting and open well recharge system structures and their effectiveness shall be ensured before formulating future policies.
250. The Department shall strive to bring in Engineering Start-ups in Water Resources Sector to ensure captive capacity building within the State and provide a fertile ecosystem for technology startups in the State.

## **Inter State Waters**

251. The major inter-State river water sharing agreement called the Parambikulam-Aliyar agreement is long due for revision. My Government will look into the various aspects and will try to reach a mutually agreeable settlement with Tamil Nadu and enforce the new agreements. Also it will be ensured that the new agreements shall not adversely affect the interests of the State. All necessary steps will be initiated to ensure the ecological balances in the river basins. Adequate projects will be initiated to utilize the Kerala share of 30 TMC water from Kavery basin like Attappady Valley Irrigation Project.

## **Women and Child Development Department**

252. The comprehensive development and empowerment of women and children has always been a priority area for the State. Much impetus will be given to nutrition, safety, equality and several other realms of interaction of women and children. The Anganwadi system, which play a foremost role in the overall development of women and children, has to be reformed to suit the requirements of a modern State. In issues like child marriage, dowry system, gender bias, violence/ discrimination against women and children concerted action of the Departments and the civil society is the requirement to eliminate them.



253. My Government, as a policy, is committed to ensure the freedom of movement for women throughout the State. Mainstreaming women, developing a gender sensitive legal system, identifying the vulnerable groups, menstrual hygiene, fight against non-communicable diseases like cancer, HIV Aids among women, etc. will get focused attention. Kerala has a larger number of single women especially in their old ages. Special emphasis will be given to their active engagement in the programmes of my Government. Women collectives will be encouraged further. My Government, as a policy will ensure basic minimum facilities for child care institutions, hostels, including those for the working women, shelter homes, creches etc. The benefits of Maternity Benefit Act and Prevention of Sexual Harassment in Workplaces Act will reach all sectors especially the private and unorganised sector.

### **Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Department**

254. The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau has initiated several innovative measures in support of my Government's Policy of "Zero Tolerance to Corruption" in the administration and the implementation of the projects.

255. Accordingly, Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau, is enforcing the anti-corruption laws and efficiently redressing the complaints of the public. The Vigilance and Anti-corruption Bureau is adopting the latest

technology, modernizing its offices and improving its intelligence surveillance mechanism.

256. During 2020-21, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau has completed the digitization of administration, new office buildings at Idukki, Palakkad and Kannur Districts, and established the Cyber Cell at the Vigilance Headquarters.
257. During the financial year 2021-22, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau is envisaging to complete the construction of Training Centres at Kozhikkode, Alappuzha, Idukki and Kottayam. It has also planned for the complete automation, Video Conferencing and digitisation of VACB Units and their linkage with the Courts.
258. In conclusion, let me state that my Government strongly believes in principles of cooperative federalism in which Centre, State and Local Governments are equal partners in the development efforts. The State has recently celebrated 25 years of democratic decentralisation. This is an example of tiers of Government functioning in co-operation and harmony and not as parts of a pyramidal structure. It is this vision that has led my Government to advocate restructuring of Centre-State relations. My Government believes in fostering the spirit of constitutional ethos and uphold the values of the freedom movement like democracy, secularism, and right to fruits of

development by everyone in our society. My Government is committed to transform them into reality.

**JAI HIND**