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ECONOMIC REVIEW 2025

KERALA STATE PLANNING BOARD



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

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State Planning Board, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

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Economic Review 2025

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FOREWORD

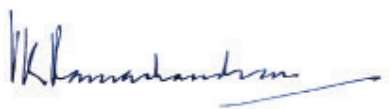
India's real Gross Domestic Product recorded a decline in its annual growth rate, from 9.2 per cent in 2023–24 to 6.5 per cent in 2024–25. Kerala's real Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) also showed a marginal slowdown, with growth moderating to 6.19 per cent in 2024–25 (Q) from 6.73 per cent in 2023–24 (P). Kerala's real per capita GSDP increased by 5.67 per cent to Rs 1,90,149 in 2024–25, which is higher than the all-India real per capita GDP of Rs 1,33,501.

Kerala is the only State that has continued its commitment to the Plan process. This has enabled the State to sustain a development trajectory based on a pro-people economic strategy. However, the State's capacity to finance productive investment remains constrained by a highly imbalanced federal fiscal structure. Despite the financial constraints imposed by the Union Government, the Government of Kerala has set new directions in economic development and achieved further advances in pro-people development and growth.

The 14th Five-Year Plan continues to deepen and expand social provisioning in the State, while using achievements in human development as a basis for economic growth. Investment has increased in productive sectors, high-quality infrastructure, income-generating services such as tourism and information technology, small and medium enterprises, and local governments. The State has continued to invest in modern forms of employment and in social services for working people and those in need.

Over the last nine years, the Government has strengthened public school infrastructure and worked to establish modern and scientifically grounded curricula at all levels. The promotion of scientific temper has been emphasised in both school and university education. During this period, Kerala has also seen sustained improvements in health and demographic indicators, remaining well ahead of the rest of India on these measures.

On November 1, 2025, the Chief Minister of Kerala announced that the State had completed its campaign to end extreme poverty. This marked the culmination of many years of public action in the areas of human development and social policy. The theme chapter of this year's Economic Review focuses on Kerala's Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP).



V K Ramachandran

Vice Chairperson

January, 2026

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KERALA AT A GLANCE

Kerala economy posted a strong growth in 2024-25. The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in real term increased to Rs. 6,85,28,316 lakh (QE) in 2024-25 from Rs. 6,45,31,002 lakh in 2023-24(P), registered a growth of 6.19 per cent in 2024-25. The Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at 2011-12 prices increased to 6.59 percent in 2024-25 as against 6.34 per cent achieved in 2023-24. GSDP at current price grew at 9.97 percent in 2024-25 as against 9.3 in 2023-24. Similarly, GSVA at current price grew at 10.08 percent in 2024-25 as against 9.19 in 2023-24. Kerala is placed among the top ten States in India with high per-capita GSDP. The per capita GSDP at constant price increased to Rs.1,90,149 in 2024-25 (Q) from Rs 1,79,953 in 2023-24, registered growth of 5.67 percent compared to last year. The average income per person in Kerala is higher than the national average.

The sectoral composition of GSDP reveals dominance of services sector. Growth of GSDP across sectors reveals strong positive growth in 2024-25 same as in 2023-24. The primary sector posted a robust growth of 2.36 per cent in 2024-25 in real term as against 0.24 per cent recorded in 2023-24. The secondary sector grew at 7.87 per cent in 2024-25 in real term, as against 9.74 per cent in 2023-24. The spillovers of proactive policy interventions have strengthened the growth across sectors.

Kerala has been following a prudent fiscal consolidation through revenue augmentation and expenditure rationalisation. The fiscal deficit as a per cent of GSDP was 3.02 per cent in 2023-24, marginally increased to 3.86 per cent in 2024-25, and is estimated to be 3.16 per cent in 2025-26. Similarly, the revenue deficit is 2.49 per cent of GSDP in 2024-25 as against 1.6 per cent in 2023-24. Revenue deficit is estimated at 1.9 percent of GSDP in 2025-26.

State's total revenue receipt increased from Rs 1,24,486 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 1,24,861.07crore in 2024-25, registered a growth of 0.3 percent compared with previous years. However, transfer from Centre marked sharp decline of 6.15 percent in 2024-25 compared to last year. The State's own revenue receipts have been increasing over the years, except for a negative growth marked in 2020-21 because of the unprecedented outbreak of Covid-19. In 2024-25, the State's own revenue receipts increased by 2.7 per cent compared in 2023-24. In the same period, the State's own tax revenue increased by 3.1 per cent and own non-tax revenue increased by 0.9 per cent.

The total expenditure has registered a positive growth of 9.0 percent in 2024-25 as against 0.5 per cent in 2023-24. The total revenue expenditure grew at 9.3 percent in 2024-25 as against 0.5 per cent in 2023-24. Total capital expenditure increased by 8.96 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 0.48 per cent in 2023-24.

According to the National Statistical Office (NSO), CPI-Combined inflation stood at 1.54 per cent and 9.05 per cent respectively in India and Kerala, in September 2025. In Kerala, rural inflation is higher than urban inflation in September 2025.

Primary sector registered a strong growth of 2.36 percent in 2024-25, as against 0.24 per cent in 2023-24. Within primary sector, Agriculture and Allied activities grew at 2.14 per cent in 2024-25, as against 1.25 per cent in 2023-24. Fishing and Aquaculture grew at 10.55 percent as compared to negative growth of 3.58 percent in 2023-24. In 2024-25, Primary sector contributes about 8.06 percent to total GSVA in real terms whereas Agriculture and Allied Activities contribute 7.64 percent.

According to land use data, in 2024-25, out of the total geographical area of 38.86 lakh ha, total cropped area was 25.15 lakh ha (64.71 per cent) and area under forest was 10.82 lakh ha (27.8 per cent). Coconut share major part of total cropped area with 30.44 per cent followed by rubber with 21.78 per cent and Plantation crops with 28.22 per cent. Rice constituted 7.01 per cent of the total cropped area in 2024-25.

The area, production, and productivity of rice (wetland) were 1.76 lakh ha, 5.30 lakh tonnes and 3,006 kg per ha respectively. Compared to the productivity of rice in 2023-24, it increased by 43 kg per ha in 2024-25. In 2024-25, the vegetable production (including bananas and plantains) increased from 17.21 lakh MT to 19.11 lakh MT from a total cultivated area of 1.22 lakh ha.

The total irrigated area has increased over the years. The net area irrigated increased to 4.38 lakh ha in 2024-25 compared to 4.19 lakh ha in 2023-24. The percentage of net area irrigated to net area sown had risen from 21.28 (2023-24) to 22.28 (2024-25). The extent of net area irrigated through Government canals increased from 0.77 lakh ha (2023-24) to 0.78 lakh ha (2024-25).

In 2024-25, total fish production stood at 9.28 lakh MT, of which inland fish constitute 2.81 lakh tonne, and the remaining 6.47 lakh tonne are marine fish. Kerala is the third largest seafood exporting State in terms of quantity and second in terms of value. The export of marine products from Kerala has shown an increase over the years, in 2024-25, a total of 1.80 lakh MT of sea food valued at Rs 6,941.29 crore was exported from Kerala.

Cooperatives play a critical role in mobilizing and pooling resources to meet the common needs of its member's, particularly in rural area. Kerala has 16,429 co-operative societies as on March 31, 2025, of which, 12,278 are active. Consumer co-operatives (4,609) are the largest in number. As on March 31, 2025, 3,756 credit co-operative societies were registered under Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS), of which 3,370 co-operative societies are working in the State. In addition to these, there are marketing, housing, processing, health, and Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe co-operatives. Kerala is the only State in India with Youth Co-operative Societies to promote entrepreneurship among the youth.

Industry plays a critical role in determining overall growth. The secondary sector accounted for 28.49 per cent of GSVA at constant prices in 2024-25 (QE). The secondary sector grew at 7.87 percent in 2024-25. Within the secondary sector, construction and manufacturing have achieved 8.12 per cent and 7.42 per cent growth in real term, respectively, in 2024-25. The share of construction and manufacturing sectors in real Gross State Value Added (GSVA) was 14.05 per cent and 13.08 per cent respectively, in 2024-25.

The Government of Kerala declared 2022-23 as the “Year of Enterprises” with the motto “My enterprise, Nation’s pride”. Under the “Year of Enterprises 1.0” campaign in

2022-23, a total of 1.39 lakh new enterprises were started, which generated investments worth Rs 8,421.6 crore, and new employment for 3 lakh people. The second edition, named “Year of Enterprises 2.0,” was launched in 2023-24. As part of this, a total of 1.03 lakh new enterprises were started with the investment of Rs 7,048.66 crore, 2.18 lakh new employment was generated. The “Year of Enterprises 3.0” 2024-25 campaign. As part of this, a total of 1.17 lakh new enterprises were started, which generated investments worth Rs 7798.55 crore, and employment for 2.49 lakh people till November, 2025. Around one-third of these newly formed enterprises are promoted by women entrepreneurs. An innovative programme named “Mission 1000” was launched to convert 1000 MSMEs into ventures with an average turnover of Rs 100 crore each in four years.

A standout feature of the Kerala economy is that services have the highest share in the GSVA, 63.45 per cent in 2024-25 (QE). A positive growth was registered across sectors including information technology, tourism, hotels and restaurants, communication, trade, and transport except road transport.

Information Technology is a growing sector. The State has a network of Technoparks, Infopark, Cyber Park, and Technocity. With the commissioning of Phase III, Techno Park has become one of the largest IT parks in India with 768.63 acres of land, and 12.72 million square feet of built up area. The total number of tech start-ups in Kerala’s Startup ecosystem increased from 4,681 in 2023-24 to 6,227 in 2024-25. The Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON), launched to achieve state’s mission to make internet a universal right, has 1.13 lakh active connections (as on 31st August 2025). KFON has entered the content space through its own OTT platform. The platform offers 29 digital services and over 350 TV channels. About 2,986 Akshaya centres are functioning across the State providing e-services to population and giving employment to 10,518 persons. The e-SEVANAM & m-SEVANAM services were launched in 2021 with 500 plus services and 50 plus department. Currently, it provides 917 services of 81 departments in a single platform.

Kerala has a robust public distribution system, with a network of Fair Price Shop spread across State. As of March 31, 2025, Kerala has 94.92 lakh valid ration cards, which include both NFSA and non-NFSA category. The NFSA category includes 5.92 lakh AAY cards and 36.31 lakh priority cards. The non-NFSA category includes 22.31 lakh non-priority subsidy cards and 30.08 lakh non-priority non-subsidy cards. Kerala has 13,858 Fair Price Shops as of October 2025. The total food grain distribution through PDS in 2024-25 is 13.69 lakh MT, including 2.41 lakh MT of grains to AAY card holders, 7.53 lakh MT of grains to PHH card holders, 37,025 MT to non-priority card holders.

Kerala has the least rural-urban divide in India, because of strong connectivity. Every village in the State is connected with all-weather roads. The total road length as on August, 2025 is 1.97 lakh km, which includes National and State highways, Major District roads, rural roads, urban roads, and other roads constructed by various departments. PWD has developed and maintained 29,573 km (15.5 per cent) of the roads in 2025, of which 4,128 km (13.96 per cent) are State Highways and the remaining 25,445 km (86.04 per cent) are Major District Roads (MDRs). In the State Highway category, 898 km are four-lane, 3,193 km are two-lane, and the remaining 37 km are single lane. MDRs covers 25,445 km, of which, 52 km are four-lane, 10,593 km are two lane, and 14,800 km are single-lane. Local Self-Governments own and operate 1.582 lakh km

(80.06 per cent) of roads. In addition, 11 National Highways (NHs) pass through Kerala (a total length of 1,858 km). The Hill Highway and Coastal Highways are two landmark projects in the road sector. Completed the work on four stretches of the Hill Highway, and work is under progress for the remaining stretches. The first phase of hill highway, i.e. the Kodancherry-Kakkadampoyil road was opened to traffic on February 25, 2025. Land acquisition for coastal highways is under progress.

In infrastructure development, remarkable achievements include the land acquisition for National Highways (NH-66), the Vizhinjam International Seaport, water metro, Kochi metro, Kannur airport, and more.

Kerala is the first State to be declared as fully electrified, electricity is provided in 24x7x365, without power cuts or load shedding. Total installed capacity in Kerala as on March 31, 2025 is 4,412.14 MW, of which, hydel power contributed the major share of 2,284.42 MW (51.8 per cent), followed by solar power 1,519.66 MW (34.4 per cent), thermal power 536.54 MW (12.2 per cent) and wind 71.53 MW (1.6 per cent). The electrical energy consumption has increased to 29,311.76 MU (including open access consumers, and including consumption against captive generation) in 2024-25, from 28,360.25 MU in 2023-24, registered growth of 3.6 per cent. The total number of consumers as on March 31, 2025 was 140.7 lakh. KSEB has sold 28,544.05 MU power, which includes its own consumers, sales outside State and also sale to other bulk licensees.

Kerala follows a strong decentralization in its development agenda. Waste management has been the prime focus of the LSGIs during the last decade. The Navakeralam Vrithiyulla Keralam State Action Plan (2022) had set a goal to make Kerala garbage and litter-free by 2025, through annual pre-monsoon cleaning drives and related measures. Malinyamuktham Navakeralam (Garbage-Free New Kerala) campaign has been implemented in three phases. As of October 31st 2025, a total of 1350 MCFs and 20051 Mini MCFs and 205 RRFs have been operational across the State. 50,042 bins and 26,967 bottle booths have been installed in public spaces. Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme has been implemented through local government. On November 1st 2025, the Honourable Chief Minister officially declared Kerala as a state free from Extreme Poverty. Kudumbashree has played a pioneering role in local development, particularly in women's empowerment.

Under the LIFE (Livelihood, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment) Mission, a total of 4,71,442 houses including LIFE Tower units were constructed as on October 31, 2025. This includes 1,25,360 houses constructed for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries and 45,976 for Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. Under the EPEP homeless category, 4,005 houses were completed, and in the EPEP landless and houseless category, 1,417 houses were completed.

In 2025, out of the 12.6 lakh persons employed in the organised sector, 5.6 lakh (44.4 per cent) are in the public sector and 7.0 lakh (55.5 per cent) are in the private sector. Within the public sector, 46.6 per cent are employed in State Government, 10.8 per cent in Central Government, 23.6 per cent in State quasi-institutions, 4.5 per cent in LSGs, and 14.5 per cent are in Central quasi-institutions in 2024-25.

State is committed to the welfare of its people, particularly marginalized and vulnerable. Welfare pensions had increased from Rs 600 per beneficiary per month in 2016 to Rs 1,600 per beneficiary per month in 2021. The government recently raised the welfare

pension to Rs. 2,000, effective from November 2025. The number of social security pensioners was 34 lakhs in 2015-16, which increased to 49.74 lakh as on October 2025, this does not include welfare board pensions. Out of the 49.74 lakh pensioners, 31.08 lakh (62.49 per cent) are women. Fifty-eight per cent of beneficiaries fall under the category of old age pension.

The upliftment of the socially and economically disadvantaged is the concern of the Government. At present, 9.81 per cent of total State Plan outlay is earmarked for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and 2.83 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes. Under Land to landless families for construction of houses' scheme, 1,756 families were assisted in 2024-25 and 1060 families were assisted in 2025-26 (as on August 31, 2025). As on October 31, 2025, a total of 1,25,360 houses were constructed for Scheduled Castes beneficiaries. Construction of 6,622 study rooms were completed in 2024-25 for the students of high school and higher secondary classes. Likewise, 334 study rooms were constructed in 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025). In 2024-25, Government supported 211 Scheduled Castes students to study in reputed foreign educational institutions through the Unnathi Overseas Scholarship scheme, which give scholarships of up to Rs 25 lakh. As on August 31, 2025, total of 4223 persons received treatment assistance. In 2024-25, 806 persons received training through various skill development programmes and 273 beneficiaries received the self-employment subsidy.

The Scheduled Tribe Development Department (STDD) implements several programmes for the upliftment of the ST population in State. The State has consistently allocated funds to the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). In 2024-25, the Tribal Resettlement and Development Mission (TRDM) has distributed 187.62 acres of land to 191 families. Under the Land Bank scheme, a total of 5.81 acres of land were distributed to 19 families in Kasaragod District. Under the Forest Rights Act, 181.81 acres of land were distributed to 172 tribal families of Attappady and Wayanad District. LIFE Mission has enabled 45,976 Scheduled Tribe families to own safe and secure homes. A total of 1,647 students were awarded brilliant student's special incentives in 2025-26 as on 31 August 2025. Scholarships for studying abroad and outside the state were given to 56 students in 2024-25 and 75 students in 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025). In 2024-25, a total of 12,41,429 person-days has been generated with the participation of 34,843 Scheduled Tribes families, of which 3,513 families has completed 200 days' work.

Education and health are two areas where Kerala has a proud legacy. To promote inclusive education, facilities including free uniforms, mid-day meals, financial assistance to meet travel expenses, hostel facilities, and excursions for students, are provided. There are 12,945 schools in 2024-25, of which, 4,700 (36.3 per cent) are Government schools, 7,202 (55.6 per cent) are aided schools and 1,043 (8 per cent) are unaided schools. Under KIFFB, Rs 5 crore, Rs 3 crore and Rs 1 crore each have been allotted for the infrastructural development of 141, 386 and 446 schools respectively. Under Rs 5 crore category, construction of building completed for 139 schools. Under Rs 3 crore category construction, construction of buildings completed for 213 schools and in Rs 1 crore category construction of buildings completed for 246 schools. Construction of buildings of 52 schools has been completed, with the aid of NABARD. It is seen that 99.1 per cent of government schools have access to drinking water and all Government schools have urinals/latrine facilities. To promote all-inclusive education, there are 45 special schools in 2024-25 with total enrollment of 2,805 students.

Kerala has undertaken significant policy changes in higher education, with a special focus on improving quality. According to AISHE Report 2021-2022, Kerala has a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 41.3 in higher education, the seventh highest in the country among the States and UTs, and the overall Gender Parity Index (GPI) is 1.44 (more female enrolment relative to males). Innovative initiatives in the higher education sector include introduction of a four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP), the establishment of Sree Narayana Guru Open University and Digital University, collaborations with premier institutions and more. Major incentives in higher education include Hunger Free Campus, Connect Career to Campus, CM's Prathibha Scholarship Award, Mini Industrial Unit, and Jeevani College Mental Awareness Programme.

Kerala has 14 State universities, out of which, four (Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi, Calicut, and Kannur universities) are general. In 2024-25, Kerala has 230 arts and science colleges, of which, 164 are government-aided and 66 are government-run. Additionally, there are unaided/self-financing arts and science colleges affiliated with universities. In the NIRF ranking 2025, 18 colleges from Kerala featured in the top 100 colleges in the country, while three of them are ranked among the top 50 colleges. REAP is an innovative programme implemented in major universities with 35000 students on boarded.

Kerala has a robust public health care system, which is high in quality, accessible, equitable, and affordable. Life expectancy (at birth) in Kerala is 75.1 years, the highest among Indian States, and higher than the All- India average (70.3 years). The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in Kerala is 30, the lowest among the States and much lower than all-India average of 88. Under Nava Kerala Karma Padhathi-II, the Aardram Mission-2 was launched in 2022. As part of mission, a total of 740 PHCs out of 885 were converted to FHCs, and 105 CHCs were converted to Block FHCs. Out Patient (OP) departments of 14 Districts/General hospitals out of 17, and 24 Taluk Hospitals out of 43, were made patient-friendly. OPs of all 8 medical colleges were made patient friendly or modified. New initiatives under the Aardram Mission include 'ASWASAM' depression management clinics, 'SWAAS' Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) control programme, conversion of 4,261 rural sub centre's into health and wellness centre, outpatient facilities in all FHCs up to 6:00 pm every day, laboratory facilities in Family Health Centers (FHCs), lifestyle diseases clinic in all FHCs on all days, and Sampoorana Manasika Arogyam Programme (SMAP) in FHCs. Kerala's e-Health Project has the largest database, with health details of 2,59,55,998 people collected and stored electronically. In addition to this, elderly palliative care, Nirnaya lab network, healthy life campaign, Janakeeya Arogya Kendrangal, one health programme etc were launched.

The Government of Kerala envisions the creation of a "Nava Keralam" (New Kerala) aimed at improving the overall quality of life of its people while fostering a business-friendly and efficient economic environment. Central to this vision is the enhancement of the ease of living and ease of doing business through effective public service delivery and institutional reforms. The approach emphasizes the creation of strong public goods, the adoption of trust-based and transparent governance, and active collaboration with the private sector for sustainable development. At the same time, the initiative seeks to boost agricultural and industrial productivity while safeguarding Kerala's long-standing social welfare commitments and inclusive development model.

KERALA'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS - A QUICK LOOK

Sl.No	Item	Units	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Geographical Area	Sq.Km	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863	38863
Administrative Setup													
2	Revenue Divisions	No.				21	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
3	Districts	No.	12	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
4	Taluks	No.	58	61	63	63	75	77	77	77	77	78	78
5	Villages	No.	1331	1364	1452	1532	1664	1664	1664	1664	1664	1666	1664
6	Towns	No.	106	197	159	520	520	520	520	520	520	520	520
Population as per Census			1961	1971	1981	1991	2001	2011					
7	Total	(in 1000s)	16904	21347	25454	29099	31844	33406					
8	Males		8362	10588	12609	14289	15469	16027					
9	Females		8542	10760	12885	14810	16373	17379					
10	Rural		14351	17880	20682	21618	23574	17471					
11	Urban		2552	3467	4771	7018	8267	15935					
12	Scheduled Castes		1422	2002	2549	2887	3124	3040					
13	Scheduled Tribes		208	193	261	321	364	485					
14	Density of Population	No. Per Sq.Km.	435	549	655	749	819	860					
15	Literacy Rate	Percentage	55	60	70	90	90	94					
16	Sex Ratio	Females per 1000 males	1022	1016	1032	1036	1058	1084					
17	Urban Population	Percentage	15	16	19	24	26	48					
GSDP - at constant prices (Base Year 2011-12)			1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2009-10	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24 (P)	2024-25(Q)
18	GSDP	Rs crore	462	1255	3,823	12,195	63,715	180,812	511,703	571,983	604,633	645,310	685283
19	Primary Sector (GSVA)	Rs crore	241	653	1,682	4,756	14,017	15,966	44,986	47,022	47,600	47,713	48838
20	Secondary Sector (GSVA)	Rs crore	68	163	841	3,171	14,017	38,249	130,955	142,093	145,746	159,939	172534
21	Tertiary Sector (GSVA)	Rs crore	153	439	1,300	4,268	35,680	126,597	269,040	311,879	340,975	360,555	384294
22	Per capita Income	Rs	276	594	1,508	4,207	19,951	47,360	146,139	160,791	169,289	179,953	190149
Agriculture			1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	
23	Net Area Sown	1000 ha.	2171	2180	2247	2206	2072	2035	2029	1991	1973	1967	
24	Gross Cropped Area	1000 ha.	2933	2885	3020	3022	2662	2568	2523	2516	2536	2515	
25	Gross Irrigated Area	1000 ha.		381	385	460	466	521	561	514	532	530	
26	Gross Irrigated Area to Gross Cropped Area	Percentage		13	13	15	18	20	22	20	21	21	
Gross area under principal crops			1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11-	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
27	Paddy (wetland)	1000 ha.	779	875	802	559	347	213.2	201.87	193.95	190.17	178.95	176.36
28	All Pulses	1000 ha.	44	40	34	23		3.8	2.01	1.44	1.55	1.59	1.28
29	Sugarcane Harvested Area	1000 ha.	9	8	8	8	3	2.8	0.92	0.92	0.93	0.65	0.25
30	Rubber	1000 ha.	133	188	238	384	474	534.2	550.65	550	549.78	548.3	547.74
31	Tea	1000 ha.	40	37	36	35	37	37	35.87	35.87	35.65	35.68	35.7

32	Coconut	1000 ha.	501	719	651	870	926	770.5	768.8	765.4	760.35	765.84	765.62
33	Arecanut	1000 ha.	54	86	61	65		99.8	96.57	93.97	94.55	96.11	96.05
34	Groundnut	1000 ha.	16	15	9	13		1.5	0.11	0.12	0.126	0.1	0.08
35	Pepper	1000 ha.	100	12	108	169	202	172.2	82.12	76.35	73.731	72.67	69.89
36	Cardamom	1000 ha.	29	47	56	67	41	41.2	39.14	39.14	40.35	40.35	40.35
37	Ginger	1000 ha.	12	12	13	14	12	6.1	2.7	2.92	2.581	2.24	2.42
Production of Principal Crops			1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11-	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
38	Rice	1000 tonnes	1068	1298	1272	1087	751	522.7	626.9	559.3	592.68	530.28	530.22
39	All Pulses	1000 tonnes	18	13	22	17		2.91	1.92	1.47	1.61	1.88	1.02
40	Sugarcane	1000 tonnes	38	38	48	52	28	27.2	10.7	10.4	10.12	7.59	2.11
41	Rubber	1000 tonnes	24	88	140	308	560	770.6	519.5	556.6	599.38	609.6	625.12
42	Tea	1000 tonnes	39	43	48	63	69	573	66.85	60.36	65.98	65.09	57.29
43	Coconut	In million nuts	3220	3981	3008	4232	5536	5287	4788	5535	5641	5523	5612
44	Arecanut	1000 tonnes	8	13	11	13		99.9	103.2	103.5	98.53	103.99	85.89
45	Groundnut	1000 tonnes	14	16	8	10	10	1.9	0.14	0.16	0.19	0.15	0.12
46	Pepper	1000 tonnes	27	25	29	47	61	45.3	33.59	32.52	27.65	30.8	29.5
47	Cardamom	1000 tonnes	1	1	3	3		7.9	20.57	21.27	22.17	22.87	18.31
48	Ginger	1000 tonnes	11	20	32	46	42	33.2	12.09	12.87	11.01	9.77	11.26
Livestock Census			1977	1982	1987	1996	2003	2007	2012	2019			
49	Total Livestock	in lakh	53	56	55	56	35	36	39	29			
50	Total Poultry	in lakh		152	185	308	139	127	238	298			
Forest			1960-61	1970-71	1980-81	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11-	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
51	Forest Area	1000 ha.	1056	1056	1123	1122	1115	1130.94	1152	1153.11	1153.19	1153.19	1153.62
Factories			1991	2001	2011	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
52	Working Factories	No.	13255	18554	19676	23335	24254	24468	24453	24271	22601	22385	22938
53	Employees	No.	368738	436410	644606	698679	726195	702901	652875	678586	602493	590432	645911
54	Employees per lakh population	No.	1267	1370	1930	2091	2174	2104	1954	2031	1804	1767	1934
Electricity			1990-91	2000-01	2009-10	2011-12	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
55	Total Generation	Mu	5491	7656	6495	8351	7626.37	5781.23	7109.09	9858.27	8659.38	5716.4	7393.77
56	Total Consumption	Mu	5282	10319	12878	16182	22361.45	22948.82	22151.6	23499.54	25248.21	28105.07	293111.76*
57	Industrial Consumption	Mu	2697	3784	4002	4926	5820.49	5683.3	3826.99	4481.02	4920.33	5107.92	4998.55
58	Agricultural Consumption	Mu	288	350	225	286	337.65	348.48	412.22	382.73	391.52	459.20	432.94
59	Domestic Consumption	Mu	1621	4688	5931	7706	10864.34	11898.13	12716.47	12679.39	12400.1	13757.25	13897.26
Education			1990-91	2000-01	2009-10	2012-13	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22#	2022-23#	2023-24	2024-25
60	Primary Schools	No.	9682	9714	9828	9737	9841	9833	9858	9847	9834	9817	9810
61	Enrolment in primary school	'000s	4402	3637	3015	2545	2428	2450	2491.9	2593.6	2559.1	2478	2381.04
62	High Schools	No.	2451	2596	2814	2890	3120	3118	3128	3125	3125	3131	3135
63	Enrolment in high school	'000s	1498	1611	1443	1426	1276	1267	1265.83	1274.51	1273.3	1269	1262.61
Health			1990-91	2000-01	2009-10	2011-12	2018-19#	2019-20#	2020-21#	2021-22#	2022-23#	2023-24#	2024-25
64	Hospitals	No.	1199	1319	1254	1255	1470	1471+RCC	1473+RCC	1477+RCC	1477+RCC	1477+RCC	1480
65	No. of Beds	No.	38726	38242	37021	37388	56596	57713	58021	59684+298RCC	59692+298RCC	59847+298RCC	60987
Vital statistics (Demographic Status)			1990-91	2001	2009	2010	2017##	2018##	2019##	2020##	2021##	2022##	2023##
66	Birth Rate	per 1000 population	20	16	15	15	15	13.9	13.5	13.2	12.9	12.4	12.3
67	Death Rate	per 1000 population	6	7	7	7	7	6.9	7.1	7	9	7.6	7.2
68	Infant Mortality Rate	per 1000 population	21	11	12	14	10	7	6	6	6	7	5

Transport			1990-91	2000-01	2010-11	2011-12	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
69	Railway Route Length	Kms.	988	1148	1257	1257	1257	1257	1745###	1745###	2106###	-	-
70	Total Road Length	Kms.	128403	125835	151652	244373	273113.3	331904.11	238773.02	230934.18	235634.36	191292	197448.34
71	Motor Vehicles	No.	648000	2111885	6072019	8048673	13334984	14184184	14847163	15565149	16352224	17408542	18197585
Local Governments			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2010-11	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
72	District Panchayats	No.	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
73	Block Panchayats	No.	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
74	Grama Panchayats	No.	999	999	999	978	941	941	941	941	941	941	941
75	Municipalities	No.	53	53	53	60	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
76	Corporations	No.	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Modern Medicine and Ayush included:

Sample Registration Reports 2019, 2020,2021,2022 & 2023

Including route length and running track

(P) Provisional estimate

(Q) Quick estimate

ha Hectare

Mu Million Unit

* Total consumption includes open access consumers and consumption against captive generation

DISTRICTS: AN OVERVIEW 2025

Sl. No.	Items	TVM	KLM	PTA	ALP	KTM	IDK	EKM	TSR	PLK	MLP	KKD	WYD	KNR	KSD	TOTAL
1	Area (sq Km)	2192	2491	2637	1414	2208	4358	3068	3032	4480	3550	2344	2131	2966	1992	38863
2	Forest Cover (sq. Km) *	1394	1197	1356	141	1344	3211	1469	1290	2047	2165	1882	1593	1832	1138	22059
3	Population 2011 (in Lakh)	33.01	26.35	11.97	21.28	19.75	11.1	32.82	31.21	28.11	41.13	30.86	8.17	25.23	13.07	334.06
	Rural	15.3	14.48	10.65	9.79	14.09	10.57	10.48	10.25	21.33	22.96	10.13	7.88	8.82	7.98	174.71
	Male	7.25	6.81	5	4.65	6.93	5.27	5.18	4.88	10.31	10.95	4.85	3.86	4.26	3.88	84.08
	Female	8.05	7.67	5.66	5.15	7.16	5.29	5.29	5.36	11.01	12	5.29	4	4.56	4.11	90.6
	Percentage Decadal Growth (2001-2011)															
	Urban	17.72	11.87	1.32	11.48	5.65	0.52	22.34	20.96	6.77	18.17	20.73	0.32	16.41	5.09	159.35
	Male	8.57	5.66	0.62	5.48	2.76	0.25	11.01	9.92	3.28	8.65	9.86	0.15	7.56	2.41	76.19
	Female	9.15	6.21	0.7	6	2.9	0.26	11.33	11.04	3.49	9.52	10.86	0.16	8.85	2.68	83.16
	Percentage Decadal Growth (2001-2011)	62.3	154.8	6.3	84.8	88.6	-9.6	51.3	149.7	89.8	410.2	88.2	6.6	35.3	117.8	92.8
	Density	1508	1061	452	1504	895	255	1072	1031	627	1157	1316	384	852	657	860
	Fishermen Population, in number	177905	133234	2217	199155	26076	735	142597	79229	2700	98425	115592	238	46204	46379	1070686
	SC population as % of Total Population	11.3	12.46	13.74	9.46	7.79	13.12	8.18	10.39	14.37	7.5	6.45	3.99	3.3	4.08	9.1
	ST population as % of Total Population	0.81	0.41	0.68	0.31	1.11	5.03	0.5	0.3	1.74	0.56	0.49	18.53	1.64	3.74	1.45
4	Literacy Rate (2011)															
	Male	95.06	96.09	97.36	97.36	97.97	94.56	97.36	96.78	93.1	95.76	97.42	92.51	97.19	94.05	96.11
	Female	91.17	92.31	95.83	94.24	96.48	89.45	94.46	93.56	85.79	91.62	92.99	85.7	93.29	86.49	92.07
5	Percentage of Dropouts 2022-23 (latest)	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.04	0.06	0.26	0.21	0.05	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.43	0.05	0.03	0.08
	Lower Primary	0.04	0.03	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.25	0.3	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.12	0.04	0.03	0.08
	Upper Primary	0.02	0.01	0.05	0.01	0.01	0.2	0.18	0.01	0.06	0.04	0.04	0.14	0.02	0.02	0.05
	High School	0.05	0.06	0.07	0.03	0.09	0.31	0.16	0.11	0.14	0.03	0.05	1.04	0.1	0.04	0.11
	GDVA 2023-24 (Quick) (Constant Price)															

Sl. No.	Items	TVM	KLM	PTA	ALP	KTM	IDK	EKM	TSR	PLK	MLP	KKD	WYD	KNR	KSD	TOTAL
6	GDVA at Basic Prices Rs in lakh)	5956787	5729641	1588558	4975317	4091033	1979311	8284241	6331137	4207041	5163681	5066269	996513	4235414	1961598	60566541
	Primary	5.34	8	20	4	11	26	6	5	9	9	7	18	7	13	8
	Secondary	18.98	29	16	41	25	20	30	29	33	22	33	10	36	32	28
	Tertiary	75.67	63	65	55	64	54	64	66	57	70	60	72	57	55	63
	Per Capita GDDP (In Rs)	197210	240198	156064	259190	231382	205416	261319	211972	153028	118760	166835	128359	176390	149880	190149
7	Production of Rice in Kerala) in Metric Tonnes (2024-25)	3333.7	3122.54	8254.67	102331.51	49023.89	803.85	8309.59	74346.7	215140.87	29506.46	1888.54	21818.5	7792.71	4550.32	530223.86
8	Net Area Irrigated (2023-24) in ha	6973.91	5103.53	6193.13	33735.04	19028.98	68164.43	26129.03	68021.93	81174.22	31202.42	46322.21	16574.21	13027.60	58316.91	438277.52
9	Number of Commercial Banks (March 2023)	824	449	408	401	554	211	1078	793	535	545	520	161	420	237	7136
10	CD Ratio	71.92	62.91	26.64	52.97	52.73	103.99	97.83	53.26	67.42	63.13	80.04	119.69	56.05	84.82	68.79
11	No. of Registered SSI/ MSME 2023-24	10513	9382	3897	9120	6744	3619	11165	10130	9521	10773	9403	2856	8107	4462	109692
12	Length of PWD Roads (km)	2380.51	1925.49	1406.82	1994.67	3311.84	2662.68	2965.89	1933.74	2103.24	2376.67	1953.62	877	2235.24	1445.74	29573.15
13	No. of Motor Vehicles	2169298	1420737	672820	1195107	1061662	473346	2372118	1803712	1343754	1979382	1710894	337432	1137952	519371	18197585
14	Tourist Arrivals 2024-25															
	Foreign (in no.)	171095	9048	735	46470	49318	136883	268614	18700	1459	11449	14224	3955	2649	3775	738374
	Domestic (in No.)	3921054	488167	386300	705993	609752	3830186	4329536	2775175	613025	823026	1334089	1288135	857686	284865	22246989
	*open forest included															

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CHAPTER

01

KERALA ECONOMY

KERALA ECONOMY

1.1 RECENT TRENDS IN MACRO-ECONOMIC AGGREGATES

Global Economic Scenario and National Outlook

The global economy is projected to grow at 3.2 per cent in 2025 and 3.1 per cent next year, which is slightly lower than the growth rate of 3.3 per cent in 2024, according to the World Economic Outlook, October 2025, of the International Monetary Fund. The growth projection for Emerging Market and Developing Economies is expected to decline from 4.3 per cent in 2024 to 4.2 per cent in 2025 and further to 4.0 per cent in 2026. Growth in Advanced Economies is projected to decrease from 1.8 per cent in 2024 to 1.6 per cent in both 2025 and 2026. Other international agencies, such as the World Bank and OECD, also confirm this declining trend. The downward revision is attributed to policy uncertainties, higher

trade barriers, increased geopolitical tensions, restrictive immigration policies, and lower growth in labour force and employment. **Table 1.1.1** presents the global growth trends as per the projections of the World Bank, IMF, and OECD.

India-Macroeconomic overview

According to the NSO's provisional estimates of Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP), India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated as Rs.187.97 lakh crore in 2024-25, registering a growth of 6.5 per cent as against 9.2 per cent recorded in 2023-24. The real Gross Value Added (GVA) is estimated at 171.87 lakh crore with the growth rate of 6.4 per cent compared to 8.6 per cent in 2023-24.

The real per capita GDP is Rs 1,33,501 in 2024-25, registering a reduction in annual growth rate from 8.2 per cent in 2023-24 to 5.5 per cent in 2024-25. The details of national income estimates are presented in the **Table 1.1.2**. The details of India's GDP, NDP, GNI and NNI at current and constant (2011-12) prices from 2014-15 to 2024-25 are presented in **Appendices 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3 and 1.1.4**. The sectoral composition of GVA at constant and current prices presented in **Appendices 1.1.5 and 1.1.6**.

Gross State Domestic Product and State Income

Kerala is placed among the top ten States in India with high per-capita income and Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The real GSDP of the

Table 1.1.1 Growth of GDP, agency wise estimate

Agency /year	2024	2025*	2026*
WORLD			
WORLD BANK	2.8	2.3	2.4
IMF	3.3	3.2	3.1
OECD	3.3	3.2	2.9
INDIA			
WORLD BANK	6.5	6.3	6.5
IMF	6.5	6.6	6.2
OECD	6.5	6.7	6.2

Source: Global Economic Prospects, June 2025 of World Bank, World Economic Outlook of International Monetary Fund, October 2025, OECD Economic Outlook, Interim report, September 2025- *projections

Table 1.1.2. National Income estimates for the periods 2022-23 to 2024-25. (Rs in Crore)

Item	2022-23	2023-24 (1st RE)	2024-25 (PE)	Percentage Change Over Previous Year	
				2023-24	2024-25
Domestic Product					
GVA at Constant Prices	14878028	16151477	17187446	8.6	6.4
GVA at Current Prices	24646698	27412888	30022033	11.2	9.5
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant Prices	16164913	17650591	18796955	9.2	6.5
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Current Prices	26890473	30122956	33068145	12.0	9.8
Net Domestic Product (NDP) at Constant Prices	14076950	15421624	16425021	9.6	6.5
Net Domestic Product (NDP) at Current Prices	23761232	26762544	29387892	12.6	9.8
National Product					
Gross National Income (GNI) at Constant Prices	15939376	17404638	18523133	9.2	6.4
Gross National Income (GNI) at Current Prices	26520166	29710786	32589848	12.0	9.7
Net National Income (NNI) at Constant Prices	13851412	15175671	16151199	9.6	6.4
Net National Income (NNI) at Current Prices	23390925	26350374	28909595	12.7	9.7
Per Capita Income					
Per Capita GDP (Rs) at Constant Prices	116892	126528	133501	8.2	5.5
Per Capita GDP (Rs) at Current Prices	194451	215935	234859	11.0	8.8
Per Capita GNI (Rs) at Constant Prices	115261	124764	131556	8.2	5.4
Per Capita GNI (Rs) at Current Prices	191773	212981	231462	11.1	8.7
Per Capita NNI (Rs) at Constant Prices	100163	108786	114710	8.6	5.4
Per Capita NNI (Rs) at Current Prices	169145	188892	205324	11.7	8.7

Source: National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Government of India,
RE: Revised Estimate, PE: Provisional Estimate

State is increased to Rs. 6,85,28,316 lakh (QE) in 2024-25 from Rs. 6,45,31,002 lakh in 2023-24(P), it registering a marginal decline in growth of 6.19 per cent in 2024-25 from 6.73 per cent in 2023-24. The real Gross State Value Added (at 2011-12 prices) increased to 6.59 per cent in 2024-25 from 6.34 per cent in 2023-24. GSDP at current price is Rs. 12,48,53,301 lakh in 2024-25, depicting an increase in growth of 9.97 per cent compared to 9.30 per

cent in 2023-24. The State Income Statistics for Kerala from 2021-22 to 2024-25 is given in **Table 1.1.3.**

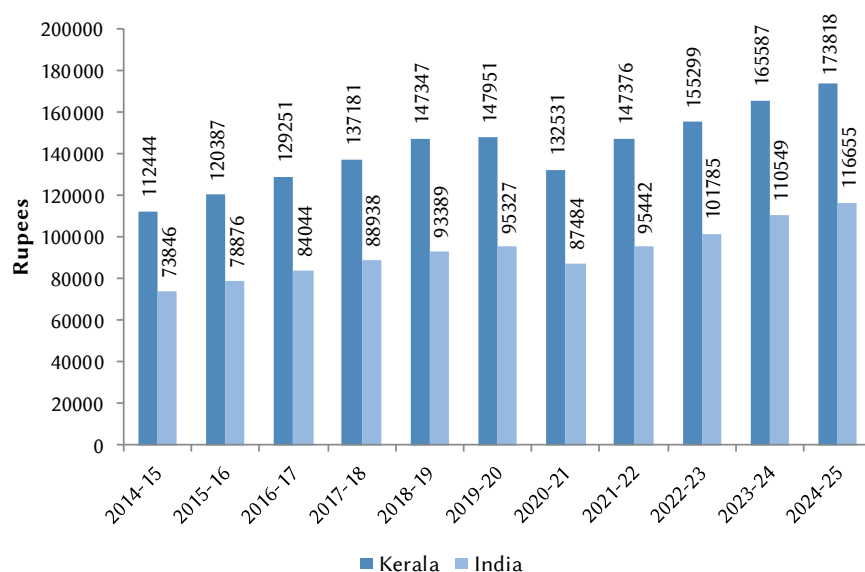
Per Capita State Income

The per capita GSDP of Kerala in constant price increased to Rs.1,90,149 in 2024-25 (Q) from Rs 1,79,953 in 2023-24. The per capita GSDP of Kerala in 2024-25 is higher than the

Table 1.1.3 State Income Statistics for Kerala from 2021-22 to 2024-25 (Rs. in Lakhs)

Table VIII State Income Statistics for Kerala from 2021-22 to 2024-25 (Rs in Lakhs)							
Item	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24(P)	2024-25 (Q)	Percentage Change Over Previous Year		
					2022-23	2023-24 (P)	2024-25 (Q)
Gross State Domestic Product							
a) At Constant (2011-12) prices	57198296	60463274	64531002	68528316	5.71	6.73	6.19
b) At Current prices	92446542	103873406	113537156	124853301	12.36	9.30	9.97
Net State Domestic Product							
a) At Constant (2011-12) prices	52425887	55466501	59379642	62642629	5.80	7.05	5.50
b) At Current prices	81917594	91899746	100863183	111122940	12.19	9.75	10.17
Gross State Value Added (GSVA)							
a) At Constant (2011-12) prices	50099348	53432131	56820665	60566541	6.65	6.34	6.59
b) At Current prices	82303202	92846959	101379261	111595026	12.81	9.19	10.08
Per capita GSDP							
a) At Constant (2011-12) prices	160791	169289	179953	190149	5.28	6.30	5.67
b) At Current Prices	259878	290832	316612	346437	11.91	8.86	9.42
Per capita NSDP							
a) At Constant (2011-12) prices	147376	155299	165587	173818	5.38	6.62	4.97
b) At Current prices	230280	257307	281269	308338	11.74	9.31	9.62

Source: Department of Economics & Statistics, Government of Kerala P: Provisional Q:Quick Estimate

Figure 1.1.1 Per capita NSDP and per capita NDP at constant prices 2011-12

Source: Source: Central Statistical Office, Gol and Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala

national average (Rs.1,33,501). In other words, average income per person in Kerala is 1.4 times the national average in 2024-25. The per capita GSDP at current prices of Kerala is increased to Rs.3,46,437 in 2024-25 from Rs.3,16,612 in 2023-24.

Per capita NSDP of Kerala at constant price is increased to Rs 1,73,818 in 2024-25 from Rs. 1,65,587 in 2023-24. Similarly, per capita NSDP at current price is increased to Rs 3,08,338 in 2024-25 from Rs 2,81,269 in 2023-24. The growth rate of per capita NSDP at constant prices declined from 6.62 per cent in 2023-24 (P) to 4.97 per cent in 2024-25 (Q), while at current price it increased from 9.31 per cent in 2023-24 (P) to 9.62 per cent in 2024-25 (Q). **Figure 1.1.1** -show per capita NDP (India) and NSDP (Kerala) at constant price from 2014-15 to 2024-25.

Sectoral Composition

The sectoral share reveals the services sector dominate the economy with 63.45 per cent share in GSVA. There is a slight increase in Secondary sector's share in GSVA in 2024-25 compared with previous year. The sectoral share of GSVA across

secondary sector reveals, construction continues to occupy the largest share (14.09 per cent) in 2024-25 followed by Manufacturing (13.08 per cent). In the Tertiary sector, 'Trade, repair, hotels & restaurant' has the largest share of 19.09 per cent in GSVA. The other major sub-sectors with higher share in GSVA include, 'Real estate, ownership of dwelling & professional services', and 'other services', in 2024-25. The details of sector wise GSVA distribution is presented in the **Table 1.1.4**.

Primary sector posted a robust growth of 2.36 per cent in 2024-25 as against 0.24 per cent recorded in 2023-24. The growth rate of secondary sector decreases to 7.87 per cent in 2024-25 as against 9.74 per cent in 2023-24. Services sector achieved a positive growth of 6.58 per cent in 2024-25 as compared to 5.74 per cent growth in 2023-24. The quick estimates of 2024-25 reveals the service sector continues to drive Kerala economy by contributing 63.45 per centage of GSVA, followed by the Secondary (28.49 per cent) and Primary (8.06 per cent) sectors. Sectoral composition of growth (GSVA at constant prices) is given in **Figure 1.1.2**.

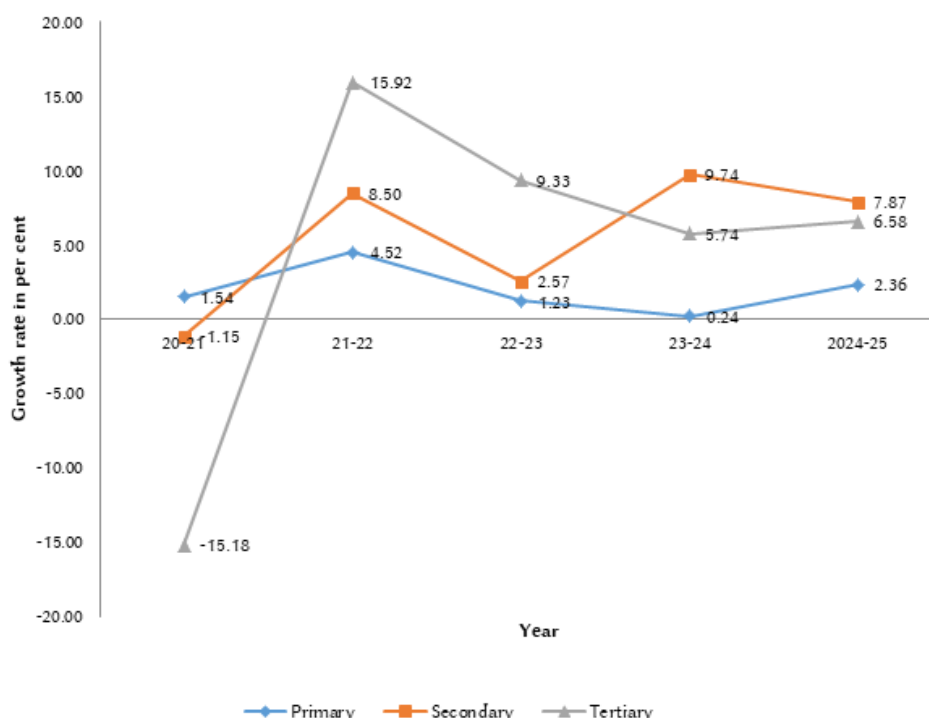
Table 1.1.4 Sectoral Distribution of Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at Constant Prices in recent years (Rs in lakh)

Industry of Origin	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24(P)	2024-25(Q)
	% share	% share	% share	% share
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8.92	8.37	7.97	7.64
Mining and quarrying	0.47	0.54	0.43	0.43
Primary	9.39	8.91	8.4	8.06
Manufacturing	12.37	11.95	12.97	13.08
Electricity, gas, water supply & other utility services	1.55	1.28	1.29	1.32
Construction	14.44	14.05	13.89	14.09
Secondary	28.36	27.28	28.15	28.49
Trade, repair, hotels & restaurants	16.66	18.57	18.18	19.09
Transport, storage, communication & services related to broadcasting	7.53	7.36	7.18	7.36
Financial services	5.69	5.41	5.53	5.43
Real estate, ownership of dwelling & professional services	17.63	17.37	17.79	17.44
Public Administration	4.31	4.35	4.00	3.73
Other services	10.43	10.75	10.77	10.40
Tertiary	62.25	63.81	63.45	63.45
TOTAL GSVA at basic prices	100	100	100	100

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala

P:Provisional Q:Quick Estimate

Figure 1.1.2 Growth rate (GSVA at constant prices) of the three basic sectors of the State economy since 2020-21



Source: Source: Central Statistical Office, Gol and Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala

The details of the sectoral distribution of GSVA in current and constant prices are given in **Appendices 1.1.7** and **1.1.8**. Annual growth rate of GSDP in current and constant prices from 2021-22 is given in **Appendix 1.1.9**. Details of GSVA and NSVA at constant and current prices from 2014-15 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendices 1.1.10, 1.1.11, 1.1.12** and **1.1.13**.

Sector-wise distribution of Value Added and Employment

The structure of the economy and workforce participation in Kerala is different from that of India. In 2024-25, the primary sector employs 46.3 per cent of the work force in India, whereas it is 27.30 per cent in Kerala. The primary sector employing 46.3 per cent of workforce contributes 16.38 per cent to GSVA of India. The secondary sector's share in GVA at the national and State levels is similar at around 28.49 to 28.69 per cent. The share of secondary sector in employment is also more or less same at around 24 per cent. The tertiary sector's share in GSVA and employment is remarkably higher in Kerala as compared to India. Details are provided in **Table 1.1.5**.

District-wise GSVA

District-wise distribution of GSVA at current prices reveals Ernakulum has the highest income of Rs 1,49,85,775 lakh in 2024-25 as against Rs 1,34,82,300 lakh in 2023-24, registering a growth of 11.15 per cent followed by Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram. The highest growth rate in GDVA at current prices was registered in Pathanamthitta (13.91 per cent). The Gross District Value Added of all the districts is given in **Table 1.1.6**.

District-wise Per Capita Income (GDVA)

Among districts, Ernakulum has the highest per capita income of Rs 261319 at constant prices in 2024-25 as against Rs 245372 in 2023-24. Malappuram and Wayanad are at the bottom with the lowest per capita income. The per capita income ranks of the Pathanamthitta districts shifted to a higher level while the rank of Palakkad and Kasaragod shifted to a lower position compared to the previous year 2023-24. The per capita income ranks of the remaining districts stands same in 2024-25 like in 2023-24. Seven districts have per capita income lower than the State average. The per capita Gross District Domestic Product (at constant price)

Table 1.1.5 Shares of different sectors in Gross Value Added (at constant prices) and Employment, Kerala and India 2024-25

Sectors	Shares in Gross Value Added 2024-25		Shares in employment *	
	Kerala (GSVA)	India (GVA)	Kerala	India
Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing	7.64	14.41	26.97	46.07
Mining and quarrying	0.42	1.97	0.33	0.23
Primary	8.06	16.38	27.30	46.30
Manufacturing	13.08	17.18	9.94	11.44
Electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services	1.32	2.36	0.84	0.54
Construction	14.09	9.15	13.39	11.98
Secondary	28.49	28.69	24.17	23.96
Trade, repair, hotels and restaurants	19.09		19.46	12.2
Transport, storage, communication and services related to broadcasting	7.36	18.48	8.14	5.6
Financial, real estate and professional services	22.87	23.79	4.4	11.9
Public Administration and other services	14.12	12.66	16.53	
Tertiary	63.45	54.93	48.53	29.73
Total	100	100.00	100	100

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics (for GSVA of Kerala) and National Accounts Statistics (for GVA of India).

*Note: For share of employment the data of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) carried out by India's Central Statistical Office, 2023-24 has been considered.

Table 1.1.6 Gross District Value Added of districts of Kerala (at current and constant price)

Sl No	District	Gross District Value Added (Rs in lakh)					
		At current price			At constant Prices		
		2023-24	2024-25	Growth rate	2023-24	2024-25	Growth rate
		(P)	(Q)		(P)	(Q)	
1	Thiruvananthapuram	10110907	11113829	9.92	5581245	5956787	6.73
2	Kollam	9656702	10655793	10.35	5353086	5729641	7.03
3	Pathanamthitta	2631563	2997560	13.91	1441853	1588558	10.17
4	Alappuzha	8075708	8968545	11.06	4620934	4975317	7.67
5	Kottayam	6521839	7304696	12.00	3783010	4091033	8.14
6	Idukki	3503914	3945377	12.60	1851264	1979311	6.92
7	Ernakulam	13482300	14985775	11.15	7705539	8284241	7.51
8	Thrissur	10549845	11628820	10.23	5955276	6331137	6.31
9	Palakkad	7097088	7719317	8.77	3981176	4207041	5.67
10	Malappuram	9110633	9697191	6.44	4996109	5163681	3.35
11	Kozhikkode	8520314	9338482	9.60	4763401	5066269	6.36
12	Wayanad	1843462	2030696	10.16	941429	996513	5.85
13	Kannur	6974681	7644764	9.61	3986484	4235414	6.24
14	Kasaragod	3300305	3564184	8.00	1859861	1961598	5.47
	GSVA	101379262	111595026	10.08	56820666	60566541	6.59

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, (P:Provisional Estimate Q:Quick Estimate)

Table 1.1.7 Per Capita Gross District Domestic Product at constant prices

Sl No	District	2023-24(P) Rs	Rank	2024-25 (Q) Rs	Rank	Growth Rate (%)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	185800	7	197210	7	6.14
2	Kollam	225569	3	240198	3	6.49
3	Pathanamthitta	141702	12	156064	10	10.14
4	Alappuzha	241851	2	259190	2	7.17
5	Kottayam	214853	4	231382	4	7.69
6	Idukki	192677	6	205416	6	6.61
7	Ernakulam	245372	1	261319	1	6.50
8	Thrissur	201166	5	211972	5	5.37
9	Palakkad	146333	10	153028	11	4.58
10	Malappuram	116748	14	118760	14	1.72
11	Kozhikkode	158603	9	166835	9	5.19
12	Wayanad	122258	13	128359	13	4.99
13	Kannur	167420	8	176390	8	5.36
14	Kasaragod	143803	11	149880	12	4.23
State		179953		190149		5.67

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala (P:Provisional Estimate, Q:Quick Estimate)

with corresponding rank and growth rate is given in **Table 1.1.7**. Pathanamthitta (10.14 per cent) registered the highest growth of per capita GDDP in 2024-25, whereas Malappuram District (1.72 per cent) is at the bottom. District-wise and sectoral distribution of GDVA from 2022-23 to 2024-25 at current and constant prices are given in **Appendices 1.1.14, 1.1.15, 1.1.16, 1.1.17, 1.1.18 and 1.1.19**.

INFLATION: RECENT TRENDS

According to the World Economic Outlook published in October 2025, global headline inflation is expected to decrease to 4.2 per cent in 2025 and further decrease to 3.7 per cent in 2026. The report's predicted rates of inflation vary significantly across nations and regions. In India,

inflation is estimated to be 2.8 per cent in 2025, which will increase to 4 per cent in 2026.

Following the Monetary Policy Committee meeting conducted in September-October 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained the repo rate at 5.50% with a neutral stance. This indicates a balanced strategy that fosters economic growth while ensuring financial stability.

According to the Monetary Policy Report, October 2025, CPI inflation is projected to average at 2.6 per cent in 2025-26, with 1.8 per cent in both Q2 and Q3 and 4.0 per cent in Q4. For 2026-27, assuming a normal monsoon and no further exogenous or policy shocks, the report estimates that inflation will average 4.5 per cent with 4.5 per

Table 1.1.8 Inflation based on Consumer Price Index (General), September 2025 and August 2025, in per cent - All-India and Kerala

Consumer Price Index (General)	September 2025			August 2025		
	Rural	Urban	Combined	Rural	Urban	Combined
India	1.07	2.04	1.54	1.69	2.47	2.07
Kerala	9.94	7.39	9.05	10.05	7.19	9.04

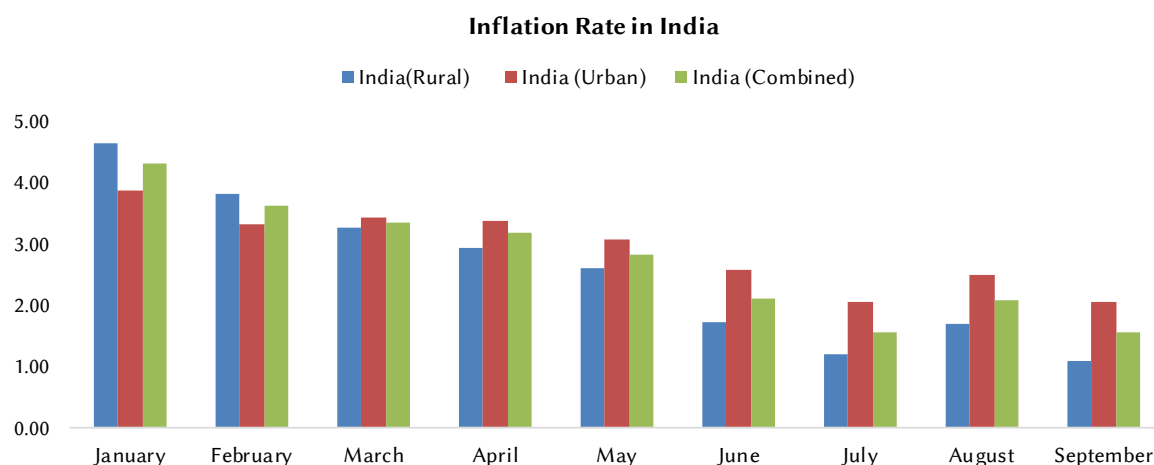
Source: National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GoI

cent in both Q1 and Q2, 5.1 per cent in Q3 and 3.9 per cent in Q4.

In India, the CPI-Combined inflation was at 1.54 per cent in September 2025, as per the National Statistical Office (NSO), MoSPI, Government of India. The rate of inflation in the urban area (2.04 per cent) was higher than that in the rural area (1.07 per cent) in September 2025. In Kerala, inflation based on CPI-Combined stood at 9.05 per cent. In

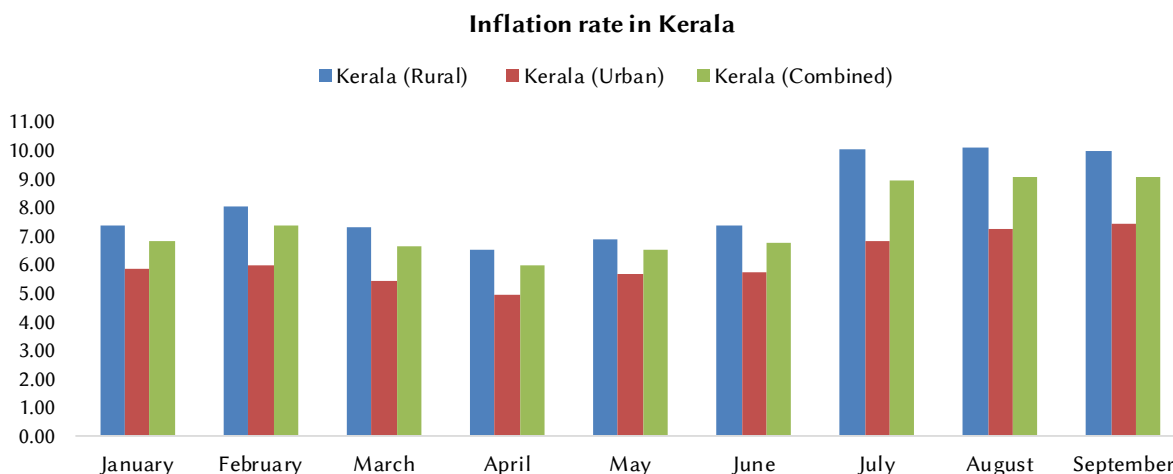
Kerala, inflation was higher in rural areas (9.94 per cent) as compared to urban areas (7.39 per cent) in September 2025. The CPI-based inflation levels of India and Kerala for August and September 2025 are given in **Table 1.1.8**. The inflation rates for India for the month of January 2025 to September 2025 are given in **Figure 1.1.3** and Kerala for the month of January 2025 to September 2025 are given in **Figure 1.1.4**.

Figure 1.1.3. Inflation Rates - Current Series (Base 2012) for India - General Index (All Groups), January to September 2025.



Source: Source: Central Statistical Office, Gol and Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala

Figure 1.1.4: Inflation Rates - Current Series (Base 2012) for Kerala - General Index (All Groups), January to September 2025.



Source: National Statistical Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Gol

Price Level in Kerala

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Agricultural Commodities

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for agricultural commodities in Kerala (Base year: 2015-16) shows a continued rise in price levels across all major crop groups. According to the compiled annual averages, the index for All Crops increased from 146.43 in 2023 to 167.91 in 2024 and further to 190.48 in 2025 (up to June), reflecting sustained upward pressure on agricultural prices.

The price behaviour differs considerably between food and non-food crops: Food crops increased from 151.29 in 2023 to 166.49 in 2024, marking a 10.05% rise. This growth is primarily driven by higher prices of pulses, fruits and vegetables and spices and condiments. Cereals continued to show only a marginal rise, indicating relative stability in their market. Non-food crops, comprising commercial crops, oilseeds, and plantation crops, have recorded a steeper increase. The index rose sharply from 134.80 in 2023 to 171.32 in 2024, registering a 27.09% increase. This surge reflects rising market prices for beverages, oilseeds, commercial crops, and other non-food items. Overall, the prices of non-food crops have grown at a faster pace than those of food crops, thereby pushing up the overall WPI. The WPI of agriculture commodities in Kerala from 2022 to 2024 and the average monthly indices up to June 2025 (Base: 2015-16=100) are given in **Appendix 1.1.20**.

Month-wise WPI of agricultural commodities in Kerala indicates that the index of All Crops rose to 190.27 in December 2024 from 151 in January 2024. Within this, the index of food crops increased to 189.85 in December 2024 from 153.05 in January 2024, while the index of non-food items grew to 191.26 from 146.1 during this period. For the year 2025, the WPI index of All Crops decreased to 188.68 in June, 2025 from 193.54 in January, 2025. Within this, the index of food crops decreased to 176.46 in June 2025 from 193.3 in January 2025, and the index of non-food items increased to 217.92 from 194.12 in the aforementioned period. The month-wise WPI of agricultural commodities in Kerala from January 2024 to December 2024 (Base 2015-16=100) is provided in **Appendix 1.1.21**. The month-wise WPI of agricultural commodities in Kerala from January 2025 to June 2025 (Base 2015-16=100) is included in **Appendix 1.1.21(i)**.

Consumer Price Index (CPI), Kerala

The annual average Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Kerala (Base: 2011-12) indicates a continued rise in retail prices. The index increased from 199 in 2023 to 209 in 2024, and by July 2025, it further increased to 215, pointing to persistent inflationary pressures in the consumer market. Inflation rates across selected centres showed significant variation. In 2024, Kasargod recorded the highest CPI inflation at 6.76%, followed by Mundakayam (6.63%) and Malappuram (6.15%). Chalakkudy registered the lowest inflation rate among the centres. The annual average CPI and percentage variation of selected centres from 2010 to 2025 are detailed in **Appendix 1.1.22**. Monthly retail prices of essential commodities from January 2025 to September 2025 are provided in **Appendix 1.1.23**.

Parity Index

The Parity Index—which represents the ratio of prices received by farmers to prices paid by farmers—registered an increase during the period. The index increased from 54 in 2023 to 59 in 2024. In 2023, the index of prices paid by farmers was 18135.07, while the index of prices received by farmers was 9794. The corresponding indices for 2024 were 18548.75 and 10936.16, respectively. Rising farm input costs, transportation expenses, and wages are the primary reasons for this situation. The yearly average prices received and paid by farmers from 2010 to 2024 are detailed in **Appendix 1.1.24**.

Wages

The average daily wage rate for skilled workers in the agriculture sector in Kerala has shown a consistent increase over the years. The daily wage rates for carpenters rose from Rs 1,082.14 in 2023-24 to Rs 1130.52 in 2024-25. Similarly, the daily wage rates for masons increased from Rs 1,081.52 in 2023-24 to Rs 1097.47 in 2024-25. The daily wage rate for a carpenter has risen by 4.47 per cent, while that for a mason has increased by 1.47 per cent during this period. The average daily wage rate for skilled workers in the agriculture sector from 2011-12 to 2024-25 is detailed in **Appendix 1.1.25**.

The average daily wage rate of male unskilled workers (paddy field workers) in the agricultural sector for 2023-24 was Rs 829.22, while that of female unskilled workers was Rs 652.50. The wage rate for male workers had increased by 3.57 per cent in 2024-25, reaching Rs 858.79. The female wage rate rose at a significantly higher rate of

8.67 per cent, reaching Rs 709.1 in 2024-25. The average daily wage rate of unskilled workers in the agriculture sector from 2011-12 to 2024-25 is provided in **Appendix 1.1.26**.

State-wise average daily wage rates in rural India of non-agricultural labourers are given in Chapter 7 of the Economic Review in **Table 7.1.3 (A)**.

State Interventions

The policy framework in Kerala reflects a systemic approach to inflation control in essential commodities and the strengthening of the Public Distribution System (PDS). Rather than relying on price controls in open markets, the state emphasises large-scale provision of subsidised food grains and the enhancement of distribution efficiency to curtail food-price pressures. By improving access to low-cost staples and reducing frictions within the supply chain, these measures collectively contribute to stabilise consumer prices for essential grains and help to mitigate the impact of inflation on vulnerable households.

The implementation of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is central to this strategy. The Act aims to ensure food and nutritional security by guaranteeing adequate food at affordable prices, thereby insulating a substantial share of households from market-driven price volatility. Kerala has complemented this legal entitlement with administrative and technological reforms, including end-to-end computerisation of the supply chain, the deployment of electronic point-of-sale (e-PoS) devices, and the integration of Aadhaar-based identification. These measures reduce leakages, fraud, and duplication, ensuring that subsidies are more efficiently targeted and effectively translated into lower effective food prices for beneficiaries. In recent years, K-Store has revolutionised the Fair Price Shop ecosystem, turning out-dated outlets into vibrant, tech-driven hubs. By integrating modern technology, these stores now seamlessly provide subsidised essential commodities to millions, while diversifying into sales of products from various Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

In parallel, the state has undertaken institutional reforms to curb inefficiencies, strengthen accountability, and further dampen inflationary pressures arising from diversion and black-market activity. Initiatives such as ‘Operation

Yellow’, which screened and reclassified ineligible priority cardholders and imposed fines on illegal beneficiaries, sought to rationalise the subsidy burden and focus resources on genuinely entitled households. Additionally, multi-tier vigilance mechanisms—through State, District, Taluk, and fair price shop (FPS)-level committees—along with oversight by the State Food Commission and periodic external evaluations, have enhanced transparency and compliance.

1.2 DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The total population of India was 102.86 crore in 2001 and increased to 121.09 crore in 2011, according to the Census of India. There were 62.32 crore men and 58.75 crore women in the country in 2011, as per the 2011 Census. Population density stood at 382 persons per square kilometre, and the sex ratio was 943 women per 1,000 men. The sex ratio was 949 women per 1,000 men in rural areas and 929 women per 1,000 men in urban areas. The child population in the age group 0–6 was 16.45 crore, and the child sex ratio in this age group was 918 girls per 1,000 boys.

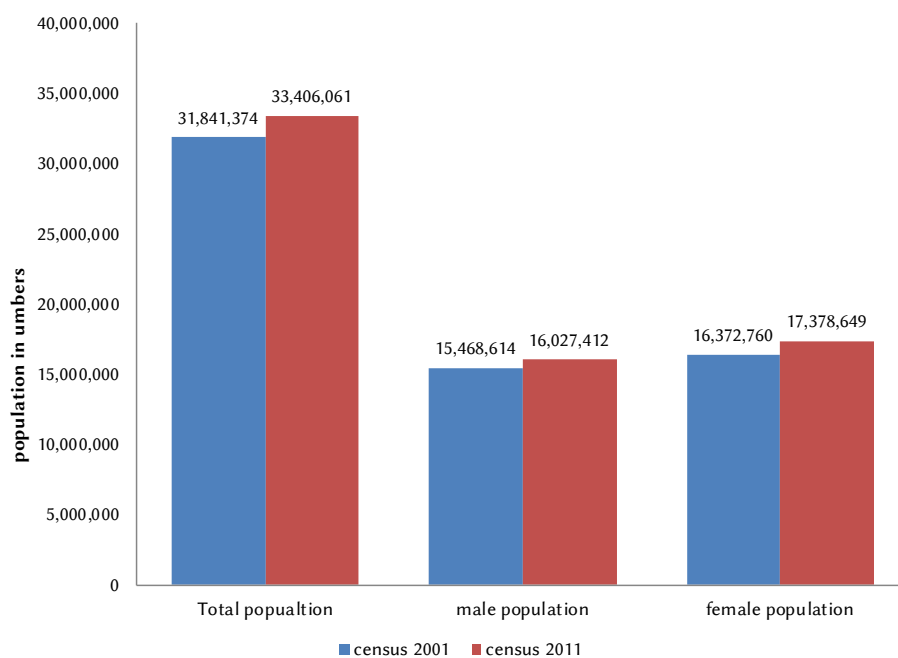
Population Trends - Kerala

According to the Census of India, the total population of Kerala was 3.18 crore in 2001 and 3.34 crore in 2011, registered an increase of 4.91 per cent over the decade. The male-female population details are given in **Figure 1.2.1**, and the rural-urban details are given in **Table 1.2.1** and depicted in **Figure 1.2.2**.

Population Projection up to 2036

The total population of India is projected to increase from 121.09 crore in 2011 to 151.83 crore

Figure 1.2.1 Population in Kerala 2001 and 2011

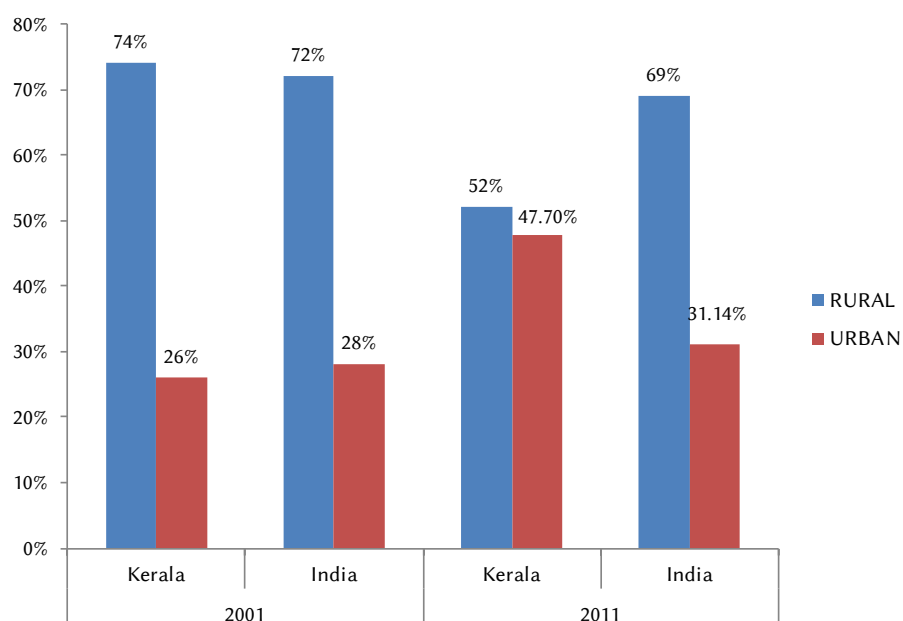


Source: Census 2001 and 2011

Table 1.2.1 Rural-Urban Composition of population, India and Kerala

	2001			2011		
	Total	Rural (%)	Urban	Total	Rural (%)	Urban (%)
India	1,02,86,10,378	74,24,90,639 (72%)	28,61,19,689 (28%)	1,21,08,54,977	83,37,48,852 (69%)	37,71,06,125 (31.14%)
Kerala	3,18,41,374	2,35,74,449 (74%)	82,66,925 (26%)	3,34,06,061	174,71,135 (52%)	159,34,926 (47.70%)

Source: Census 2001 & 2011, censusindia.gov.in/census website/data

Figure 1.2.2 Rural –Urban Population of India and Kerala

Source: Census 2001 and 2011

Table 1.2.2 Total Projected Population -India and Kerala (in 1000's)

Sl.No.	Year	Category	India	Kerala
1	2011	Person	1210855	33406
		Male	623271	16027
		Female	587585	17379
2	2016	Person	1290235	34578
		Male	663346	16594
		Female	626889	17984
3	2021	Person	1361343	35489
		Male	698959	17043
		Female	662384	18447
4	2026	Person	1423435	36207
		Male	729604	17395
		Female	693831	18812

5	2031	Person	1475519	36695
		Male	754893	17638
		Female	720626	19057
6	2036	Person	1518288	36949
		Male	775702	17775
		Female	742586	19174

Source: Census, 2011

in 2036, shows an increase of 25 per cent over the 2011 Census. Similarly, the population of Kerala is expected to increase from 3.34 crores to 3.69 crores in 2036, shows an increase of 10.6 per cent over the 2011 Census. (**Table 1.2.2**)

Population Growth

Kerala, with a decadal population growth rate of 4.9 per cent from 2001 to 2011, has the lowest decadal growth rate among the states. Among the districts, Malappuram has the highest decadal growth rate with 13.4 per cent, and Pathanamthitta has the lowest with -3 per cent. Six southern districts (Idukki, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram) registered a lower growth of population than the districts in northern Kerala. (**Appendix 1.2.1**)

Density of Population

According to the 2011 Census, Kerala's population density is 860 persons per square kilometre, more than the all-India level (382). Thiruvananthapuram is the most densely populated district (1,508) and Idukki is the least densely populated (255). The Population Census, 2001 when compared with 2011, the population density has increased in all the districts except for the districts of Pathanamthitta (468 in 2001 to 452 in 2011) and Idukki (259 in 2001 to 255 in 2011) (**Appendix 1.2.1**).

Birth Rate

The crude birth rate is the number of live births per 1000 occurring among the population of a given geographical area in a given year. According to the Annual Vital Statistics Report, 2023 published by the Department of Economics and Statistics Department, Government of Kerala, the crude birth rate was 15.75 for the year 2010 which declined to 12.77 in 2020, 11.94 in 2021, which slightly increased to 12.53 in 2022. In 2023, the crude birth rate reported is 11.06. Details are given in **Appendix 1.2.3**.

Mortality Rate

The crude death rate is the number of deaths per 1000 among the population of a given geographical area in a given year. According to the Annual Vital Statistics Report, 2023 of the Department of Economics and Statistics, the crude death rate was 6.88 in 2010, 9.66 in 2021, 9.16 in 2022 and 8.56 in 2023. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) is the number of deaths under one year of age occurring among 1000 live births in a given geographical area in a given year. Kerala's IMR decreased slightly from 7.42 in 2010, to 5.05 in 2021, and further increased to 5.26 in 2023 (**Appendix 1.2.3**). As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin, September, 2025, Government of India, the IMR in Kerala is 5 against the all-India average of 25. Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births due to pregnancy or the termination of pregnancy. MMR is used to represent the risk associated with pregnancy among women. Kerala's MMR has reduced from 30 in 2010 to 19 in 2021, to 22 in 2022 and to 25 in 2023. (**Appendix 1.2.3**)

Causes of Mortality in Kerala

Table 1.2.3 gives the details of the number of deaths caused by diseases/habits during 2023. According to the Annual Vital Statistics Report, 2023, a total of 1,46,696 number of populations were reported dead. Out of the total number of deaths, 59.92 % were male, and 40.06% were female. Although the birth rate in Kerala has shown a declining trend over the decades, the mortality has increased due to various diseases. The Annual Vital Statistics Report, Government of Kerala, 2023 shows that the leading cause of deaths in Kerala is heart attack (45.82%), followed by cancer (16.28%) and asthma (12.9%).

Table 1.2.3 Number of deaths by Diseases/Habits in 2023

Sl.No.	Diseases/Habits causing death	Numbers			
		Male	Female	Sex not reported	Total (%)
1	Tuberculosis	332	110		442 (0.30%)
2	Whooping cough	65	87		152 (0.10%)
3	Cancer	13867	10029		23896 (16.28%)
4	Diabetes	1551	1686		3237 (2.20%)
5	Heart attack/heart disease	40565	26656	2	67223 (45.82%)
6	Pneumonia	3447	2599		6046 (4.12%)
7	Asthma	10218	8746	1	18965 (12.9%)
8	Jaundice	177	90		267 (0.18%)
9	Liver diseases	2933	1247		4180 (2.8%)
10	Ulcer	211	146		357 (0.24%)
11	Paralysis	3514	3119		6633 (4.52%)
12	Accidents (Traffic Vehicles)	2679	471	2	3152 (2.1%)
13	Suicide	6339	1527	2	7868 (5.3%)
14	Blood pressure	2012	2266		4278 (2.91%)
GRAND TOTAL		87910 (59.92%)	58779 (40.06%)	7 (0.0004%)	146696

Source: Annual Vital Statistics Report, 2023

Literacy

The effective literacy rate in Kerala was 91 per cent in 2001 and 94 per cent in 2011. In 2011, 96.1 per cent of men and 92.1 per cent of women in Kerala were literate. The corresponding ratios at the all-India level were 82.1 and 65.5 per cent, respectively. Among the districts in Kerala, Kottayam had the highest literacy level (97.2 per cent), followed by Pathanamthitta with 96.5 per cent. (**Appendix 1.2.1**).

Sex Ratio

According to the Population Census of India 2011, women outnumber men in all the districts of Kerala. As per the Census, 2011, the sex ratio of Kerala is 1,084. Kerala's sex ratio has been increasing over the years from 1,032 in 1981 to 1,036 in 1991, and further to 1,058 in 2001. The corresponding all-India was 943. Kerala has the salient feature of having a positive sex ratio (above unity) across districts. Kannur has the highest sex ratio in Kerala (1,136), followed by Pathanamthitta (1,132). Idukki has the lowest sex ratio (1,006). (**Appendix 1.2.2**)

Child Sex Ratio (0-6 Years)

According to the Population Census of India 2011, the child sex ratio (number of girls per 1000 boys in the age group 0-6 years) in Kerala was 964. This was 960 in 2001. Among Kerala's districts, Pathanamthitta has the highest child sex ratio (976), followed by Kollam (973) and Kannur (971). Thrissur has the lowest ratio (950). The highest decadal increase is reported in Kollam (13), followed by Kozhikode (10), Thrissur (-8), Idukki (-5), and Alappuzha (-5) have had a negative decadal change in child sex ratio. (**Appendix 1.2.2**)

Age Group Distribution

Kerala's demographic transition over the preceding fifty years is important. The proportion of the population in the age group 0-14 years has declined from 43 per cent in 1961 to 23.4 per cent in 2011. Due to the increasing life expectancy and better health facilities, the proportion of the elderly (60 years and above) has increased from 5 per cent in 1961 to 12.7 per cent in 2011. As per the "India Ageing Report, 2023", UNFPA, Kerala has the

highest elderly population among Indian States with 16.5% and MOSPI projected that Kerala's elderly population will reach 20.9% in 2031. At the national level, 29.5 per cent of the population falls in the 0–14 year age group, 62.5 per cent in

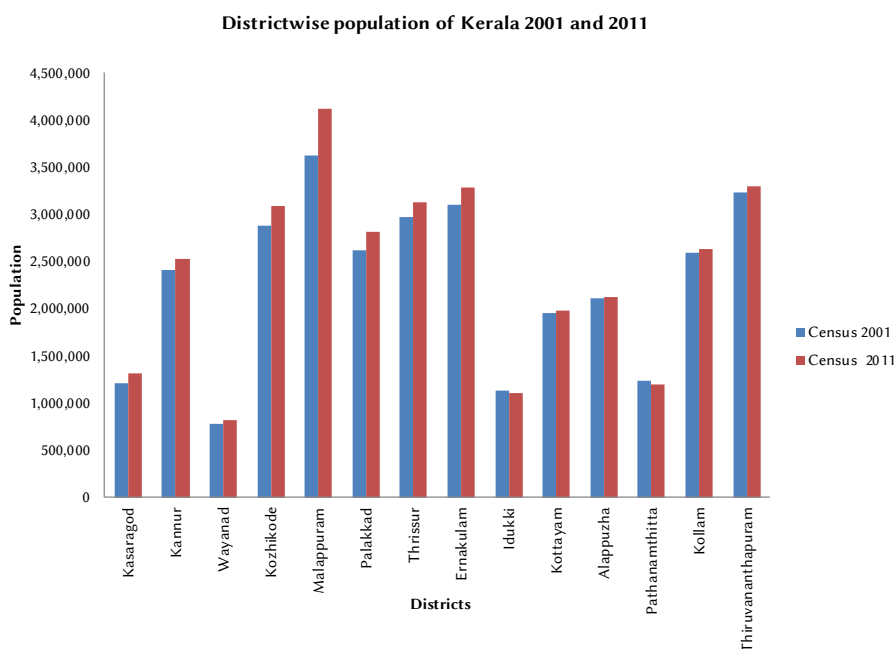
the 15–59 year age group, and 8.0 per cent in the 60+ age group (Population Census of India, 2011). The proportion of the working-age population (15–59) to the total population will decrease in the near future due to the declining proportion of the

Table 1.2.4 District-wise Distribution of the Population in Different Age Groups-2011

Sl. No.	District	Numbers in Different Age Groups in total District population			% of Different Age Groups in Total District population		
		0-14	15-59	60+	0-14	15-59	60+
1	Kasaragod	3,42,696	8,35,111	1,29,568	26.2	63.9	9.9
2	Kannur	5,94,411	16,06,593	3,21,999	23.6	63.7	12.8
3	Wayanad	2,12,246	5,26,414	78,760	26.0	64.4	9.6
4	Kozhikode	7,49,692	19,72,762	3,63,839	24.3	63.9	11.8
5	Malappuram	12,41,491	25,26,407	3,45,022	30.2	61.4	8.4
6	Palakkad	6,78,192	17,95,096	3,36,646	24.1	63.9	12.0
7	Thrissur	6,88,592	20,01,050	4,31,558	22.1	64.1	13.8
8	Ernakulam	6,93,215	21,35,689	4,53,484	21.1	65.1	13.8
9	Idukki	2,47,338	7,32,193	1,29,443	22.3	66.0	11.7
10	Kottayam	4,13,849	12,47,065	3,13,637	21.0	63.2	15.9
11	Alappuzha	4,46,279	13,57,100	3,24,410	21.0	63.8	15.2
12	Pathanamthitta	2,32,670	7,50,202	2,14,540	19.4	62.7	17.9
13	Kollam	5,83,023	17,00,534	3,51,818	22.1	64.5	13.3
14	Thiruvananthapuram	7,07,280	21,60,992	4,33,155	21.4	65.5	13.1
	All Kerala	78,30,974	2,13,47,208	4193393 #	23.4	63.9	12.55

Source: censusindia.gov.in, Census 2011, # excluding 'age not stated' population which is 34486

Figure 1.2.3 District-wise population of Kerala 2001 and 2011



Source: Census 2001 and 2011

0-14 age group in the total population. On the other hand, the increasing proportion of the elderly (60 and above) in the total population would place more social obligations on the Government.

District-wise Age Group Distribution

In Kerala, 63.9 per cent of the total population is in the working age group of 15-59, followed by 23.4 per cent in 0-14 age group, and 12.55 per cent in the 60 and above age group. Among the districts, Idukki has the highest percentage of working population (66 per cent), while Malappuram has the lowest (61.4 per cent). In the age group of 60 and above, Pathanamthitta has the highest percentage (17.9 per cent), while Malappuram has the lowest (8.4 per cent). At the same time, Malappuram has the highest proportion of the population in the 0-14 group (30.2 per cent), while Pathanamthitta has the lowest (19.4 per cent). If the actual number is taken, Malappuram has the highest number both in the 0-14 and 15-59 groups (12.4 lakh and 25.2 lakh). Ernakulum District has the highest number of people in the elderly group of 60 and above. The district-wise distribution of population among different age groups as per the Population Census of India, 2011 is given in **Table 1.2.4**.

Challenges ahead

Kerala's population growth presents several challenges, including high population density, an ageing demographic, declining birth rates, urbanisation, escalating environmental problems due to an increase in population, pressure on resources, migration, and changing demographic

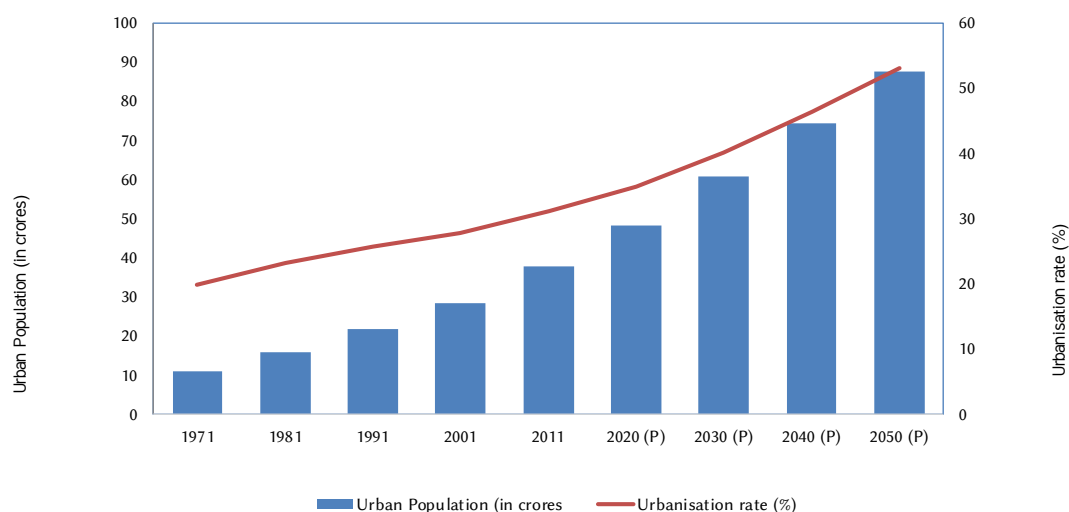
imbalances. To tackle these challenges, the Government of Kerala has introduced a variety of policies and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development, family planning and reproductive health, education and skill development, infrastructure enhancement, environmental protection, social welfare programs, economic growth, and creation of employment.

URBANISATION

Globally, urbanisation has become a key trend in recent decades, with the United Nations predicting ongoing urban expansion. The UN estimates indicate that 68 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2050, driven by population growth and an increasing number of people moving to cities. India alone is expected to add 416 million urban dwellers between 2018 and 2050, almost doubling its urban population. Kerala also shows an increasing trend of urbanisation, characterised by several distinctive features.

In India, urbanisation is defined in two ways: administratively and based on the census. Administratively, an area is considered urban if it falls under the jurisdiction of an urban Local Self-Government (LSG). States can also categorise areas as urban if they meet set thresholds for population size, density, and economic activity. India's urbanisation reflects significant shifts in its demographic and societal patterns. The 2011 Census recorded 7,933 urban settlements (statutory and census towns) with a total urban population of 377.1 million, making India the world's second-

Figure 1.2.4 Trend of Urbanisation in India



Source: Census of India(1971 to 2011), UN World Urbanisation Prospects, 2018 (Years 2020 to 2050)

largest urban system. The World Urbanisation Prospects 2018 (Revised) projects India's urban population will reach 60.73 crore by 2030 and 87.66 crore by 2050. By 2050, the urbanisation rate is projected to be 53 per cent (**Figure 1.2.4**).

Kerala has followed a distinctive path of urbanisation within India. In 1901, the combined population of Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar was 6.4 million, with 92.2 per cent living in rural areas and less than 10 per cent in urban regions. Over the past century, the rural population share gradually declined, reaching 74 per cent by 2001. The 2011 Census showed Kerala's rural and urban populations were almost evenly split, with 15.9 million (47.7 per cent) in urban areas and 17.4 million (52.3 per cent) in rural regions.

Kerala's urbanisation progressed moderately, with 15.11 per cent recorded in 1961, the first Census after the state's formation. This progression fluctuated, dipping from 26.39 per cent in 1991 to 25.96 per cent in 2001. From 2001 to 2011, urban growth accelerated, and the 2011 Census showed 47.72 per cent of Kerala's population lived

in urban areas. Projections suggest that by 2036, about 96 per cent of Kerala's population may be urban, reflecting a rapid shift. The number of urban agglomerations also grew, from nine in 1981 to 19 in 2011.

Kerala is regarded as the fastest urbanising State. Ernakulam has the highest proportion of urban population (68.1 per cent), while Wayanad has the lowest (3.8 per cent). The rise in urbanisation is clear from the number of census towns in the 2011 census. A census town is not statutorily designated as a town but exhibits urban characteristics, including a population of over 5,000, a density of at least 400 persons per square kilometre, and at least 75 per cent of the male working population employed outside agriculture. In 2001, Kerala had 99 census towns and 60 statutory towns. By 2011, there were 461 census towns and 59 statutory towns, a 366 per cent increase in census towns. Wayanad and Idukki had no census towns in 2011, but each had one statutory town.

The decadal population growth rate of cities in both the 2001 and 2011 Censuses was 3.90 per

Table 1.2.5 Urbanisation in Kerala 1901-2036

Year	Urban Population in lakhs	Degree of urbanisation
1901	4.5	7.11
1911	5.3	7.34
1921	6.8	8.73
1931	9	9.64
1941	12	10.84
1951	18.3	13.48
1961	25.5	15.11
1971	34.7	16.24
1981	47.7	18.78
1991	76.8	26.39
2001	82.7	25.96
2011	159.3	47.7
Projected figures		
2016	206.02	59.58
2021	252	71.01
2026	294.65	81.38
2031	330.51	90.07
2036	356.03	96.43

Source: Census reports from 1901-2011 and projected figures for 2016-2036 from the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections (2020), National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

cent, lower than the State's average of 4.86 per cent. This suggests that large migration to towns is not the main reason for urban population growth, unlike in other parts of the country. Instead, the increase in census towns mainly drives urban population growth. Rural areas often transition to urban areas due to higher population density and changes in livelihoods.

Urban population distribution in districts and the decadal pace

Thrissur District, with 135 towns (statutory and census), has the highest number of towns in the State and accounts for over 25 per cent of all cities. About 60 per cent of towns are in Thrissur, Kannur, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode. The urban population has surpassed one million in eight districts. Among these, Ernakulam is followed by Thrissur, Kozhikode, and Malappuram. Together, these four districts comprise more than 50 per cent of the state's urban population. Decadal urban population growth from 2001-2011 was positive in all districts except Idukki. Notably, three of the world's 15 fastest-growing urban areas during this period were in Kerala, reflecting the State's dynamic urban landscape (see **Table 1.2.6**).

Malappuram District had the highest urban

population growth, followed by Kollam, Thrissur, and Kasaragod, according to the Census 2011. Along with the above districts, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, and Wayanad are other districts where the rural population outnumbers the urban population. In Idukki and Wayanad, over 95 per cent of the population is rural.

During the 13th and 14th Five-Year Plan periods, the Government of Kerala maintained a clear approach to urbanisation and planning. The 13th Plan prioritised addressing urbanisation issues and developing a comprehensive action plan. The 14th Plan recognised that rapid urbanisation requires local self-governments to integrate central schemes and externally aided projects with regional plans, improving infrastructure, civic amenities, and citizen services. The government also stressed the need for local self-governments to adopt a clear approach to managing urbanisation within Kerala's rural-urban continuum. Efforts focused on modernising spatial planning techniques, supported by the state government. The plans also emphasised the importance of master plans for urban development, particularly in Kerala, where the boundaries between rural and urban areas are often blurred, to ensure harmonious regional development.

Table 1.2.6. Pace of urbanisation in the world: A comparison

Fastest-growing urban agglomeration in the world 2015-2020			Fastest-growing urban agglomerations in India 2015-2020	
Cities	Country	Rate of growth in Per cent from 2015 to 2020	Cities	Rate of growth in Per cent from 2015-2020
Malappuram	India	44.05	Malappuram	44.05
Can Tho	Vietnam	36.7	Kozhikode	34.5
Suquian	China	36.6	Kollam	31.1
Kozhikode	India	34.5	Thrissur	30.22
Abuja	Nigeria	34.2	Surat	26.69
Suzhou	China	32.5	Tirupur	26.21
Sharjah	UAE	32.2	Thiruvananthapuram	25.57
Putian	China	32.2	Raipur	22.21
Muscat	Oman	31.4	Kochi	21.87
Kollam	India	31.1	Bangalore	21.55

Source: Fastest Growing Cities in the World. World Population Review, 2024 from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/world-city-rankings/fastest-growing-cities-in-the-world>

Initiatives of spatial planning

Since the state is characterised by elongated and densely interconnected settlements that blur the boundaries between rural and urban areas, there is relatively equitable access to amenities and services. This challenges conventional planning approaches that treat rural and urban areas as separate domains. Therefore, Kerala demands a spatial planning framework that is sensitive to its hybrid settlement structure and capable of addressing the complexities of such interconnected landscapes.

A significant turning point in spatial planning in Kerala is the enactment of the *Kerala Town and Country Planning Act, 2016 (KTCP)*. The Act mandates the preparation of: 1. Perspective plan preparation at the State, District and Metropolitan Areas. 2. Master Plans for the Local Planning Area (i.e., the area of a Municipal Corporation, Municipal Council, Town Panchayat or Village Panchayat) and for the Joint Planning Area (as declared by the Government and which may span the area of more than one local self-government) and 3. Detailed Town Planning Schemes (where a local self-government may undertake development of an area under its jurisdiction).

The *Kerala Town and Country Planning (KTCP) Act, 2016* (amended in 2021), mandates the preparation of a Spatial Perspective Plan to guide the State's long-term spatial development over a 20-year period. The formulation of the SPP began with preparatory activities, including data collection and methodological design. In 2024, the State Town and Country Planning Committee (STCPC) was formally constituted, marking the transition to the active phase of plan preparation.

The Act mandates the preparation of Master Plans for all statutory towns through respective Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs). Under AMRUT 2.0, Master Plans for 49 towns (with projected populations over 50,000 in 2021) were initiated, comprising 28 revised, 4 updated, and 17 new plans. These utilise high-resolution satellite

imagery and UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology. In addition, Master Plans for selected Grama Panchayats are being developed as a priority. Additionally, *Local Area Plans* with features such as Form-Based Codes and Value Capture Financing are being developed for five cities in the State. The progress of preparation of Master Plans for statutory urban areas in the State from 2016 to 2025 is given in the table (see **Table 1.2.7**) below:

Kerala's urban growth patterns, the evolving needs and aspirations of its expanding urban population, and the State's focus on improving urban amenities present both opportunities and challenges. Urban areas are crucial hubs for human and economic development, but sustainable urban expansion is essential for managing the complexities associated with rapid urbanisation. To realise the full potential of urbanisation while preserving Kerala's unique cultural and natural heritage, the State must continue to prioritise investments in infrastructure, environmental conservation and social inclusion, fostering a truly inclusive urban society. A notable development in this direction is the establishment of an Urban Commission to develop the state's Urban Policy.

Urban Policy Commission

The Kerala Urban Policy Commission (KUPC) was formed in 2023. The Urban Commission, the first in India, has provided a comprehensive, evidence-based framework to align spatial planning and climate-resilient policies, invest in local economic development by recognising key growth drivers, and introduce innovative interventions in local governance and sustainable urban finance. The commission has attempted to address the challenges and opportunities in health, well-being, habitat, and the built environment, while promoting Kerala's culture and heritage. The report offers a comprehensive framework to address the rapid pace of urbanisation in the state.

The report notes that by 2050, 80.70 per cent of the inhabitants will become urban dwellers.

Table :1.2.7. Master Plan Coverage Progress (2016 and 2025)

Year	Statutory Towns	Sanctioned Master Plans	Master Plans Under Preparation	Total Coverage (Sanctioned + in progress)	Coverage (%)
2016	93	15	47	62	67%
2025	93	48	37	86	92.4%

Source: LSGD

The findings of report highlight the need for a dynamic and more efficient urban planning system, enhanced resilience to climate change, better integration of urban infrastructure and services, and stronger economic diversification beyond select urban centres.

Inclusive urbanisation must place communities at the centre, supporting women, the elderly, migrants, and informal workers through sustained investments in livelihoods, skills training, microenterprises, and access to credit.

Enhancing urban infrastructure, sanitation and livelihoods

Initiatives to empower urban local self-governments (LSGs) and address key urban concerns have shown positive outcomes. The Government's "Malinya Mukta Keralam" campaign has led to major improvements in waste management infrastructure and institutional setups across urban centres. Urban LSGs have also ensured state-of-the-art civic amenities, as envisioned under the 14th Five-Year Plan. The massive effort to clear dumping sites in all urban centres and establish a network of waste management infrastructure has led to remarkable changes. The Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Programme, designed to employ the urban poor, stands out as a notable innovation. Kerala has strengthened urban local self-governments and effectively integrated centrally sponsored urban development schemes with local initiatives. Civic amenities in urban centres have also improved in recent years.

Kerala is undergoing a major urban transformation. This shift requires a strategic focus on growth-oriented, inclusive, climate-resilient, and people-centred urban development. Apart from modernisation and infrastructure development, urban development should focus on long-term measures that would foster economic growth, equity, participation, and sustainability, grounded in the state's strong decentralised governance and human development.

1.3 INDICATORS OF POVERTY

According to the 2022 World Bank report titled “Poverty and Shared Prosperity-Correcting Course”, in 2020 alone, the number of people living below the extreme poverty line around the world crossed 70 million, of which 56 million were in India. However, it is worth noting that the incidence of poverty in India decreased to 29.5 per cent in 2011-12 from 54.88 per cent in 1973-74 (*Planning Commission, GoI, 2014*). Currently, we use the Tendulkar poverty threshold, where a person living on Rs 33 or less per day in cities and Rs 27 or less per day in villages is considered poor. Adjusted for purchasing power parity rates, it falls closer to the World Bank’s extreme poverty measure of \$2.15 per person per day (earlier \$1.90 per day).

For a long time, the Tendulkar estimate has been considered low for an economy like India that is growing. Hence, the government formed another expert group, led by Dr C. Rangarajan, to re-examine the estimation method. Subsequently, in 2014, the Rangarajan Committee suggested a slightly higher monthly threshold of Rs 47 per day for urban areas and Rs 33 per day for rural areas. However, this was also not accepted, hence we continue to follow the Tendulkar poverty line adopted in 2009. However, the lack of data in the succeeding decade (the GoI decided not to release the 2017-18 NSS round due to concerns about data quality) had raised serious questions about the levels of poverty in the country, particularly given the substantial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on poverty worldwide.

Although the 2022-23 Household Consumption

Expenditure Survey, released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), indicates that the income levels of urban and rural households have increased since the last survey and the rural households are exhibiting a sharper rise in spending, the data also indicate that the gap between the rich and the poor is widening. According to the data, the average monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of both urban and rural households doubled over the 11-year period, with both spending less on food items. The MPCE for rural households (excluding imputed values of items received free of cost through various social welfare programmes) increased to Rs 3,773 in HCES 2022-23 from Rs 1,430 in 2011-12. Similarly, the MPCE for urban households also increased to Rs 6,459 in 2022-23 from Rs 2,630 in the previous round. The latest consumption expenditure survey further confirms the changing expenditure patterns of households, reinforcing the need to move away from the existing extreme poverty line of \$2.15 per person per day to the lower-middle income poverty line of \$3.65. Many economists have also pointed out the issues while using consumption expenditure data in determining poverty.

Poverty in Kerala

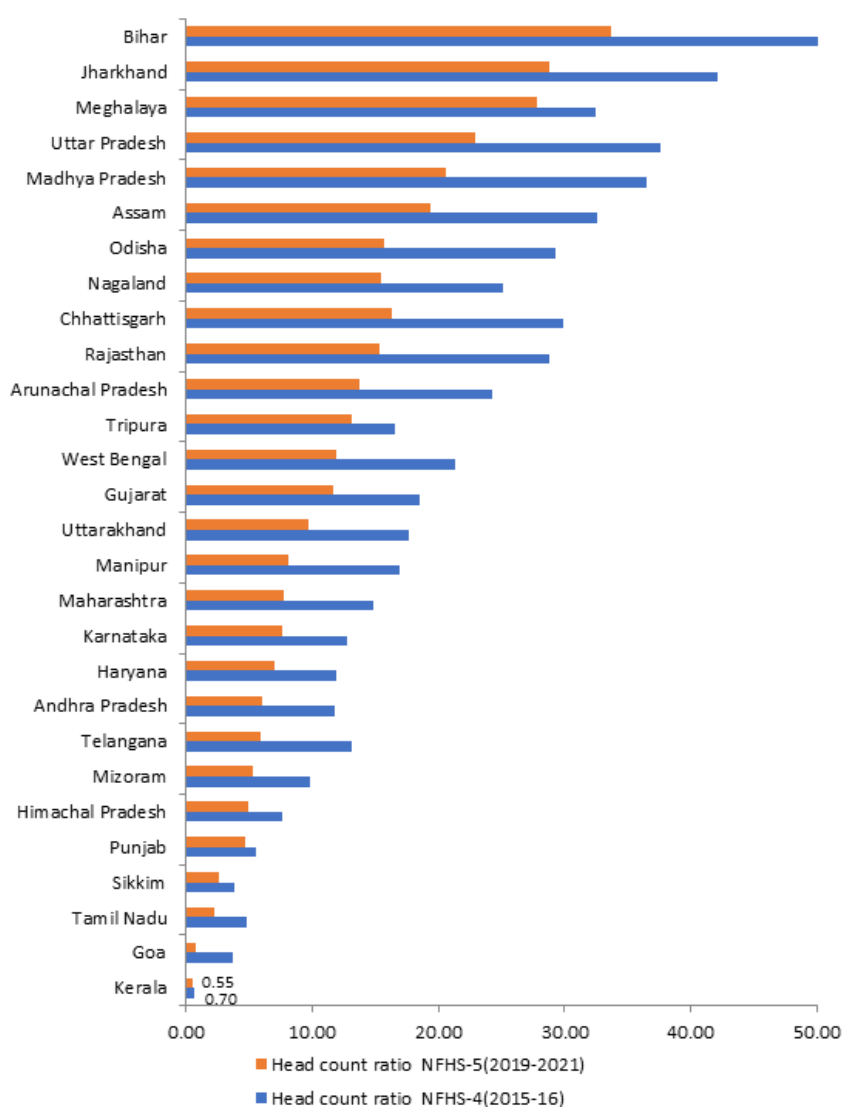
Kerala has followed a development path quite different from that of other Indian States in addressing poverty and related issues. Radical policy decisions to implement land reforms, universal education and healthcare, democratic decentralisation, extensive social security schemes, a robust public distribution system, women’s empowerment programmes such as

Kudumbashree, and several similar interventions have significantly reduced poverty in rural and urban areas. According to official figures, the absolute poverty ratio in Kerala has sharply reduced over the last forty years. Poverty in Kerala has decreased from 59.79 per cent in 1973-74 to 11.3 per cent in 2011-12, while the all-India figures for the corresponding period showed a comparatively lesser decline, as stated previously.

The time series data gap for the last decade notwithstanding, Kerala has emerged as the State with the least multidimensional poverty across India, according to NITI Aayog's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report (2021). As per this report, by order of the

incidence of least poverty, Kerala (0.71 per cent) is followed by Goa (3.76 per cent), Sikkim (3.82 per cent), Tamil Nadu (4.89 per cent), and Punjab (5.59 per cent). Kerala registered low counts on almost all the parameters of deprivation, viz, child and adolescent mortality (0.19%), maternal health (1.73 %), years of schooling (1.78 %), school attendance (0.3%), and sanitation (1.86%). Very few households were found to be deprived of essential services, including nutrition, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, assets, and bank accounts. Among Districts, Kottayam was the best performer, with no one identified as multi-dimensionally poor (0 per cent). Wayanad, with 3.48 per cent, has the highest percentage of multidimensional poverty.

Figure 1.3.1 Performance of states in reducing multi-dimensional poverty in 2021 and 2023



Source: National Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index-A Progressive Review 2023, NITI Aayog

Now, as per the latest report of NITI Ayog (National Multi-dimensional Poverty Index-A Progressive Review 2023), the number of multi-dimensionally poor in Kerala has reduced even further from 0.7 per cent to 0.55 per cent during the period 2015-16 to 2019-21. The unwavering commitment of the State towards social and economic upliftment of the poor is evident in the low MPI index in the State.

Although Kerala is better off than most other states in India in terms of average poverty estimates, there are still several isolated pockets of deprivation within the state. Poverty in Kerala is mainly found among the marginalised social categories and groups such as SC, ST, fisherfolk, potters, and artisans. This has warranted focused interventions by the Government through various schemes. Different schemes and programmes have been formulated and implemented under the supervision of Local Self Governments (LSGs) and State departments, such as the Development of SC, ST, and fisheries, to address the issues of deprivation and severe poverty among marginalised communities. However, it was overtly felt that eradicating extreme poverty in households requires a comprehensive approach, integrating the efforts of all development agencies and focusing on the specific causes of poverty. With this goal in mind, the Government established a massive programme to end extreme poverty through targeted interventions by development departments and LSGs.

Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme

Kerala initiated this unique drive to eradicate extreme poverty with a State-wide survey to identify extremely poor households based on four key deprivation categories: lack of food, income, health, and shelter. Details are provided in the Chapter 2 , “Eradication of Extreme Poverty.”

1.4 ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Financial institutions are important drivers of economic growth and stability. They function as intermediaries between savers and borrowers and facilitate the investment of capital in the economy. Financial institutions support monetary transactions, lending, investment, and risk management. Banks serve as key instruments of financial inclusion by ensuring affordable delivery of banking services to the people.

Spread of Banking – All India and State level

According to the RBI Quarterly Statistics, 135 scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) are operating in India through a network of 1,63,721 branches as on March 2025. Out of this, 55,990 branches are in rural areas, 46,315 are in semi-urban areas, 30,014 are in urban areas, and the remaining 31,402 are in the Metropolitan cities. Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of branches (18,993), followed by Maharashtra (14,331) and Tamil Nadu (12,893). Kerala has 7,136 scheduled commercial bank branches, constituting about 4.36 per cent of the total bank branches in India. Kerala has the largest number of bank branches in the semi-urban area (5,168). The total number of bank branches in Kerala registered an increase of 3.2 per cent in March 2025 over the same period last year. Major state-wise distribution of Scheduled Commercial bank branches as on March 2025, as per RBI data, is given in **Appendix 1.4.1**.

As per the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) data, Kerala has a total of 8,085 bank branches as on March 2025, including commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks and co-

operative banks. Of which, about 10.19 per cent of branches are in rural areas, 67.19 per cent are in semi-urban areas, and 22.62 per cent are in urban areas. Kerala has a total of 6,766 scheduled commercial bank branches (which includes only public sector commercial banks, private sector commercial banks and regional rural banks) in March 2025, as against 6,612 bank branches in March 2024, registering an increase of 154 branches in March 2025 over the same period last year. The total number of branches of Kerala Gramin Bank is 635 as on March 2025, which was 634 in the previous year. There are 337 Small Finance Banks. The number of Co-Operative banks in Kerala as on March 2025 is 982, and it was 978 in 2024. The group-wise branch network in Kerala as on March 2025, according to the SLBC Report, is shown in **Table 1.4.1**.

Deposits

According to RBI data, the total deposits in India show an increase of 10.34 per cent in March 2025 as compared same period of last year. As on March 2025, total deposits in the Scheduled Commercial banks in India are Rs 2,34,51,838 crore as against Rs 2,12,53,358 crore in March 2024. In Kerala, there is an increase of 11.38 per cent in the total bank deposits in March 2025 as compared to March 2024. The share of deposits in scheduled commercial banks in Kerala to total deposits in the country as on March 2025 is 3.82 per cent. Maharashtra has the highest share of deposits of Rs 52, 33, 966 crore (22.32 per cent) in India in 2025. Major state-wise deposits in scheduled commercial banks from March 2021

Table 1.4.1 Banking Group-wise Branch Network in Kerala, March 2025

Sl. No.	Banking Group	Number of Branches			
		Rural	Semi-urban	Urban	Total
1	Public Sector Commercial Banks	145	2400	829	3374
2	Regional Rural Bank - Kerala Gramin Bank	54	542	39	635
3	Private Sector Commercial Banks	128	1957	672	2757
4	Small Finance Banks	44	250	43	337
5	Co-Operative Banks*	453	283	246	982
	Total	824	5432	1829	8085

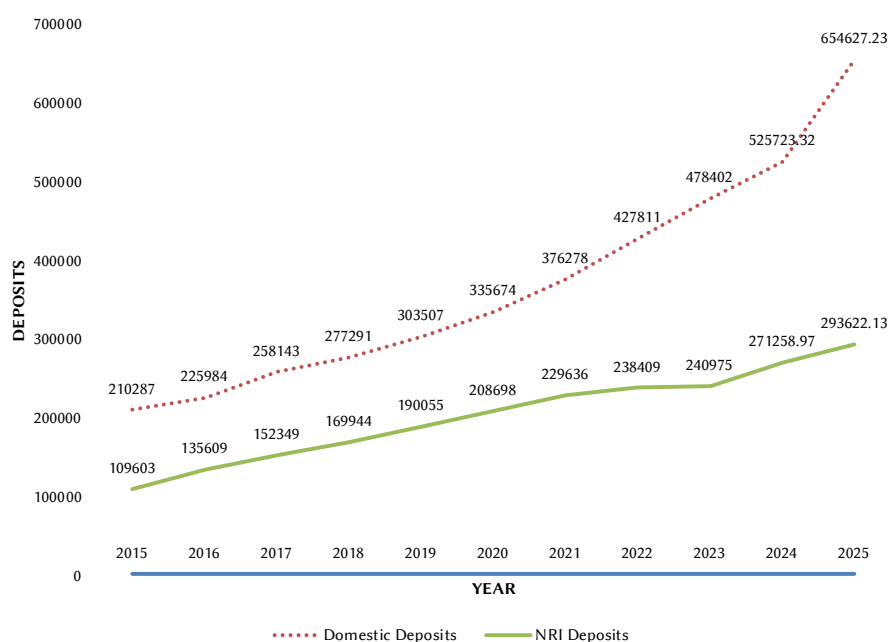
*includes branches under Kerala Bank

Source: State Level Bankers' Committee Report, Kerala, March 2025

to March 2025 are given in **Appendix 1.4.2**. In metropolitan areas, the growth rate of aggregate deposits decreased from 14.6 per cent in March 2024 to 11.2 per cent in March 2025, and in rural areas, it decreased from 12.6 per cent in March 2024 to 10.4 per cent in March 2025. In urban areas, the growth rate of deposits decreased from 11.3 per cent in March 2024 to 9.3 per cent in March 2025 and in semi-urban areas decreased from 12.8 per cent in March 2024 to 8.7 per cent in March 2025. In Public Sector banks, the growth rate of aggregate deposits decreased to 9.3 per cent in March 2025 from 9.4 per cent in March 2024; in private sector banks decreased from 20.1 per cent in March 2024 to 12.0 per cent in March 2025; in Small Finance Banks, the aggregate deposits

decreased to 25.4 per cent in March 2025 from 31.3 per cent in March 2024, as per RBI report. Regional Rural Banks show a small increase from 7.5 per cent in 2024 to 7.6 per cent in 2025.

The total bank deposits (including deposits of Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks) in Kerala as on March 2025 are Rs 8,81,451.66 crore as against Rs 7,96,982.29 crore in March 2024 as per the SLBC data. The annual growth rate of total deposits in Kerala decreased from 10.79 per cent in March 2024 to 10.59 per cent in March 2025 as per the SLBC report. The growth of bank deposits in Kerala for the period from 2005-2025 is given in **Appendix 1.4.3**.

Figure 1.4.1 Growth of Bank Deposit in Kerala (Domestic & NRI) from 2015-2025 in Rs crore

Source: State Level Bankers' Committee Report, Kerala, March 2025

Domestic deposits and NRI deposits

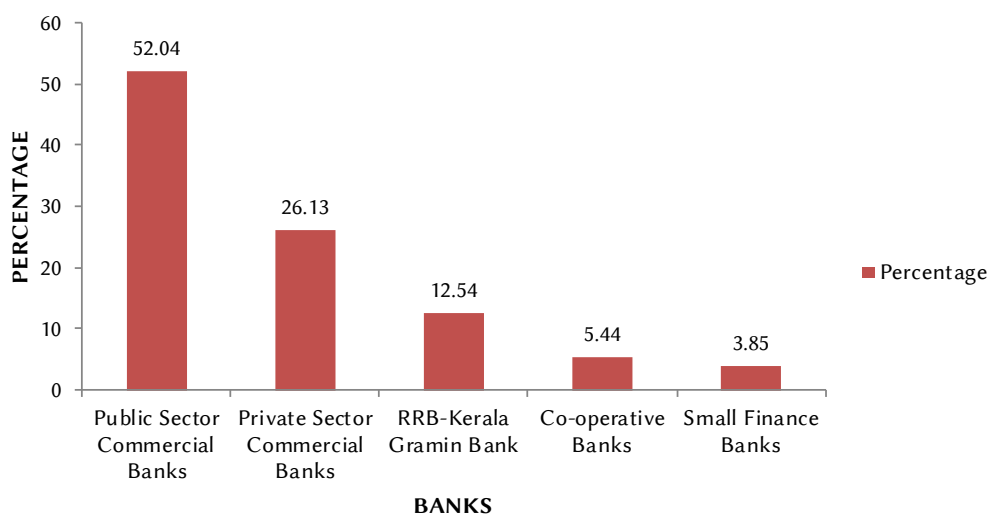
The total bank deposit in Kerala including Cooperative banks comprises of Rs 6, 54, 627.23 crore as domestic deposits (69.04 per cent of total deposits) and Rs 2, 93, 622.13 crore (30.96 per cent) as NRI deposits in March 2025 whereas it was Rs 5, 25,723.32 crore and Rs 2, 71, 258.97 crore respectively in March 2024 as per the SLBC data. The annual growth rate of total domestic deposits in March 2025 is 10.95 per cent, which is higher than that in the previous year. The total NRI deposits in the State in March 2025 showed an increase of 8.24 per cent over the previous period. The growth of bank deposits in Kerala (domestic and NRI) from 2015-2025 is shown in **Figure 1.4.1**.

As per the SLBC data, total NRI deposit of public sector banks as on March 2025 is Rs 1,23,455.89 crore, which is 42.05 per cent of total NRI deposits. Whereas the private sector banks have NRI deposits of Rs 1,63,218.01 crore, i.e., 55.59 per cent of total NRI deposits. In the previous year, it was 42.72 per cent and 55.08 per cent respectively. The Small Finance Banks received Rs 5029.87 crore as NRI deposits in March 2025, which is 1.71 per cent of the total NRI deposits. Similarly, RRBs received Rs 1918.37 crore as NRI deposit. In the co-operative sector, banks doesn't have NRI deposits. The details of NRI deposits and CD ratio of major banks in Kerala as on March 2025 are given in **Appendix 1.4.4**.

Advances

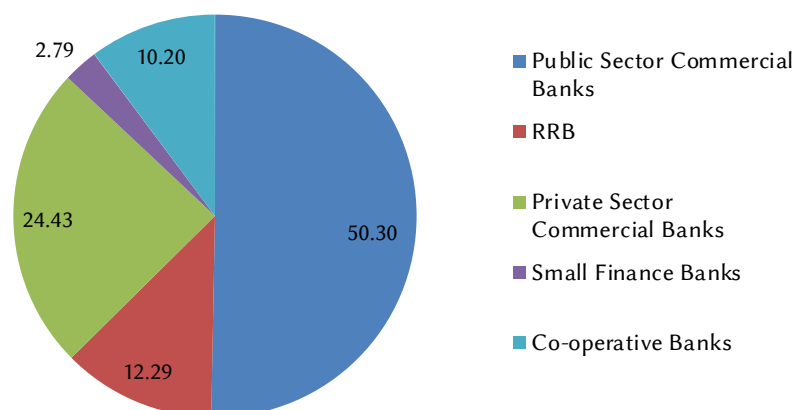
According to the SLBC data, in March 2025, Rs 6,83,512.50 crore was disbursed as advances in the State by commercial banks and co-operative banks as compared to Rs 6,30,559.13 crore in March 2024, registering an increase of about 8.39 per cent compared to the same period the previous year. All Commercial banks, including public sector commercial banks, private sector commercial banks, RRBs, and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) together disbursed Rs 6,28,247.70 crore as advances at the end of March 2025 as against Rs 5,77,092.34 crore at the end of March 2024. Out of this, the advances of public sector commercial banks, private sector commercial banks, RRBs and Small Finance Banks were Rs 3,35,394.08 crore, Rs 2,58,091.81 crore, Rs 27,562.39 crore, and Rs 7,199.42 crore, respectively. There is an increase of 6.79 per cent in Priority Sector Advance (PSA) as compared to the previous year. Public Sector Commercial Banks disbursed 52.04 per cent of their advances to the primary sector, which is higher than that of the previous year (49.34 per cent), and Co-operative banks disbursed about 5.44 per cent of their advances to the primary sector. In the previous year, it was 8.01 per cent. Kerala Gramin Bank has a share of 12.54 per cent in primary sector disbursement. Share of primary sector disbursement is shown in **Figure 1.4.2**. The advances financed by scheduled commercial banks in major States as per the RBI report are given in **Appendix 1.4.5**.

Figure 1.4.2 Share of Primary sector disbursement as on March 2025



Source: SLBC Report, March 2025

Figure 1.4.3 Share of Agricultural Advances by various banks in Kerala as on March 2025



Source: SLBC Report, March 2025

Advances for Agricultural Purposes

Total agricultural advances through commercial banks, RRBs, SFBs and co-operative banks increased to Rs 1,55,774.75 crore in March 2025 from Rs 1,46,183.46 crore in March 2024, registering a growth of 6.56 per cent over the same period last year. The share of agricultural advances to total advances is 22.79 per cent in March 2025. Share of agricultural advances of various banks as on March 2025 is shown in **Figure 1.4.3**.

Advances to SCs/STs and Weaker Sections

As on March 2025, an amount of Rs 2853.20 crore and Rs 722.06 crore were disbursed to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) and the Scheduled Tribes (ST) respectively in the State by various banks as against Rs 2,580.60 crore and Rs 727.94 crore in March 2024. The SLBC report shows that advances provided by banks increased by 10.56 per cent in the SC sector and decreased by 0.81 per cent in the ST sector as compared to the previous year. Amount disbursed to weaker sections in the State shows an increase of 7.45 per cent as compared to the previous year. The total amount disbursed to weaker sections in March 2025 is Rs 1,71,814.46 crore, and in the previous year it was Rs 1,59,901.48 crore. The group-wise advances given by banks to SCs and STs are given in **Table 1.4.2**.

Housing loans

According to SLBC data, the banks in Kerala, including commercial and co-operative banks,

sanctioned Rs 43,359.44 crore as housing loans to 6,09,010 beneficiaries as on March 2025, as against Rs 43,042.96 crore to 6,44,726 beneficiaries in March 2024. This shows an increase of 0.74 per cent in the total housing loan sanctioned compared to March 2024. Public sector banks disbursed Rs 24,639.88 crore to 2,76,889 beneficiaries, RRBs disbursed Rs 3,417.91 crore to 65,165 beneficiaries, private sector commercial banks disbursed Rs 6243.70 crore to 73,606 beneficiaries, small finance banks disbursed Rs 301.39 crore to 6,844 beneficiaries, and co-operative banks disbursed Rs 8,756.56 crore to 1,86,506 beneficiaries during the review period. Public sector commercial banks constitute a major share of housing loans (56.83 per cent), followed by co-operative banks (20.19 per cent).

Educational Loan

In Kerala, Rs 16,785.73 crore was sanctioned as educational loan for 3,02,337 students as on March 2025, as per SLBC data. The total amount sanctioned registered an increase of 12.48 per cent, and the number of students increased by 4.59 per cent compared to the previous year. The public sector commercial banks disbursed 90.26 per cent of the total educational loan, i.e., Rs 15,151.60 crore to 2,63,394 students. RRBs disbursed Rs 419.52 crore to 13,802 students, and private sector commercial banks disbursed Rs 1079.22 crore to 23,140 students. The SFBs disbursed Rs 1.32 crore to 50 students. Co-operative banks disbursed Rs 134.07 crore to 1,951 students in March 2025.

Table 1.4.2 Comparative analysis of SC/ST Advances by various banks, Kerala, between March 2024 and March 2025 Rs in crore

Sl. No.	Bank	SC Advances 2024		ST Advances 2024		SC Advances 2025		ST Advances 2025		Percentage change in SC	Percentage change in ST
		Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount		
1	Public Sector Commercial Banks	71585	1259.99	22461	392.59	63759	1356.99	18415	371.46	7.69	-5.38
2	RRBs	63253	529.07	15095	97.05	67230	606.39	16632	117.31	14.61	20.88
3	Private Sector Commercial Banks	163333	510.70	39950	99.00	114841	345.67	37628	92.41	-32.31	-6.66
4	Small Finance Banks	49340	194.87	24317	87.02	38992	144.92	15350	55.87	-25.63	-35.79
5	Co-Operative Banks	4526	85.95	6111	52.27	74514	399.24	11760	85.01	364.50	62.64
	Total banking sector	352037	2580.60	107934	727.94	359336	2853.20	99785	722.06	10.56	-0.81

Source: State Level Bankers' Committee Report, Kerala, March 2025

Financial Assistance to Women Beneficiaries

According to SLBC data, Rs 1,55,284 crore was sanctioned to 77,08,150 women beneficiaries as financial assistance as on March 2025. The total amount sanctioned registered an increase of 13.96 per cent, and the number of beneficiaries decreased by 7.45 per cent compared to the previous year. In 2024-25, the Public sector banks have disbursed Rs 81,444.06 crore to 30,95,300 beneficiaries, RRBs disbursed Rs 11,627.97 crore to 8,56,715 beneficiaries, private sector commercial banks disbursed Rs 44,830.87 crore to 17,95,730 beneficiaries, small finance banks disbursed Rs 3163.93 crore to 8, 58, 997 beneficiaries and co-operative banks disbursed Rs 14,217.23 crore to 11,01,408 beneficiaries.

Credit-Deposit Ratio

The quarterly statistics of the RBI reveal that the Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks in India increased from 79.0 per cent in March 2024 to 79.5 per cent at the end of March 2025. Andhra Pradesh topped among the states with the highest CD ratio for the last four consecutive years. Andhra Pradesh has the highest CD ratio of 151.08 per cent in March 2025, followed by Tamil Nadu (115.16 per cent).

The CD ratio of scheduled commercial banks in Kerala as on March 2025 is 68.79 per cent. The total deposits in scheduled commercial banks in Kerala increased by 11.38 per cent, i.e., Rs 8, 94, 855 crore as on March 2025 from Rs 8, 03, 411

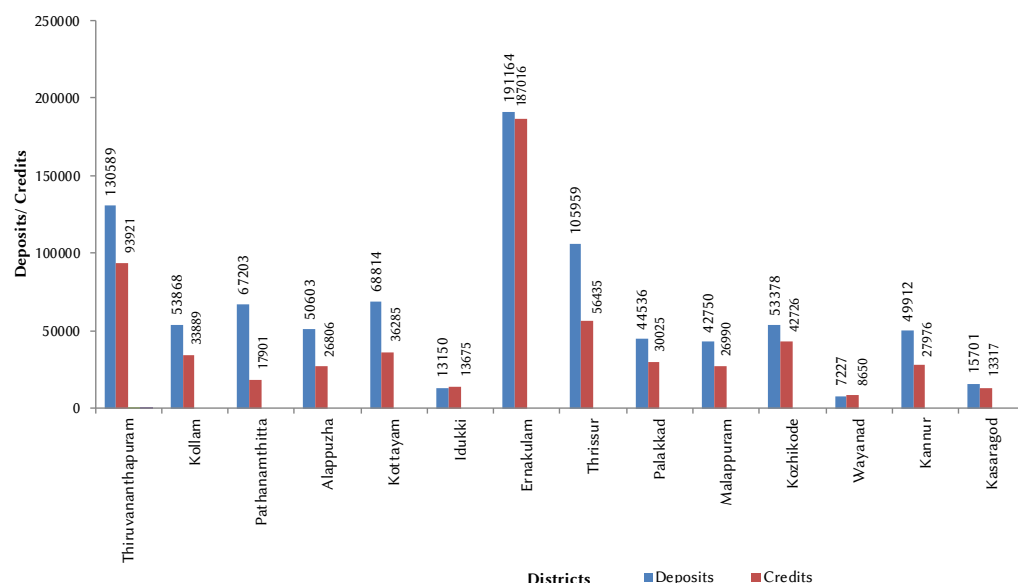
crore in March 2024. Total credit also increased by 8.97 per cent, i.e., Rs 6, 15, 612 crore as on March 2025 from Rs 5, 64, 934 crore in 2024 (Appendix 1.4.6). As per SLBC data, the overall CD ratio of all banks in Kerala, including co-operative banks, as on March 2025, is 72.08 per cent.

The CD ratio of public sector banks in India increased to 73.47 per cent in March 2025 from 71.72 per cent in March 2024. Among Public Sector banks, Andhra Pradesh has the highest CD ratio (155.95 per cent) in March 2025, followed by Telangana (120.25 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (119.95 per cent). The CD Ratio of public sector banks in Kerala decreased to 75.99 per cent in March 2025 from 76.20 per cent in March 2024. (Appendix 1.4.7). Among the public sector banks in Kerala, State Bank of India has the major share of deposits in March 2025 (58.06 per cent); however, its CD ratio is 57.51 per cent as per SLBC data.

District-wise Analysis of Banking Statistics

District-wise analysis of RBI statistics showed that Ernakulum has the highest number of Scheduled Commercial Banks branches, i.e. 1078 in March 2025 (1054 branches in March 2024), followed by Thiruvananthapuram (824 branches) and Thrissur (793 branches). Wayanad, which has the lowest number of branches, however, showed an increase from 154 in March 2024 to 161 in March 2025. (Appendix 1.4.8). District-wise distribution of deposits and credits of scheduled commercial

Figure 1.4.4 District-wise Distribution of Deposits and Credits of Scheduled Commercial Banks in Kerala as on March 2025 Rs in crore



Source: RBI - Quarterly statistics on Deposits and Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks, March 2025

banks in Kerala as on March 2024 is shown in **Figure 1.4.4**.

Co-operative banking sector in Kerala

According to the SLBC report, Kerala has a total of 982 co-operative bank branches as on March 2025, constituting about 12.15 per cent of the total bank branches in the State. Of which, 453 are in

rural areas, 283 are in semi-urban areas, and the number of branches in urban areas is 246 same as 2024.

The total deposits of commercial banks, RRBs, SFBs and co-operative banks as on March 2025 are Rs 9,48,249.36 crore, of which the share of cooperatives is 66797.69 crore (7.04 per cent). The

Table 1.4.3 Performance of Co-operative Sector, in Kerala, As on March 2025, in crores

Sl. No.	Parameter	As on March 2025			% of the cooperative sector to the total banking sector
		Co-operative Sector	Commercial Banks+ RRBs+ SFBs	Total banking sector	
1	Branches	982	7103	8085	12.15
2	Total Deposits	66797.69	881451.66	948249.36	7.04
3	Total Advances	55264.80	628247.70	683512.50	8.09
4	Total Business	122062.5	1509699	1631762	7.48
5	Priority sector advances	33448.57	275184.51	308633.08	10.83
6	% Priority sector advances	60.52	43.80	45.15	-
7	Agriculture Advances	15885.08	139889.67	155774.75	10.19
8	% Agriculture Advances	28.74	22.27	22.79	-
9	MSME Advances	6809.96	88308.11	95118.07	7.16
10	% MSME Advances	12.32	14.06	13.92	-
11	CD Ratio	82.73	71.27	72.08	-

Source: State Level Bankers' Committee, Kerala 2025

total advances from both commercial banks and co-operatives in Kerala are Rs 6,83,512.50 crore in March 2025, of which the share of cooperatives is Rs 55,264.80 crore. The share of co-operative banks in the total business (deposits and advances together) is 7.48 per cent. The total agricultural advances from commercial banks and co-operative banks in Kerala as on March 2025 are Rs 1,55,774.75 crore, and the share of co-operatives is Rs 15,885.08 crore. The per cent share of co-operatives in the agricultural advances increased to 10.19 per cent in March 2025 from 10.13 per cent in March 2024. Co-operative banks provided 60.52 per cent of their advances to the priority sector and 12.32 per cent to the MSME sector in 2024-25. The performance of Co-operatives in the banking sector is shown in **Table 1.4.3**.

Non-Banking Financial Institutions

Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE)

Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE), which was incorporated in 1969, is a fully owned Government Miscellaneous Non-Banking Finance Company (MNBC). The major business segments of KSFE are chitty, loans and advances and deposits. The aggregate turnover as on March 2025 is Rs 94,553 crore. The business transaction of KSFE in 2024 -25 is shown in **Table 1.4.4**.

Table 1.4.4 Business transactions of KSFE in 2024-25

Sl. No	Particulars	Amount (Rs crore)
1	Chitty (yearly sala)	44,287
2	Advances	31,193
3	Deposits	19,073
	Aggregate Turnover	94,553

Source: KSFE Limited

Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC)

Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC), incorporated under the State Financial Corporations Act of 1951, plays an important role in the development and industrialisation of Kerala by providing financial assistance to micro, small and medium enterprises in the manufacturing and service sectors. Net profit of KFC has increased from Rs 74.04 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 98.15 crore in 2024-25.

One of the initiatives of KFC is the launch of the KFC Pink Card for Women Entrepreneurs and envisages to promote women-led enterprises by

providing benefits such as reduced processing fees, interest concessions and access to additional finance on relaxed terms. Also, a new refinancing scheme was introduced for well-established and profitable Non-Banking Financial Companies to support them in providing financial assistance to MSMEs within the State, with a maximum loan amount of Rs.50 crore. Further details on KFC are covered in the industry section.

1.5 STATE FINANCES

The Kerala economy has recorded strong growth in recent years despite several shocks and shifts in the national and international economic landscape. Gross State Domestic Product grew by 9.97 per cent in 2024–25 compared to the previous year, which is higher than the national growth rate of 9.78 per cent. A key feature of the Kerala economy is the high share of services in Gross State Value Added. The share of the tertiary sector increased from 62 per cent in 2016–17 to 67.28 per cent in 2024–25.

The State has experienced a continuous series of exceptional challenges. These include demonetisation in 2016–17, the introduction of GST in 2017–18, Cyclone Ockhi and severe floods in 2018–19, further natural disasters and floods in 2019–20, the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020–21, and its spillover effects in 2021–22. Additional constraints emerged due to retrospective restrictions on state borrowing imposed by the Union Government from 2022–23, global economic impacts of the Russia–Ukraine war and conflicts in the Middle East in 2023–24, the Mundakkai-Chooralmala disaster in 2024–25, and the introduction of GST rate rationalisation with a two slab structure effective from 22nd September 2025. These factors have further constrained the State’s revenue generation capacity. Kerala has nevertheless attempted to sustain its economic momentum through improved tax collection and strategic expenditure rationalisation, while continuing to support essential welfare and development initiatives.

The fiscal capacity of the government to support the economy depends on revenue mobilisation and borrowing capacity. The State’s own revenue has increased, while central transfers have declined compared to the previous year. The fiscal deficit remained within the targets of the Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act during the period from 2019–20 to 2023–24, except in 2024–25. The public debt to GSDP ratio was 24.83 per cent in 2024–25. The debt to GSDP ratio, which increased to 38.47 per cent during the pandemic year 2020–21, has declined steadily and stood at 34.87 per cent in 2024–25, compared to 34.52 per cent in 2023–24. Kerala continues on a fiscal consolidation path in the post Covid 19 period. Total expenditure increased by Rs 14,301.06 crore in 2024–25 compared to the previous year.

There has been an increase of Rs 102,030 crore in the overall State’s own revenue during the period 2021–22 to 2024–25, reflecting a growth of 42.93 per cent, compared to the four years from 2017–18 to 2020–21. This was an increase of Rs 86,192 crore highlighting 44.18 per cent growth under State’s Own Tax Revenue and an amount of Rs 15838 crore reflecting 37.20 per cent under State’s own non-tax revenue. Robust revenue augmentation measures led to an increase of Rs 2,313.19 crore in the State’s own tax revenue in 2024–25 than that of the preceding year while non-tax revenue recorded a nominal rise of Rs 140.66 crore during 2024–25. The major challenge faced by the State during the fiscal year was a sharp decline in grants-in-aid from the Union Government, which fell by Rs 5,108.39 crore

(42.33 per cent). To sustain Kerala's unique development model, the State must continue to maintain a strong resource base while ensuring the judicious allocation of resources. This is essential not only to uphold its welfare commitments but also to invest in critical physical infrastructure.

Unskilled and semi-skilled workers, such as construction labourers, migrate to Kerala from other states seeking better living conditions and higher wages, meanwhile many skilled professionals including doctors, engineers, and nurses leave Kerala for overseas opportunities in search of better jobs and improved standards of living. Moreover, a significant number of these professionals tend to settle permanently in their destination countries. Additionally, India's Export-Import (Exim) policies, along with those of other countries, have contributed to a decline in the prices of Kerala's plantation and related products.

The Union Government's recent policy initiatives have had an adverse impact on the State's financial resources. The cessation of GST compensation in June 2022 significantly reduced Kerala's revenue, with the annual loss estimated at around Rs 12,000 crore. Kerala's share in central tax devolution has also been steadily declining with each Finance Commission period. The 15th Finance Commission reduced the State's horizontal devolution to 1.925 per cent of the divisible pool, down from 3.875 per cent under the 10th Finance Commission, and 3.057 per cent under the 11th Finance Commission. It was 2.50 percent under the 14th Finance Commission. Moreover, the Union Government has increasingly relied on cess and surcharges, which are levied without consulting the States and are not shared with them. This growing share of non-divisible levies has led to shrinkage in the size of the divisible tax pool, further constraining the fiscal space of States.

The Union Government's restriction on the State's borrowing capacity is unnecessary, as the State has consistently maintained a sustainable debt-to-GDP ratio. The strategy to reduce States' borrowing space has been in effect since 2017. The Union Government lowered the stipulated borrowing space of the State by including borrowings from Public Sector entities and the accrual of Public Account within the State's overall borrowing. The Union Government treats the surplus in the Public Account comprising employees' provident fund contributions, treasury savings deposits from

the public and civil deposits from government departments to undertake public works as a means to reduce the State's borrowing capacity. Tapering of the Central Transfers and the cut in the Open Market Borrowing are the key reasons for the liquidity stress being faced by the State.

The period for Revenue Deficit Grants recommended by the 15th Finance Commission ended in 2023–24. Recent changes introduced by the Union Government in the structure of Centrally Sponsored Schemes have placed additional financial burdens on the States. Over the years, the number of schemes in the category of 90 per cent central share has been steadily decreasing. The majority of projects now fall under the 'Core' category, where the State is required to bear 40 per cent of the expenditure, imposing a significant financial strain. The introduction of Single Nodal Account (SNA) and the SPARSH has adversely affected the State. Under the SNA account framework, the State Government is required to transfer the Central release along with the corresponding State share within 21 days of the Central Government's release and under SPARSH, no amount will be released in advance by the Central Government. Under SPARSH, the Central Ministry issues only a release sanction. Consequently, for every expenditure payment files must be cleared through the Ministry in PFMS, which leads to operational delays. Furthermore, the release sanction amount lapses at the end of each financial year and cannot be carried forward or utilized in the next financial year. Moreover, the State is responsible for 25 per cent of the cost of land acquisition for projects directly executed by the Centre, such as national highway developments. Unlike many other States, Kerala faces higher population density and urbanization, which substantially increases the financial demands associated with land acquisition. In spite of these obstacles, Kerala is making steady progress toward achieving sustainable economic development.

Despite the catastrophic impacts of floods, the Covid-19 pandemic and significant revenue losses, the State Government has remained committed to its development and welfare responsibilities. According to NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) - India Index, Kerala has made the most progress toward achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This reflects the efficient utilisation of funds earmarked for vital social services such as health

and education. Kerala's achievements in the health sector have garnered national and international praise. The government's swift and scientifically informed responses to major crises including COVID-19, Nipah virus outbreaks, and Wayanad disaster have saved tens of thousands of lives.

The State of Kerala provides Social Security Pensions to over 62 lakh beneficiaries at a rate of Rs2,000 per month, including nearly 11 lakh members enrolled in various welfare fund boards. Kerala government's approach to the economy is welfare oriented. State has disbursed Rs. 7504 crore from 2021-22 to Rs. 10,760 crore in 2024-25 towards the disbursement of Social Security pension. Moreover, the State Government has announced a new scheme 'Sthree Suraksha' for women including trans woman between the age group of 35 to 60. The Total beneficiaries of this scheme will be 31 lakh at a rate of Rs 1,000 per month. The Karunya Arogya Surksha Padhathi (KASP), which provides free treatment to 42 lakh families, is also making strong progress in Kerala. At a time when the nation was grappling with rising prices, Kerala stood apart thanks to its robust Public Distribution System, which effectively cushioned the impact of inflation and ensured food security for its people. Infrastructure development continues to gain momentum, with national highway projects progressing steadily across the State, targeted for completion by 2026.

Kerala's commitment to inclusive growth is exemplified by a series of prestigious and transformative development initiatives including LIFE Mission, K-FON Project, Smart Classrooms, Land for all, Petrochemical Park, Kochi, Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor, GIFT City, Oncology Pharma Park, Alappuzha, Spices Park, Thodupuzha, International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre, Kakkanad, KINFRA Industrial Park, Mattannoor, MEDS Park, Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad Coffee Park, Global Ayurveda Village, Varkala. Further strengthening the healthcare delivery system numerous Primary Health Centres (PHCs) have been upgraded to Family Health Centres (FHCs), with improved infrastructure and services. Amidst persistent fiscal constraints, the State Government has demonstrated resilience and strategic foresight by taking over loss-making public sector undertakings such as BHEL-EML and Hindustan Newsprint Ltd. This move reflects Kerala's unwavering commitment to preserving

employment, reviving industrial potential, and ensuring the continued operation of critical public enterprises.

The Government of Kerala has significantly accelerated investments in infrastructure to drive sustainable economic growth. Several key initiatives are either completed, nearing completion, or progressing steadily. Kannur International Airport is operational and serving as a major aviation hub in North Kerala. The GAIL Pipeline has been commissioned, contributing to the State's clean energy infrastructure. The Vizhinjam International Container Transshipment Terminal, a strategically important project, has made substantial progress, with the completion of Phase I and initial operations already underway. Institutions such as the Sree Narayana Open University, India's First Digital University in Thiruvananthapuram, and the First Super Fab Lab and Graphene Centre in Kochi are either established or in advanced stages of development. Other major projects include the Digital Science Park in Thiruvananthapuram, revival of Kerala Paper Products Ltd, the Chellanam Sea Wall Project, LPG Terminal at Cheru Vypin, Industrial Park at Puzhakkal (Thrissur), and the new terminal at Cochin International Airport (CIAL). The Integrated Water Transport System (Kochi Water Metro) has commenced partial operations and is expanding further. Similarly, Phase II of the Kochi Metro Rail is underway. In addition to these, several important projects have also been completed, including the Wayanad Tunnel Project, which has reduced congestion on the Thamarassery Ghat Road, the Kollam-Shenkottai Greenfield Highway; and the Sewerage Transshipment Project at Muttathara, Thiruvananthapuram. While these infrastructure projects lay the foundation for long-term growth, it is imperative that government spending is complemented by robust efforts to mobilise State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) and Non-Tax Revenue (NTR) to ensure fiscal sustainability.

Major deficit indicators

Revenue Deficit for 2024-25 is 2.49 per cent of GSDP as against 1.60 per cent in 2023-24. According to Budget Estimates of 2025-26, Revenue Deficit is estimated to be 1.90 per cent of GSDP. Fiscal deficit to GSDP proportion, which was 3.02 per cent in 2023-24 has marginally increased to 3.86 per cent in 2024-25 and estimated to be 3.16 per cent in 2025-26. Major deficit

Table 1.5.1 Major deficit indicators of the State for the period from 2013-14 to 2024-25 Rs in crore

Year	Revenue Deficit		Fiscal Deficit		Primary Deficit		G.S.D.P
	Amount	% to GSDP	Amount	% to GSDP	Amount	% to GSDP	
2013-14	11308.55	2.43	16944.12	3.64	8678.74	1.87	465041.21
2014-15	13795.96	2.69	18641.73	3.64	8872.14	1.73	512564.05
2015-16	9656.81	1.72	17818.39	3.17	6707.77	1.19	561993.61
2016-17	15484.59	2.44	26448.35	4.17	14331.85	2.26	634886.40
2017-18	16928.21	2.41	26837.41	3.83	11717.48	1.67	701588.26
2018-19	17461.92	2.22	26958.30	3.42	10210.39	1.30	788285.58
2019-20	14495.25	1.78	23837.48	2.93	4622.78	0.57	812934.63
2020-21*	20063.50	2.60	35203.69	4.56	14228.33	1.84	771723.89
2021-22*	20799.96	2.25	37306.47	4.04	14003.65	1.51	924465.42
2022-23	9226.29	0.89	25554.54	2.46	378.18	0.04	1038734.06
2023-24	18140.19	1.60	34258.05	3.02	7271.56	0.64	1135371.56
2024-25	31059.72	2.49	48248.14	3.86	19109.90	1.53	1248533.01
2025-26 BE	27124.52	1.90	45038.52	3.16	13214.80	0.93	1427145.23

Source: Finance Department, Government of Kerala

*Loan received in lieu of GST compensation of Rs 5766 crore and Rs 8739.31crore in 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively is reckoned as grant in aid from Government of India for the calculation of fiscal indicators, since the repayment obligation of this loan will not be met from the resources of the State Government.

indicators for the period from 2013- 14 to 2024-25 are shown in **Table 1.5.1**.

Receipts

The State Government's receipts are divided into revenue receipts and capital receipts. The revenue receipts comprise State's own tax and non-tax revenues, share of central tax transfers and grants-in-aid from Government of India, whereas capital receipts mostly consist of disinvestment receipts, recoveries of loans and advances, debt receipts from internal resources and loans and advances from Government of India and net accretions under Public Account.

Revenue Receipts

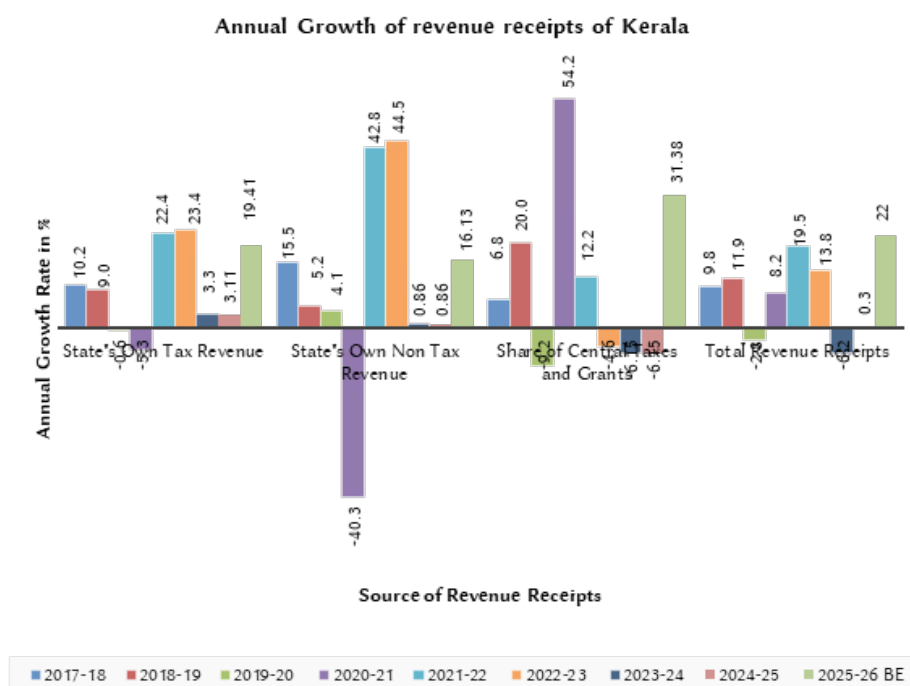
The Revenue Receipts of the State increased from Rs 69032.66 crore in 2015-16 to Rs 124861.07 crore in 2024-25, in nominal terms recording a CAGR of 7.00 per cent. However, there was only a marginal increase of Rs 374.92 crore in revenue in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24. This was mainly due to the sharp decline of grant in aid from Government of India.

The largest component of revenue receipts of the State is State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR). In 2024-25 contribution from State's own taxes was

Rs 76642.20 crore (61.38 per cent). Contribution from the Share of Central Taxes was Rs 24772.38 crore (19.84 per cent). Contribution from State's Own Non-Tax revenue in 2024-25 was Rs 16486.62crore. (13.20 per cent) and Grants in aid received from the Centre was Rs 6959.87 crore (5.57 per cent). From the Grant in Aid received from Government of India, an amount of Rs 2531.85 crore was the Finance Commission Award. The source-wise annual growth of revenue receipts of the State is given in **Figure 1.5.1**. Details of revenue receipts of the State are given in the **Appendix 1.5.1**.

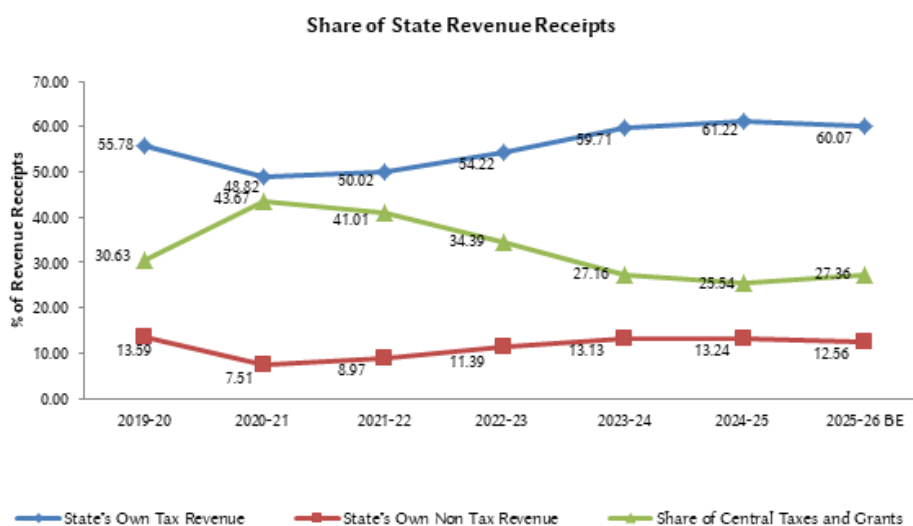
In 2015-16, the proportion of central government transfers to the total revenue receipts was 31.31 per cent. The hike in the central share in the total revenue receipts after 2014-15 is attributed to the change in procedure of routing central share in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) through the State Budgets instead of directly to implementing agencies. After reaching the highest level of 43.67 per cent in 2020-21, the share of central assistance declined in every succeeding year and reached 25.41 per cent in 2024-25. The loss due to the stoppage of GST Compensation and discontinuation of Revenue Deficit grants would further aggravate the fiscal position of

Figure.1.5.1 Source-wise annual growth of revenue receipts of the State, in per cent



Source: Finance Department, Government of Kerala

Figure 1.5.2 Trend of Different Sources in State's Revenue Receipts, in per cent



Source: Finance Department, Government of Kerala

the State in the ensuing years. The trend of State revenue receipts from different sources are given in the **Figure 1.5.2**.

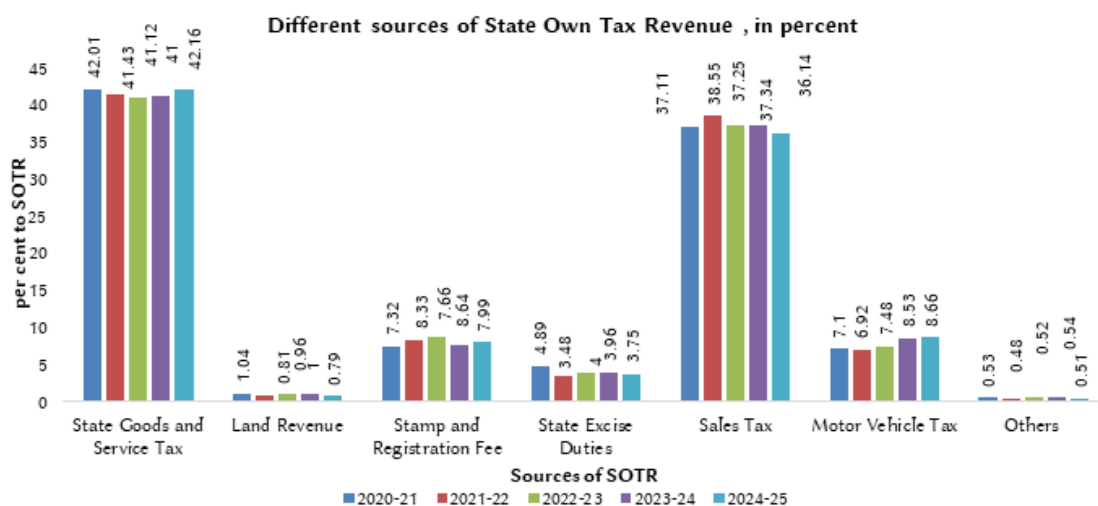
(i) State's Own Tax Revenue

The main sources of State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) are State Goods and Services Tax, Sales Tax on petroleum and alcoholic liquor for human consumption, Stamps and Registration fees, State

Excise Duties, Motor Vehicle Tax and Land Revenue. In 2015-16 SOTR was 56.49 per cent of total revenue. Despite many external and internal shocks affecting the State economy beyond the control of the State, it has increased to 61.38 per cent during 2024-25. Details of State Own Tax Revenue are given in (**Appendix 1.5.2**).

The receipt from State's Own Tax Revenue

Figure 1.5.3 Source-wise State Own Tax Revenue in 2020-21 to 2024-25



Source: Finance Department, Government of Kerala

during 2024-25 was Rs 76642.20crore. State Goods and Services Tax constituted the major share of State's Own Tax resource. In 2024-25 receipts from State Goods and Services Tax (Rs 32314.70 crore) contributed 42.16 per cent of the total SOTR, followed by 36.13 per cent from Sales Tax (Rs 27693.86 crore), 8.66 per cent from Taxes on Vehicles (Rs 6634.98 crore), 8.00 per cent from Stamp duties and registration fees (Rs 6127.56crore), 3.75 per cent from State Excise Duties (Rs 2871.63 crore), and 0.79 per cent from Land Revenue (Rs 608.73 crore). **Figure 1.5.3** shows the source-wise State own tax revenue in 2020-21 to 2024-25.

(ii) State's Own Non-Tax Revenue

Receipts under State Lotteries are the major source of Non-Tax revenue of the State. Other main sources of State's own Non-Tax Revenue (SONTR) are interest receipts and dividends, sale proceeds of forest produces and receipts in the form of fees and fines from various social developmental services. In 2024-25, Rs 16486.62 crore was realized as SONTR. In 2024-25, receipts from State Lotteries was Rs 12711.18 crore showing a growth rate of 1.44 per cent compared to 2023-24 (Rs 12530.91 crore). This constitutes 77.10 per cent of the total non-tax revenue of the State. This was followed by receipts of Rs 1655.76 crore from Social Services (10.04 per cent), Rs 351.44 crore from contribution on account of interest receipts and dividends (2.13 per cent) and Rs 255.79 crore from the sale proceeds of forest produces (1.55 per cent) and Rs 1512.45 crore

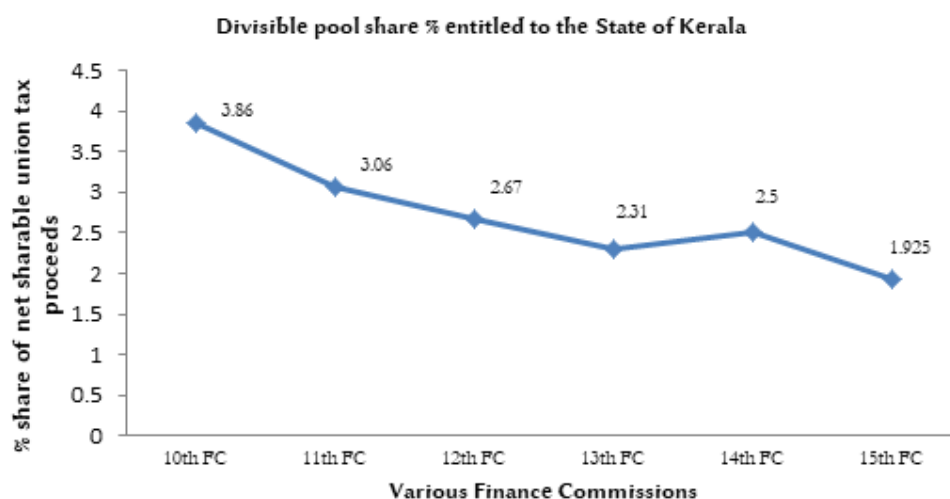
(9.17 per cent) from others. Details of State own non-tax revenue is given in **Appendix 1.5.3**.

(iii) Central Resource Transfers

Central devolution consists of two major components: the share of taxes and grants as recommended by the Finance Commissions, and grants disbursed directly by the Central Government. Within central devolution, the share of taxes is devolved based on the formula recommended by the Finance Commission (FC), as mandated under Article 270 of the Constitution. The FC also recommends grants-in-aid under Article 275 of the Constitution to bridge post-tax devolution revenue deficits. In addition, the FC recommends local body grants, disaster response grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific grants. However, although the Fifteenth Finance Commission recommended sector-specific and state-specific grants, these were not accepted by the Government of India. Tax devolution and revenue deficit grants constitute the flexible component of central resource transfers, whereas other components, such as the central share in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), are tied grants over which the State has limited flexibility in expenditure. **Figure 1.5.4** shows the trend of net shareable tax proceeds based on different Finance Commissions.

The criteria used by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Commissions to determine each State's share in Central taxes, and the weight assigned to each criterion are given in the **Table 1.5.2**.

Figure 1.5.4 Trend of net shareable tax proceeds to Kerala by various Finance Commissions



Source: Various Finance Commission Reports, Gol

Table 1.5.2 Criteria for horizontal devolution of tax resources by Centre to States in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Finance Commission Reports in per cent.

Criteria	13th FC	14th FC	15th FC
Population (1971)	25	17.5	-
Population (2011)	-	10	15
Income distance	47.5	50	45
Area	10	15	15
Forest cover	-	7.5	-
Forest and ecology	-	-	10
Demographic performance	-	-	12.5
Tax and Fiscal effort	-	-	2.5
Fiscal Discipline	17.5	-	-

Source: Various Finance Commission Reports, Gol

Kerala was entitled for 2.5 percent of net shareable Union tax proceeds during the 14th FC period. Due to the change in the criteria for horizontal devolution, the net proceeds of tax for a single year entitled to the State of Kerala is reduced to 1.925 percent in the 15th FC. The criteria used by the 13th, 14th, and 15th Commissions to determine each State's share in Central taxes, and the weight assigned to each criterion are given in the **Table 1.5.2**.

The Central Government's reduction in Income Tax and Corporate Tax rates will result in a reduction in the tax distributed to the State rather

than a reduction in the Central Government's indirect taxes. In 2024-25, total central transfers to the State was Rs 31732.25 crore against Rs 33811.18 crore in 2023-24. In this period, the share of central taxes was Rs 24772.38 crore against Rs 21742.92 crore in 2023-24 registering growth rate of 13.93 percent over the previous year. In 2023-24 the State received Rs 6959.87 crore as Grant in aid from the Centre which shows a negative growth rate of 42.33 percent compared to that in 2023-24 (Rs 12068.26 crore). The details of Central Government transfers are shown in the **Table 1.5.3**.

Expenditure

Expenditure of State includes three components viz. revenue expenditure, capital expenditure and expenditure on loan disbursements. Between 2015-16 and 2024-25, total expenditure increased from Rs 87031.76 crore to Rs 173807.57 crore in nominal terms, recording a CAGR of 8.01 per cent. Out of the total expenditure of Rs 173807.57 crore in 2024-25, Non-plan and Plan expenditure stood at Rs 140701.82 crore (80.95 per cent) and Rs 33105.74 crore (19.05 per cent) respectively. Funds for development activities are also being mobilised through KIIFB from outside the State Budget. So far, KIIFB has sanctioned projects worth Rs 69941 crore, of which Rs 37,026.50 crore has already been disbursed. This expenditure has not been reflected under the Consolidated Fund of the State.

Table 1.5.3 Details of Central Government Transfers

(Rs in Crore)						
Year	Share of Central Taxes	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Grant-in-Aid	Annual Growth Rate (%)	Total Central Govt. Transfers	Annual Growth Rate (%)
2015-16	12690.67	60.11	8921.34	18.82	21612.01	40.03
2016-17	15225.02	19.97	8510.35	-4.61	23735.37	9.82
2017-18	16833.08	10.56	8527.84	0.21	25360.92	6.85
2018-19	19038.17	13.10	11388.96	33.55	30427.13	19.98
2019-20	16401.05	-13.85	11235.26	-1.35	27636.31	-9.17
2020-21	11560.4	-29.51	31068.28	176.52	42628.68	54.25
2021-22	17820.09	54.15	30017.12	-3.38	47837.21	12.22
2022-23	18260.68	2.47	27377.86	-8.79	45638.54	-4.60
2023-24	21742.92	19.07	12068.26	-55.92	33811.18	-25.92
2024-25	24772.38	13.93	6959.87	-42.33	31732.25	-6.15
2025-26 BE	28616.5	15.52	13074.9	87.86	41691.4	31.38

Source: Finance Department, Government of Kerala

Revenue Expenditure

Revenue expenditure involves both development and non-development expenditure. Development expenditure includes expenditure on Education, Health, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry,

Industries, Labour and Employment. Non-development expenditure comprises interest payment, pension payment, debt charges, administrative services and others. Details of revenue expenditure are given in the **Table 1.5.4**.

Table 1.5.4 Trend in Revenue Expenditure

(Rs in crore)						
Year	Total Revenue Expenditure		Development Expenditure		Non Development Expenditure	
	Amount	Annual Growth Rate	Amount	% of total revenue exp.	Amount	% of total revenue exp.
2013-14	60485.50	13.08%	32921.1	54.43%	27564.4	45.57%
2014-15	71746.43	18.62%	39182.19	54.61%	32564.24	45.39%
2015-16	78689.47	9.68%	41762.67	53.07%	36926.8	46.93%
2016-17	91096.31	15.77%	48602.63	53.35%	42493.68	46.65%
2017-18	99948.35	9.72%	52979.53	53.01%	46968.82	46.99%
2018-19	110316.39	10.37%	56787.99	51.48%	53528.4	48.52%
2019-20	104719.92	-5.07%	47550.18	45.41%	57169.74	54.59%
2020-21	123446.33	17.88%	71223.99	57.70%	52222.34	42.30%
2021-22	146179.51	18.42%	74026.85	50.64%	72152.66	49.36%
2022-23	141950.94	-2.89%	70133.18	49.41%	71817.75	50.59%
2023-24	142626.34	0.48%	62657.34	43.93%	79969	56.07%
2024-25	155920.79	9.32%	75992.04	48.74%	79928.75	51.26%
2025-26 BE	179476.20	15.11%	89808.77	50.04%	89667.43	49.96%

From 2006-07 onwards, assistance to LSG is being classified under “Grant in Aid and Contributions”, Developmental Expenditure of the devolutions to LSGs is also reckoned.

Source: Finance Department, Government of Kerala

The operational and maintenance cost for the completed projects and programmes are classified under the revenue account. Grants provided by the State to meet salaries and pension liabilities of employees in the Universities and State autonomous bodies and also the pension liabilities of employees of Panchayat Raj institutions are classified as revenue expenditure. Major portion of revenue expenditure devolved to the Local Self Government Institutions is utilized for the creation of capital assets at the local government level.

Revenue expenditure increased to Rs 155920.79 crore in 2024-25 as against Rs 142626.34 crore in 2023-24. Of the total revenue expenditure of 2024-25, plan expenditure was Rs 16471.90 crore and non-plan expenditure was Rs 139448.89 crore. The ratio of revenue expenditure to GSDP decreased to 12.49 per cent in 2024-25 compared to 12.56 per cent in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, the share of committed expenditure on revenue expenditure marginally increased to 72.34 per cent compared to the previous year level of 71.45 per cent. Expenditure on committed liabilities on salaries, pension, interest payments, subsidies and devolution to the LSGIs constituted 72.34 per cent of revenue expenditure. Salary and Pension as percent of total revenue expenditure decreased to 43.47 per cent in 2024-25 from 45.00 per cent in 2023-24. Interest payment as percent of total revenue expenditure also decreased to 18.69 percent in 2024-25 from 18.92 per cent in 2023-

24. Details of Revenue expenditure are given in the **Appendix 1.5.4** and **Appendix 1.5.5**.

Capital Expenditure

As most of State expenditure on Human Capital is categorized as revenue expenditure, the outlay in capital expenditure has always been small. Still, the Government of Kerala is committed to infrastructural development in the State and has initiated innovative financing models to support major infrastructural projects for the sustainable development of the State Economy. These models have already begun to show positive results by attracting long term investment in capital projects. Details of capital expenditure and total expenditure are given in the **Appendix 1.5.6**.

The share of Government spending on capital projects in various sectors has increased during the recent year. The capital expenditure of the State in 2024-25 was Rs 17886.77 crore. Public Works continued to remain the major segment of capital outlay with 14.18 per cent of the total capital outlay in 2024-25 followed by, Industries and Labour (3.55 percent) Agriculture and Allied Activities (3.05 per cent) and Irrigation (2.78 per cent). Even though the capital expenditure of the State for the financial year 2024-25 is Rs 17886.78 crore in accordance with the accounting procedure, the effective capital expenditure of the State is Rs 24151.58 crore including the revenue expenditure in capital nature mostly a portion of the amount devolved to the

Box 1.5.1 Retaining Planning in a Post-Planning Commission Era: Evidence from Kerala

In 2015, without any political consultations at the national or State levels, the BJP government abolished the Planning Commission. With this change, the distinction between Plan and Non-Plan expenditure that had existed until then was eliminated from Union budgets. All decisions regarding budget expenditure came to be taken in an entirely political manner by the Union Ministry of Finance. Following the Centre, most States in India dissolved their State Planning Boards and also abolished the Plan–Non-Plan distinction in their State budgets. The Union Government also put forward the argument that this would increase the share of capital expenditure in total expenditure and reduce the share of revenue expenditure.

However, Kerala took a political decision to continue the planning process. The Plan–Non-Plan distinction was also retained in the budgets. Many critics held that this would lead to a situation in which capital expenditure would not increase and revenue expenditure would rise.

Now a study by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), Delhi, has brought considerable clarity to this issue. If we take the average of 18 major Indian States during the period when Planning Boards were dissolved (that is, the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period; 2012–13 to 2016–17), the share of capital expenditure in total expenditure was 12.8 per cent. But in the subsequent five years from 2017–18 to 2021–22, this share declined to 11.3 per cent. In the following two years (2022–23 and 2023–24), it stood at 12.2 per cent. In short, after the dissolution of Planning Boards, the share of capital expenditure declined across all major states.

The same study also underlines Kerala's distinct position. During the Twelfth Five-Year Plan period, the share of capital expenditure in Kerala's budget expenditure was 6.3 per cent. However, in the subsequent five years from 2017–18 to 2021–22, the share of capital expenditure increased to 7.5 per cent, and in the following two years (2022–23 and 2023–24) it further increased to 8.2 per cent. In other words, by retaining the Planning Board, maintaining the Plan–Non-Plan distinction, and strengthening the planning process, Kerala was able to significantly increase capital expenditure from 2017 onwards. These figures do not include capital investments made through KIIFB, because in all-India budgetary accounts, the funds provided by the State government to KIIFB are classified as revenue expenditure. If these are also included, capital expenditure in Kerala would be even higher than this study indicates.

Local Self Government Institutions. Including the amount expended by the KIIFB will further increase the total volume of capital expenditure. The details regarding capital outlay is given in **Appendix 1.5.7.**

Debt Profile

Debt outstanding of the State comprises of (i) Internal debt including market loan and loans from financial institutions, (ii) Loans and advances from the Union Government, and liabilities on account Small Savings, Provident Fund Deposits, etc. Outstanding Public Debt of the State at the end of 2024-25 was Rs 310015.86 crore. The annual growth rate of Public debt increased to 15.68 per cent in 2024-25 from 12.60 per cent in 2023-24. The Public Debt- GSDP ratio stood at 23.60 per cent and 24.83 per cent in 2023-24 and 2024-25 respectively. In a report published by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on September 4, 2025, reviewing the financial position of states for the financial year 2022-23, there are 14 states with a public debt-to-GSDP ratio of more than 25 per cent. Kerala's is lower than this percentage. As per the final GSDP for 2022-23, the state's public debt is 22.91percent.

small savings, provident funds etc. at the end of 2024-25 were Rs 125297.78 crore compared to Rs 123944.24 crore in 2023-24. The gross and net retention of debt in 2024-25 was Rs 43379.42 crore and Rs 14300.63 crore respectively.

Kerala remains steadfast in its pursuit of long-term, sustainable economic stability, with a focused emphasis on enhancing revenue generation through both tax and non-tax avenues. This strategic vision encompasses the rationalization of expenditures, the assurance of a fair share of central transfers, and the optimal utilization of state-owned resources to maximize efficiency and returns. To navigate prevailing fiscal challenges, the state must adopt resilient, innovative, and forward-looking financial strategies. The realization of Kerala's developmental aspirations and its path to economic recovery will significantly hinge on collaborative engagement with the Union Government and the prudent management of available resources.

The share on internal debt in the public debt of the state was 95.71 per cent in 2024-25. Outstanding internal debt increased to 296717.59 crore in 2024-25 from Rs 257157.92 crore in 2023-24. The growth rate of outstanding internal debt in 2024-25 was 15.38 per cent. The outstanding liabilities under loans and advances from the Centre increase to Rs 13298.28 crore in 2024-25 from Rs 10832.07 crore in 2023-24 due to interest – free loans received as Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) over and above the borrowing ceiling of the State. The share of the Central loan in the public debt of the State was only 4.29 per cent in 2024-25. The outstanding liabilities under

1.6 ANNUAL PLAN 2025-26

Annual Plan 2025-26

The Annual Plan 2025–26 advances the State’s vision of Navakeralam, while addressing persistent challenges arising from natural disasters and fiscal constraints. The Plan places strong emphasis on income enhancement initiatives in agriculture and allied sectors. It also focuses on promoting industrial investment, developing critical infrastructure, and expanding the MSME ecosystem through Mission 1000. Special attention is given to emerging opportunities in tourism and information technology.

The Plan strengthens quality improvement in education at all levels through targeted

interventions, including teacher training. Increased allocations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities, and gender development programmes reflect the State’s commitment to social inclusion. The health sector remains a priority, with progress towards establishing dialysis units in all district and taluk headquarters and modern stroke units in every district hospital. Expansion of the palliative care network and welfare schemes for senior citizens addresses the State’s changing demographic profile. The Plan reinforces Kerala’s long standing commitment to decentralisation by increasing allocations to Local Self Governments to 28 per cent of the total Plan outlay.

Table 1.6.1 Sector-wise Outlay in Annual Plan 2024-25 & 2025-26Rs crore

Sector-wise Outlay in Annual Plans 2024-25 and 2025-26								
Sl. No.	Sector/ Sub Sector	2024-25			2025-26			Per cent increase/ decrease in Aggregate Plan 2025-26 over 2024-25
		State Plan Outlay	Central Assistance	Aggregate Plan	State Plan Outlay	Central Assistance	Aggregate Plan	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I	Agriculture and Allied Activities	1698.30	227.98	1926.28	1767.53	234.73	2002.26	3.94
II	Rural Development	2157.90	5032.22	7190.12	2368	5470.87	7838.87	9.02
III	Co-operation	134.42	34.91	169.33	139.42	34.91	174.33	2.95
IV	Irrigation and Flood Control	588.85	7.00	595.85	609.85	7.00	616.85	3.52
V	Energy	1150.76	0.00	1150.76	1156.76	0.00	1156.76	0.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
VI	Industry and Minerals	1729.13	12.00	1741.13	1819.36	12.00	1831.36	5.18
VII	Transport and Communication	2327.46	0.00	2327.46	2450.03	0.00	2450.03	5.27
VIII	Science, Technology & Environment	235.55	0.90	236.45	251.15	0.90	252.05	6.60
IX	Social Services	9844.47	3076.53	12921.00	10475.52	3270.29	13745.81	6.38
X	General Economic Services	828.21	96.89	925.10	1084.43	94.43	1178.86	27.43
XI	General Services	142.95	28.48	171.43	162.95	28.58	191.53	11.72
	Total(I to XI)	20838	8516.91	29354.91	22285.00	9153.71	31438.71	7.10
XII	LSGD	8532.00	0.00	8532.00	9215.00	0.00	9215.00	8.01
XIII	RKI	1000.00	0.00	1000.00	1000	0.00	1000	0.00
Grand Total		30370.00	8516.91	38886.91	32500.00	9153.71	41653.71	7.11

The aggregate Plan outlay of Annual Plan 2025-26 was Rs 41,653.71crore which includes State Plan of Rs 32,500 crore and central assistance of Rs 9,153.71crore. The Plan Grants to LSGIs in the Annual Plan 2025-26 is Rs 9100.00 crore which constitutes 28 per cent of the State Plan outlay. In addition to this, an outlay of Rs 115.00 crore under

the EAP “Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP)” is also set apart for the LSGIs (Urban Local Bodies) taking the total share of LSGIs in the state plans outlay to 28.35 percent. Out of the total outlay of LSGIs, Rs 7449.01 crore is proposed for general sector, Rs 1435.25 crore for SCSP, and Rs 215.74 crore for TSP.

Table 1.6.2 Sector wise expenditure incurred during the Annual Plan 2024-25 (Rs in crore)

Sl. No.	Sector/ Sub Sector	2024-25		
		State Plan Outlay	Expenditure (Plan Space - Treasury)	% of Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
I	Agriculture and Allied Activities	1698.30	1223.93	72.07
II	Rural Development	2157.90	1436.32	66.56
III	Co-operation	134.42	35.83	26.66
IV	Irrigation and Flood Control	588.85	363.76	61.77
V	Energy	1150.76	25.24	2.19
VI	Industry and Minerals	1729.13	913.44	52.83
VII	Transport and Communication	2327.46	3804.13	163.45
VIII	Science, Technology & Environment	235.55	112.03	47.56
IX	Social Services	9844.47	9755.35	99.09
X	General Economic Services	828.21	420.95	50.83
XI	General Services	142.95	662.49	463.44
	Total (I To XI)	20838.00	18753.50	90.00
XII	LSGD	8532.00	9452.72	110.79
XIII	RKI	1000.00	1030.30	103.03
Grand Total		30370.00	29236.5	96.27

The allocation of the Gender Budget for 2025-26 is Rs. 4840.12 crore, or 20.8 per cent of the total Plan Budget of Rs. 23,285 crore (excluding the allocation of Local Self Government Institutes). The allocation for the welfare of transgender persons under various schemes in 2025-26 is Rs. 6.93 crore. The proposed Child Budget for 2025-26 is Rs. 1713.26 crore, or 7.36 percent of the total Plan Budget. The sector wise outlays earmarked in the Annual Plans 2024-25 and 2025-26 are given in **Table 1.6.1**.

The sector wise expenditure incurred during Annual Plan 2024-25 are given in **Table 1.6.2**.

CHAPTER

02

ERADICATION OF EXTREME
POVERTY IN KERALA

ERADICATION OF EXTREME POVERTY IN KERALA

The eradication of extreme poverty in Kerala has garnered international attention, marking a significant milestone in the state's historic efforts to alleviate poverty since its formation. This experiment has also shown the world that there are alternative and speedy pathways to achieving this important goal, which are possible when governments demonstrate a resolute commitment to prioritising a pro-poor agenda. This achievement of Kerala assumes great importance in India, which has a long history of implementing targeted programmes to reduce poverty.

The Government of India's initiatives for poverty alleviation since independence could be classified under four categories: self-employment, wage-employment, food-security, and social-security schemes. However, despite the large number of programmes and the significant resources invested in them, their overall impact has been limited. Many authors have noted that they were hindered by poor targeting and fragmented execution, resulting in an inability to address the underlying problem directly. As a result, a substantial segment of the population continues to live in poverty. Although recent national estimates of multidimensional poverty by NITI Aayog suggest that poverty in India has declined from 29.17 per cent in 2013-14 to 11.28 per cent in 2022-23, these figures warrant cautious interpretation. Many authors have pointed out that these estimates are

based on NFHS 2020–21 data collected during the COVID-19 pandemic and may therefore not accurately reflect the actual poverty situation in the country. This implies that the country needs to focus more on realistic estimation of poverty and to reduce it in a time bound manner to ensure equitable growth, rather than the skewed and uneven growth model that currently predominates.

Globally, it has been claimed that extreme poverty has been declining rapidly since 1990, lifting more than 1 billion people out of deprivation, according to the World Bank's Poverty, Prosperity, and Planet report (2024). Accordingly, the world was closer than ever to ending extreme poverty by 2019. However, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic shocks have reversed this progress, and extreme poverty has risen for the first time in decades. In 2024, it is estimated that approximately 8.5 per cent of the world's population—around 692 million people—still lived on less than \$2.15 a day, with recent declines stalling due to slower economic growth, inflation, conflict, and fragility. It is evident that these disruptions would have likely influenced poverty levels in India, and consequently in Kerala, as the pandemic had a significant impact on both.

It is in this context that Kerala's experience with poverty reduction becomes particularly noteworthy. In fact, this marks a significant

milestone in the state's ongoing commitment to the well-being of its people. As it is widely known, in Kerala, poverty reduction has been an integral part of economic policy since the formation of the first Ministry in 1957. Early government initiatives, including land reforms, a robust public distribution system, universal education, social security measures, and health services, laid a solid foundation for improving the lives of the poor. It was on this bedrock that later interventions, such as the comprehensive literacy campaign, democratic decentralisation, and a range of welfare measures, were able to take root and transform social outcomes. Over the last nearly three decades, Local Governments, in particular, have played a pivotal role in advancing this mission by implementing a broad spectrum of social welfare programmes on their own, alongside various thoughtfully devised state-sponsored schemes and a few centrally sponsored programmes. It is these multiple approaches adopted by successive governments that have substantially reduced poverty levels in the state, culminating in the declaration of the eradication of extreme poverty on November 1, 2025.

Major initiatives for poverty alleviation in the past

As stated above, the state government has implemented several programmes for poverty alleviation, with varying results. Various poverty alleviation programmes sponsored by the central government have also been implemented from time to time. Among these efforts, the establishment of Kudumbasree was a major catalyst in Kerala's poverty alleviation efforts, significantly strengthening community-based interventions. Kudumbasree originated with the rollout of the historic People's Plan Campaign, which redefined the development paradigm of Kerala. Both the People's Plan programme and the efforts of Kudumbasree have contributed significantly to poverty reduction, with the poor households being given opportunities for livelihood.

One of the innovative poverty alleviation programmes implemented by the state government with the help of the Kudumbasree network was *Ashraya*, which was launched to address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable-destitute families and those with physical or mental disabilities-who often remained excluded from mainstream anti-poverty schemes and lacked the

awareness or ability to claim their entitlements. By 2015, *Ashraya* had reached over 72,000 families across nearly all local governments, with projects worth Rs. 4,107.6 million. However, the programme faced limitations, including a lack of ownership by local self-government institutions, a narrow focus on housing and food rather than comprehensive poverty alleviation, and insufficient community participation.

In 2017, *Ashraya* was restructured as *Agathirabitha Keralam* (Destitute-Free Kerala) to expand its scope and improve targeting. The revised framework broadened the criteria for vulnerability-such as including fisherfolk along with SC/ST communities-and strengthened coordination between Kudumbashree, Local Governments, and other development departments. In this ongoing programme, Kudumbashree provides a challenge fund (40 per cent of the total project cost, up to Rs40 lakh for general projects and Rs 50 lakh for ST projects), with the remaining funds contributed by Local Governments. Assistance is delivered through customised plans tailored to the specific needs of each household. Unlike the earlier version, Destitute-Free Kerala has also incorporated digital tools, including a mobile application for beneficiary identification and project preparation, enhancing both efficiency and transparency.

These sustained efforts have had a significant impact on reducing poverty in Kerala. Kerala's absolute poverty ratio fell from 59.9 per cent in 1973-74 to 25.43 per cent in 1993-94, and further to 11.3 per cent by 2011-12. As of 2011-12, rural poverty had decreased to 7.3%, while urban poverty remained at 15.3 per cent. The state has also consistently performed well on multidimensional poverty indicators. According to NITI Aayog's inaugural Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2021, Kerala recorded the lowest multidimensional poverty levels in the country, with minimal deprivation across indicators such as child and adolescent mortality (0.19%), maternal health (1.73%), years of schooling (1.78%), school attendance (0.3%), and sanitation (1.86%). Only a small fraction of households experienced deprivation in nutrition, housing, drinking water, electricity, assets, or access to banking.

The progress continued in subsequent years. In NITI Aayog's latest report, National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progressive

Review 2023, Kerala's multidimensionally poor population further declined from 0.71% to 0.55% between 2015–16 and 2019–21, reaffirming the state's position as a national leader in poverty alleviation.

Why the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme?

Although Kerala has consistently performed better than most Indian states in reducing average poverty levels, a marginal section of its population has continued to experience extreme deprivation, requiring targeted interventions to overcome it. Viewed in the context of the broader global effort to eradicate extreme poverty, this persistence—despite Kerala's comparatively strong social indicators—underscored the need for focused policies to ensure that the benefits of development reach those who remain most vulnerable.

Recognising this, the re-elected government resolved at its very first cabinet meeting on 20 May 2021 to implement a five-year programme to eradicate extreme poverty in the state—an initiative that later would be regarded as a landmark in Kerala's development trajectory. The Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) aims to identify extremely poor households and the root causes of their deprivation, and address the specific causes in each household by integrating social welfare programmes, livelihood generation schemes and access to essential services.

Unique features of Kerala's Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme

Kerala's Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme is distinguished by a set of core features that make it unique in its approach. Firstly, the programme addresses all categories of people who have been historically and socially extremely deprived. Secondly, the programme follows a participatory identification process, which relies on community-level engagement and the involvement of elected representatives and ordinary citizens, to ensure that the details of even the most vulnerable and voiceless households are collected. Thirdly, this process is multidimensional, focusing on four critical indicators—food insecurity, unsafe housing, lack of basic income and severe health distress—thereby ensuring that those who are genuinely experiencing extreme deprivation are accurately identified and targeted.

Another defining feature is the automatic inclusion of families experiencing severe distress, such

as those affected by chronic illness, disability, or destitution. This safeguards against the exclusion of individuals who are unable to seek assistance or articulate their needs. Fourthly, this programme prioritises convergence across sectors and departments, integrating interventions from health, social welfare, housing, local governance and livelihood. This enables a unified response, addressing the multiple deprivations faced by households rather than offering fragmented, scheme-based support.

Fifthly, the implementation is decentralised, with Local Governments playing a central role in planning, execution, and monitoring. Each identified household receives a customised intervention plan, tailored to its specific needs—ranging from food support and health care to housing assistance, livelihood creation, and long-term care services. Continuous follow-up by frontline workers ensures timely interventions and prevents families from slipping back into extreme deprivation.

This approach undoubtedly emphasises Kerala's commitment to inclusive growth, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It signifies a shift from generalised poverty alleviation to precision-targeted interventions, thereby ensuring that no citizen is left behind due to their inability to raise their voices. The programme has attempted to distinguish between poverty and extreme poverty, rather than treating these two conditions as one and the same. This has clarified the nature of interventions, enabling the implementation of targeted interventions specifically designed to address extreme poverty. It has been concluded from the field observations and close reviews that those in extreme poverty cannot progress in life or transcend poverty without substantial governmental and societal support. This scheme was initiated to rescue such families from the threat of extreme poverty.

Extreme Poverty Identification Programme (EPIP)

The Extreme Poverty Eradication programme was first implemented on a pilot basis in three different corners of the state—Vadakkanchery Municipality (Thrissur), Anchuthengu Gram Panchayat (Thiruvananthapuram), and Tirunelli Gram Panchayat (Wayanad). Based on this, the project was extended to all local governments in the state. Thus, a Statewide survey was conducted to

identify extremely poor households based on four key deprivation categories: lack of food, income, health, and shelter. The Local self-government department was the nodal agency that conducted the survey. The survey targeted households not previously covered under the Ashraya programme, the State's flagship programme for identifying the destitute, which had 1.57 lakh beneficiaries.

Basic approaches to identifying the extremely poor

Extreme poverty is the most severe form of socio-economic deprivation, occurring when individuals or families are unable to secure adequate food, access healthcare, obtain safe housing, or earn a basic income. Among these, food insecurity is a prime determinant, as households may slip into starvation when they cannot afford sufficient food, especially when public food supplies are unavailable, or when they lack the means or physical ability to cook and consume it. Health-related distress is another major driver. High morbidity rates and chronic illnesses—such as kidney, liver, and heart diseases, stroke, and severe mental health conditions—frequently reduce individuals' ability to work. Persons with severe disabilities also face significant barriers to earning a livelihood. As a result, health problems often push families into extreme poverty. Income distress,

whether due to reduced work capacity, loss of income from assets, or overwhelming debt, further exacerbates vulnerability. Housing deprivation is another serious concern. Families unable to afford safe shelter are forced to live in dangerous, temporary or public spaces. In summary, the most critical factors leading to extreme poverty are food insecurity, unsafe housing, inadequate income and poor health status. These four determinants were therefore adopted as key indicators of extreme poverty. In addition to these criteria, the extent of social discrimination experienced due to historical, socio-economic, and gender-related factors was also considered.

Criteria adopted to identify the extremely poor

The extremely poor households were selected based on well-defined criteria. To start with, each of the four general factors contributing to extreme poverty was divided into sub-factors. These factors were further categorised into two: distress factors and extreme distress factors. Extreme distress factors were the primary criteria used to identify households with extreme poverty. Distress factors, on the other hand, were given the next priority. Both extreme distress factors and distress factors were given different weightages accordingly. A brief description of the extreme distress factors and distress factors is given in **Table 2.1**

Table 2.1 Extreme Distress Factors and distress factors used to identify extreme poor in the state

Extreme Distress Factors	Distress Factors
Food/Nutrition availability	
Families who are unable to cook on their own, buy food from outside due to old age or physical or mental challenges or those who cannot pay for some one to cook	Families with children aged six or below and having Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), as per Anganwadi records
Families who do not regularly receive food due to living on the street or in public places, or who receive free meals from public institutions	
Health	
Families who have completely lost their income earning capacity (from employment, assets, or investments) due to serious illness or have been bedridden for reasons other than those mentioned above	A family that has lost assets and livelihood due to indebtedness caused by illness or accident
Families who have lost income from employment, investments or assets, as part of taking care of family members who face physical or mental challenges or 80% of physical challenges at home	
Income#	
A family without any member with income earning capacity and no income from assets or investments	A family where the primary income earner is dead or have abandoned the family

A poor family with only members over 60 years and is with physical difficulties is employed, while no other income-earning members/avenues are present	A family that has lost work equipment and livelihood opportunities in a disaster and those with no other means of income
A poor family without any income source and with members (s) above 70 years of age	
Place for Residence	
Wanderers (those who have been in the local government area for the last year) without shelter.	Those who live in miserable conditions in dangerous and unhygienic places (such as railways, roads, rivers, swamps, fields, near garbage dumps, edges of dirt canals, bus stands and markets). (Conditions other than sea turbulence)
	Poor families who lost their homes due to debt and natural disasters

Source: Hand book on extreme poverty identification, KILA, #Social security pension is not considered income

In addition, special consideration was given to socially backward and marginalised groups to address extreme poverty, and a few other indicators were included for such specific social groups. They, however, will also be eligible for consideration in terms of the general extreme distress factors and distress factors mentioned in **Table 2.1**, in addition to the distress factors outlined in **Table 2.2**

Moreover a set of criteria was also considered for those who are socially vulnerable for various reasons, to facilitate the selection process. This list included poor families with HIV-positive people, poor families with orphaned children, and poor

families with LGBTQIA+ people. This ensures that poor people experiencing social isolation due to infections like HIV or gender specific discrimination are given special consideration as part of this programme. (**Table 2.3**).

Urban poverty was also considered as a distinct category, and special consideration was given to the condition of eight or more people having to live together in a house measuring under 150 square feet, which was regarded as an extreme form of poverty.

Table 2.2 Distress Factors for Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled caste families and coastal residents

Distress Factors for Scheduled Tribe Families
- Living in the forest, at least three kilometres from basic amenities such as public transport, primary health centres, schools, ration shops, and a scheduled tribe family with less than 25 cents of land. - Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG – Kaadar, Cholanaiikkan, Kattunaikkan, Koraga, Kurumba) - Families with no other source of income and dependent only on forest produce. - Families with no one educated above the primary level (seventh standard) of schooling. - Families with a person who has to move to the neighbouring states for employment as unskilled agricultural labour and has less than 25 cents of agricultural land and no other employer in the family. - Family with a person who has a height-to-weight ratio (BMI) of less than 16 or persons with chronic energy deficiency. - A family with no land to live in or that lives in a residential area of less than 150 square feet with eight or more members.
Distress Factors for Scheduled Caste Families
- Those who lost their homes due to disasters. - Family living in an area with no transportation within 500 meters, no access to drinking water within 100 meters and no electrification. - Families with no one educated above the primary level (seventh standard) of education.
Coastal Residents
- People are regularly threatened by the sea or those who have lost their habitat due to the coastal hazards. - Families with no one educated above the primary level (seventh standard) of education.

Source: Hand book on extreme poverty identification, KILA

Table 2.3 Specific factors for those experiencing social vulnerability

- Poor families with HIV infected people (except those with NPNS, NPS, NPI ration cards, those without ration cards are considered poor families)
- Poor families with orphaned children
- Poor families with LGBTQIA+ members

Source: Hand book on extreme poverty identification, KILA

Weightage for factors contributing to extreme poverty

The indicators have been prioritised in such a way that 10 marks each have been allotted for the indicators under extreme distress factors, and 5 marks each have been allotted for indicators under distress factors, as well as those in Tables 2 and 3. A household must obtain at least 10 marks to be considered extremely poor. More clearly, a household which suffers from a single extreme distress factor would get included in the list of the extremely poor. Likewise, a household with two distress factors would also be eligible for being included in the list. In addition, the factors outlined in Table 2.2, considered for socially disadvantaged groups and those outlined in Table 2.3, for socially vulnerable groups, are considered as distress factors. Families with any two of the said factors outlined in Tables 2.2 and 2.3 are also considered extremely poor. Every family that is additionally affected by an extreme poverty factor receives a cumulative advantage. This methodology has ensured that the most vulnerable, the extremely poor in society, are included in the list.

Institutional setup

The Extreme Poverty Identification Process was a thorough, multi-stage process that began with the development of methodology and guidelines, followed by rigorous training cascaded from the state to local body wards.

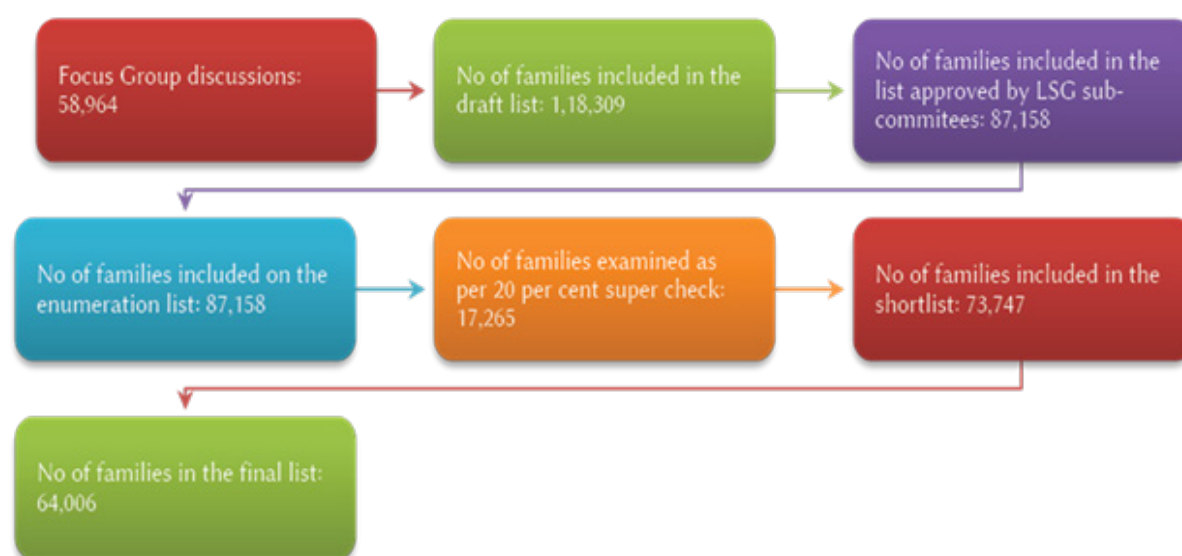
Formulation and fine-tuning of the methodology, as well as preparing the guidelines for EPIP, were the first steps in the process. The activities to identify the extremely poor and prepare micro plans were to be led by the respective local self-government institutions. People's committees were formed at the LSG level across the state, consisting of the LSG Chairperson, standing committee chairpersons, CDS chairpersons, elected representatives, VEO representatives of residents association, SCST promoters, youth coordinators, etc, tasked with the role of preparing the draft list of extremely poor in the respective LSG and submitting it for the approval of the

governing body. Since the above activities need to be organised simultaneously in various areas of the local self-government, people's committees were formed in each ward/division, headed by the respective ward member/councillor, with ASHA workers, Kudumbashree, SC/ST promoters, residents' associations, and BLOs as members.

The probable list of extremely poor families was compiled through meetings of these committees and focus group discussions. To be precise, the ward/division level committees compiled a preliminary list of extremely poor individuals in their respective wards, which was expanded through focus group discussions with social organisations, Kudumbashree members, and others. The lists prepared in this manner were compared with the lists of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, persons with disabilities, and palliative care beneficiaries etc, and from these lists, those who satisfied the conditions of extreme poor according to the criteria of the extreme poverty identification process determined by the state government were included in the focus group discussions and ward-level lists. This was again vetted by the LSG-level committee. Through this intensive participatory process, 1,18,309 poor households were nominated. (Figure 2.1) This was closely verified by the LSG level sub-committees, and 87,158 families were shortlisted. This data was recorded in a Management Information System, and subsequently, 87,158 households were interviewed face-to-face. Pre-enumeration and enumeration teams were formed in all wards, comprising one ward officer, one facilitator and one volunteer. Pre-enumeration of data was conducted, and the details were entered into the mobile app, which was then reviewed by the ward or division-level committees. Subsequently, additional details were collected through house visits and field visits, and entered into the app, which was also verified by the ward/division-level committees.

Subsequently, twenty per cent of the enumerated household data (17265 families) were super-checked by a block-level super-checking team, and a priority list of 73747 families was drawn.

Figure 2.1 The process of identifying and finalising eligible households



Source: EPEP Cell, LSGD

This was placed in Grama/Ward Sabhas, and subsequently, the LSG-level draft lists of families were published, along with a provision for raising complaints. Final lists of all eligible families were published after addressing the complaints from the public. It is through this rigorous multi-stage identification process that 64006 extremely poor families, comprising 103,099 individuals, were identified in the state. The process was carried out with the strenuous efforts of more than 13 lakh personnel, including officers, local representatives, NGO members, and volunteers.

A three-tiered committee structure was established at the LSGI, district and state levels, each with distinct roles and responsibilities, to monitor the entire process at each stage. At the LSGI level, People's Committees functioned as apex bodies with a Nodal Officer appointed by the Governing Body to coordinate activities. These committees were responsible for overseeing ward-level committees, identifying volunteers, sharing criteria with socio-political and charitable organisations, and preparing a preliminary list of extremely poor individuals left out from existing programs, such as Ashraya and Agathi Rahitha Keralam. The committees ensured effective functioning of ward committees, supervised data collection, guided enumeration teams, prepared LSGI-level consolidated lists of the extreme poor for discussion in Ward/Gram Sabhas, and submitted final lists to the Governing Body for approval along with regular activity reports.

The district-level committees played a crucial coordination role in implementing the Extreme Poverty Identification Process across their respective districts. Their responsibilities included coordinating training programmes at the district level, supervising LSGI-level committees, managing data collection and super-checking activities, addressing queries from LSGIs, convening meetings with LSG heads, and conducting evaluation and monitoring to ensure proper implementation of the entire process. This mid-level coordination ensured consistency and quality control across all local self-governments within each district.

At the state level, an executive committee, comprising the heads of various departments, coordinated all activities under the leadership of the Nodal Officer. The committee included representatives from the Local Self Government Department, Kudumbashree, Information Kerala Mission, Kerala Institute of Local Administration, and Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Their responsibilities encompassed developing data collection formats, training manuals, and Management Information Systems (MIS), coordinating district committees, preparing training modules, establishing helpdesk systems and dashboards, providing super-checking guidelines, making decisions on LSGI suggestions regarding norms, reviewing complaints about lists, and supplying necessary charts and forms for group

discussions, convening meetings with LSGI chairpersons and officials, and reviewing the data collection.

Capacity building and preparation of training materials

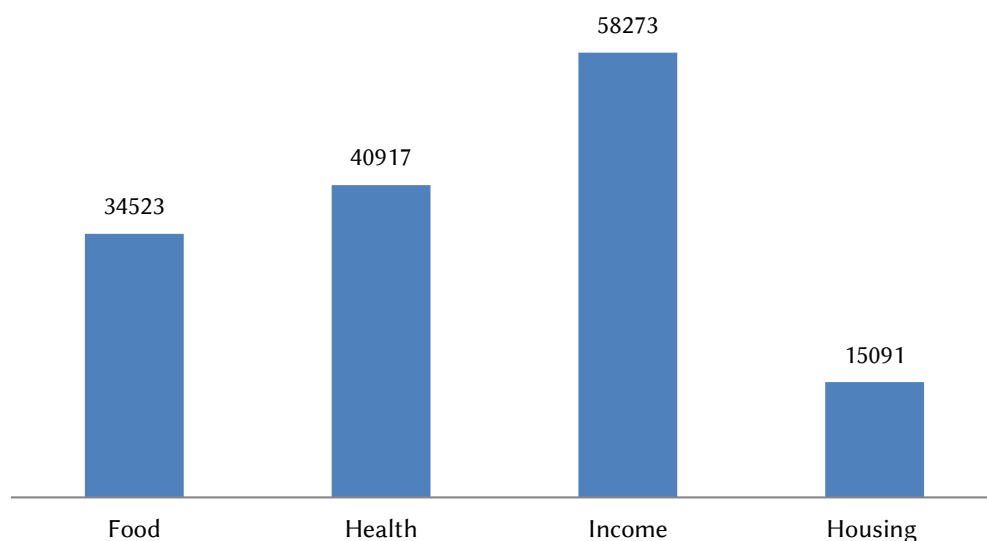
The Extreme Poverty Identification Process required extensive documentation and capacity-building materials to ensure effective execution at all levels. A comprehensive handbook for identifying extremely poor families was developed by the LSGD and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) team. This handbook provided clear instructions and directions to frontline workers, helping them distinguish between the poor and the extremely poor—a challenging task requiring precise guidance. The document underwent multiple revisions based on insights from pilot studies and feedback from Resource Person training to eliminate any inconsistencies. Additionally, communication materials, including two videos, over 20 posters, and 10 lakh leaflets for Focus Group Discussions, were produced and disseminated through social media platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook, and YouTube to spread awareness, build capacity, and guide the identification of extremely poor families. The training architecture was comprehensive, cascading from state to grassroots levels, including

master trainers' training at the state level, core team and Resource Persons' training at the district level, and orientation for elected representatives. The entire local government system across Kerala contributed to achieving training targets, conducting a total of 240,187 training sessions.

Profile of the extremely poor households

As mentioned above, 64,006 families were identified as extreme poor in the state. Out of the 64,006 identified families, 20 per cent belonged to the Scheduled Caste category, 5 per cent to the Scheduled Tribe category, and 75 per cent to other categories. However, a small number of respondents were unsure of their group. Additionally, the survey data revealed that a greater proportion of the extremely poor were concentrated in rural regions, with 81 per cent living in Grama Panchayats, 15 per cent in Municipalities and 4 per cent in Municipal Corporations. District-wise analysis showed that Malappuram district, with 8,553 families, topped the list, accounting for 13.4 per cent of the extremely poor in the State. This was followed by Thiruvananthapuram, which had 11.4 per cent of the extremely poor households. Kottayam had the lowest number of extremely poor families in the State (1,071 families).

Figure 2.2 Household categories based on the type of deprivation



Source: EPIP cell, Local Self-Government Department.

As previously mentioned, EPIP identified the extremely poor in the State based on four major deprivation categories- food, health, income and shelter. Out of the total households identified, 58,273 families experienced income deprivation, 40,917 families had health-related issues, 34,523 families were food-deprived, and 15,091 families lacked shelter. **(Figure 2.2)** It is worth noting that there are overlaps between these categories, and one person may experience deprivation of multiple components.

Implementation of the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme

The next step in this programme was to prepare an Extreme Poverty Sub Plan, comprising the interventions required to address different types of deprivation. The programme is implemented and monitored by Local Governments with the support of the State Poverty Eradication Mission, i.e Kudumbashree. The ward-level committees, initially responsible for the identification process, were now engaged in mapping the needs of the identified extremely poor and preparing micro plans. These are integrated and compiled into the Extreme Poverty sub-plan to be prepared by each LSGI. Thus, each Sub-Plan is a collection of micro-plans, comprising projects to address the deprivation factors in each household. These are prepared after collecting micro-level details of the families, as well as the details previously collected in the EPIP survey. The projects are then incorporated into the LSG plans, scrutinised as per existing guidelines, and approved by the District Planning Committee. After approval, they are executed by the concerned implementing officers. The numerous interventions outlined in the micro-plan are aggregated sector wise, at the LSG level

The contents of the plan are divided into three sections:

1. Immediate care plan
2. Intermediate plan
3. Long-term comprehensive plan

The services to be provided on an immediate basis are grouped under an immediate care plan. On the other hand, the services or schemes that can be provided within 3 months to 2 years are included under the intermediate plan. In cases where immediate or intermediate intervention is insufficient, the LSG would develop a comprehensive long-term plan.

A total of 77,557 immediate projects, 36,433 intermediate projects and 30,696 long-term projects have been formulated as part of the micro-plans across the LSGs. Households that require services that can be dispensed immediately, such as entitlements and identity cards, food, and medical care, are prioritised, and other important needs are followed based on their priority. The micro-plans have been prepared by pooling funds from sources including LSGIs, different departments, and CSR. Local governments were asked to incorporate extreme poverty projects into their annual plans to facilitate faster and more efficient implementation.

Various departments that head the transferred institutions were also involved in the programme. These departments provided various types of support to extremely poor households in a coordinated manner, as determined by the state-level monitoring committee. For example, while the Civil Supplies department launched a campaign to provide ration cards to those extremely poor households which did not have cards, the Health Department provided medicines and other supplies and ensured palliative care on a priority basis. Other departments also contributed to the mission in their own possible ways, thereby creating an unprecedented synergy of development agencies towards the goal of eradicating extreme poverty in a time-bound manner.

Accomplishments of the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme

The Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) has been hailed as one of the most innovative interventions in the country aimed at eradicating extreme poverty. This programme ensures coordination among development departments to collectively address all the factors that contribute to the deprivation of families identified as extremely poor. The programme unfolded in a phased manner, the details of which are explained below:

Avakasham Athivegam Campaign: During the extensive data collection, it was revealed that many families lacked fundamental civic documents and access to essential services. Crucial documents, such as ration cards, Aadhaar cards, and election identity cards, were difficult for them to obtain. To address this issue, the 'Avakasham Athivegam' campaign was initiated to provide households with essential services and documentation of their entitlements. The campaign ensured that 21,263

essential services and basic civic documents were provided on a war footing. The final numbers showed that the Government provided services as follows:

Voter IDs – 3836, Health Insurances – 3615, Aadhaar Cards - 3529, Ration cards (including conversion) - 5132, Mahatma Gandhi NREGS Job Cards – 1455, Social security pensions - 1378, Bank Accounts – 1043, Kudumbasree membership – 584, IDs for differently abled – 345, gas connections – 256, house wiring – 57, property certificate – 22 and IDs for transgender – 11. Hon’ble Chief Minister declared the completion of the ‘Avakasam Athivegam’ campaign on April 24, 2023, at the District Stadium, Pathanamthitta, marking a significant milestone in the implementation of the Extreme Poverty Eradication Project.

Food security and health-focused interventions

Another important preliminary intervention was addressing food and health deprivation, providing a lifeline for the survival and dignity of the extremely impoverished households. Addressing these two basic needs helped alleviate hunger, malnutrition and related health issues, ultimately improving the overall well-being. The assistance provided included cooked food and food kits at the LSGI level to households that are unable to prepare their own meals due to various difficulties. It has been ensured that the supply of food, including cooked meals and food kits, continues uninterrupted until the families can afford it independently.

An uninterrupted supply of food has been ensured for all families since April 1, 2022. Food kits are provided to 18,438 families through PDS, and cooked meals are distributed to 2,210 families through community kitchens and ‘Janakeeya Hotels’ of the Kudumbasree Mission. The distribution of food is daily monitored with the support of Kudumbasree volunteers. None of the extremely poor individuals has been left hungry for more than four years now. It is also ensured that all the extremely poor families receive Special Onam Kits during the festive occasion through PDS.

The major assistance to those experiencing health deprivation included initial health needs assessment through house visits, purchase of medicines, free diagnostic & laboratory services, doorstep treatment and palliative care. Steps were taken to

ensure that all individuals were registered under the e-health, KASP (Karunya Arogya Suraksha Paddhathi), and other specialised registrations for specific schemes, such as Hridyam and Arogyakiranam, as needed. Medical treatment and medication have been provided to 85,721 individuals from 29,427 families, with regular check-ups conducted by medical staff during bi-monthly house visits. Around, 14,862 single-member families are receiving health support, and 35,955 individuals are receiving uninterrupted medicines. Approximately 12,712 individuals have been treated for their ailments, and 219 individuals were transferred to hospitals for treatment. Vaccination was also provided to 12 children. About 173 individuals who were identified as needing bystander support for treatment were provided with the required support. Additionally, 1,279 individuals have been provided with transportation support for treatment. In addition, based on the health needs assessment, LSGIs were asked to take up projects to address the gaps which shall cover all the health needs of the family, including but not restricted to: a) Screening and diagnostic tests b) Treatment: Drugs and other consumables c) Rehabilitation: support devices, aids and rehabilitation measures to make the person self-reliant d) Transportation- including ambulance services. Separate guidelines were issued to ensure that free services are provided to beneficiaries seeking care from higher-level institutions, such as medical colleges and cancer care centres.

Regarding other personalised assistance, palliative care has been provided to 5,777 individuals, healthcare support equipment has been supplied to 579 patients, and assistance for organ transplantation has been extended to seven individuals. Access to nutritious food and quality healthcare enabled them to break the cycle of extreme poverty. The LSGIs and their health staff, with the help of volunteers, took measures to ensure an adequate supply of medicines, palliative care, and regular medical check-ups for the extremely poor. If the concerned LSGI does not have sufficient funds available to support organ transplantation, the remaining portion will be covered by the funds allocated for high hospital cost cases at the State level, subject to approval by the state-level committee formed for this purpose.

A summary of the services provided to the households with regard to food and health care is given below in **Table 2.4**

Table 2.4 Services provided to extremely poor households to ensure food security and health care

Specific Support Provided	Coverage / Beneficiaries
Continuous food supply has been ensured since 1 April 2022	All extremely poor families
Food kits through PDS	18,438 families
Cooked meals via community kitchens & Janakeeya Hotels	2,210 families
Special Onam Kits	All extremely poor families
Individuals receiving medical treatment & medicines	8,5721 individuals
Regular bi-monthly health check-ups	Programme households
Single-member families receiving health support	14,862 families
Individuals receiving uninterrupted medicines	35,955 individuals
Individuals treated for ailments	12,712 individuals
Individuals shifted to hospitals	219 individuals
Vaccinations provided	12 children
Bystander support for treatment	173 individuals
Transportation support for treatment	1,279 individuals
Palliative care services	5,777 individuals
Health-support equipment	579 patients
Assistance for organ transplantation	7 individuals
Financial top-up for costly treatment	As approved

Source: EPIP cell, Local Self-Government Department.

Common devices provided include wheelchairs, beds and walking sticks. Some LSGIs have provided tri-scooters, which have been very helpful to the extremely poor as a health-assistive device and as a means of generating income. For example, beneficiaries have been able to use the scooters for their lottery sales.

Providing sustainable livelihoods to the extremely poor families

Although the focus of the first year of implementation was to provide food and health assistance, the Government shifted its focus to creating opportunities for stable and sufficient income for the extremely poor households.

The ‘Ujjeevanam’ Campaign, launched with the support of the Kudumbasree State Mission in October 2023, aimed to support families with no sources of income through income-generating activities. By providing access to vocational training, microfinance, entrepreneurship support, and employment services, the campaign enabled the extremely poor or their family members to acquire skills, build assets, and enhance their earning potential. This, in turn, improved their overall well-being, enabling them to meet basic needs, invest in their children’s education and

healthcare and build resilience against economic shocks. Approximately 4,394 extremely poor families, identified as suitable for engaging in income-generating activities, were supported by the Government, and all of them have initiated their livelihood activities. Of this, while 3820 families were assisted by the Kudumbasree under Ujjeevanam, 272 families received livelihood assistance from LSGIs, 212 from other Departments, and 88 families were supported by private agencies. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, 34672 extremely poor families were provided with job cards to access paid unskilled employment.

Providing land endowments and houses

The biggest challenge faced in the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme was finding land for the landless and homeless. Hence, it was decided to give utmost priority to providing land/lease to the extremely poor. Based on this, the Revenue Department issued a circular to give priority to the extremely poor individuals while allotting surplus land/revenue land under government ownership. In addition, the Revenue Department also issued a Government Order authorising District Collectors to obtain

NOC from departments for using land in their possession, which are currently not in use, or unlikely to be used in the future, for housing construction, and to lease and allot it to the extremely poor, subject to current provisions related to land lease.

It was also decided to allot flats constructed under the Tsunami Rehabilitation Scheme, which are currently vacant without occupants, to the extremely poor who need land and housing. Through this coordinated effort of the Revenue and Local Self-Government Departments, 2,832.645 cents of land were identified for 439 families across the state. The Land Board has also issued directions to assign land to the extremely poor, without considering joint ownership, in cases where the spouse of an extremely poor person has left the individual or is legally divorced, or siblings are living together. Furthermore, permission was granted to local bodies to rehabilitate families in rented houses until a permanent shelter is provided. As on date, 829 families have been relocated to rented houses. However, the attempts to provide safe shelter were hindered by a critical financing gap at the local body level. Many Gram Panchayats were unable to meet the growing demand for housing due to a lack of sufficient funds. To bridge this financing gap, the Government issued orders to enable projects for Block Panchayaths and District Panchayaths, allowing them to earmark funds as the Gram Panchayath share for EPEP, particularly for the purchase of land. Additionally, the stamp duty was waived for the extremely poor while purchasing property and donating land.

In addition to the above, the Government issued an order permitting local bodies to purchase and provide land with houses, not older than 10 years, to interested families who needed land and a house. The minimum area of land required for house construction in municipalities/gram panchayats with urban characteristics was reduced from 3 cents to 2 cents, and the government has also issued an order to provide up to a maximum of 2 lakh rupees additional amount over the subsidized rate allowable for purchasing necessary land, only in circumstances where revenue land or other types of land are not available in that area.

Along with these efforts, serious initiatives were taken to address the scarcity of land by identifying surplus lands of LSGIs and through donations

under the 'Manasodithiri Mannu' campaign, which involved an exhortation by the government for 'voluntary contribution of a small parcel of land' by willing citizens and philanthropists. Possibilities of identifying land lying in large parcels under the leadership of local institutions and giving it to the extremely poor, and individual families directly purchasing land were also examined. In response to the 'Manassodithiri Mannu' campaign, 203 cents of land was donated by philanthropists. The Kochoseph Chittilappilly Foundation expressed its willingness to aid the programme by providing land to extremely poor individuals. A total of 271 applications were received for which the registration process has now been completed. The remaining were supported by the LSGIs, who used their plan funds to purchase land.

Meanwhile, dedicated efforts by the LSGIs and LIFE Mission have resulted in allocating houses to 4,677 families requiring new homes in the House Only category. Out of these 4005 have been completed, and 672 are in progress. The 672 families whose houses are not yet complete are presently residing either in rented accommodations or with their relatives.

For 2713 families needing both land and houses, land was first provided, followed by financial assistance for house construction. Construction has been completed for 1,417 families, and 1,296 are in progress. These families are accommodated in rented houses or with their relatives in a safe environment while their houses are being constructed. Single-member families without safe dwellings have been provided with secure alternatives to choose from. Recognising their vulnerability, local bodies took proactive measures to relocate them to shelter homes, offering a stable and supportive environment, or facilitated their safe residence with their relatives, upon their choice. Of the total families, 428 single-member families and 520 other families were relocated to shelter homes with the support of the Social Justice and Women & Child departments.

The maintenance of houses for extremely poor families has been a pressing concern, particularly since the previously allocated amount has not been sufficient in some cases. Acknowledging the importance of adequate housing for all identified extremely poor families, the Government increased the maintenance amount through the GO (Rt) No. 1677/2024/LSGD dated 10.09.2024, allowing a

substantial Rs 2.00 lakh for maintenance, equal to the rates fixed by the SC/ST departments under the Secure Accommodation and Facility Enhancement Scheme (SAFE). This enhanced rate extended benefits not only to SC/ST families but also to general families facing extreme poverty, which accelerated the renovation of 5,646 houses that required maintenance. Out of these, the maintenance of 5,522 houses has been completed.

Support extended to the extremely poor by various departments

As mentioned earlier, the convergence and cooperation of all the line departments proved pivotal to the successful completion of the immediate targets, particularly the first phase of implementation that focused on the essential requirements for extremely poor families. The programme showcased the significance of building coordination and synergy among various development agencies in achieving greater development goals. Given below is a brief account of the involvement of various development departments in the EPEP.

The Health Department ensured that all needy individuals received free treatment, medicines, and follow-up care. Home visits, special medical camps, and the doorstep services- Vathilpadi Sevanam-programmes became lifelines for the needy. The department also extended support by providing health insurance cards, disability certificates and ambulance services. Recognising the need for more convenient access to medication, discussions were initiated with the Health Department to provide doorstep delivery of medicines to all individuals under the EPEP schemes. It was a crucial step towards alleviating the burden on families and ensuring that vital medication reached those who needed it most, without the added challenges of monthly hospital visits.

The Civil Supplies Department distributed ration cards to 5,132 families on a war footing. Additionally, their innovative programme Oppam gained popularity in the Thrissur district and was replicated by LSGs throughout the State. Through Oppam, food items and kits were delivered to the doorsteps of the extremely poor, facilitated by supportive auto-rickshaw drivers. In addition essential food items were provided to those who require assistance, excluding those who specifically request cooked food delivered, through LSG Vathilpadi Sevanam volunteers. The department

is actively exploring innovative ways to ensure that food security is effectively addressed for the extremely poor, taking into account their specific requirements and preferences.

The Department of Education has ensured access to education and further education opportunities for those identified as experiencing educational deprivation. In collaboration with local institutions, materials such as books, school bags, pens, pencils, and uniforms were provided to children from identified extremely poor families. Counselling and vocational training programs were also conducted. The Education Department also ensured that students who passed the SSLC in 2023-24 and 2024-25 were admitted to nearby schools. A list of 5583 students has been submitted to the Education department to explore the possible ways of assisting the students.

The Transport department has supported EPEP by granting free travel for education to students from extremely poor families. Travel passes have been issued to 2,323 students.

The Women and Child Development department and the Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM) are assisting 437 orphan students under their departmental schemes. Accordingly, 331 students have been registered in the Snehapoorvam scheme of the KSSM for scholarships/stipends and other educational benefits.

The Kudumbashree State Mission played a crucial role in ensuring food distribution through Janakeeya hotels. Cooked meals were provided to families lacking cooking facilities, while food kits were distributed to those who were able to prepare food on their own. Kudumbashree volunteers, in partnership with various organisations, distribute the food kits. As mentioned earlier, they also launched the Ujjeevanam project to handhold the extremely poor families facing vulnerability due to lack of income through a 100-day-long campaign.

Moreover, a team headed by the Community Development Society visits each extremely poor family, identifies their income needs, and prepares customised projects to uplift them through income-generating activities. Skill-based training is also provided to the needy. Livelihood projects were also undertaken with regard to goat rearing, livelihood projects etc.

Box. 2.1 Success stories

Raju and family tailoring a life of purpose: Raju, a resident of Velanteparambil near Pallana in Thrikkunnappuzha Grampanchayat under Haripad Block Panchayath, is a determined individual who has faced significant challenges throughout his life. He has a disability that limits his mobility and his wife, Ajitha, is deaf. Despite these challenges, with the support of the Kerala government's Extreme Poverty Eradication Program (EPEP), Raju's family of three, including their young child, has seen a positive transformation in their lives. Raju started honing his tailoring skills with a sewing machine, despite facing initial challenges due to his limited mobility. Ajitha, despite her hearing impairment, managed the business, and their hard work soon paid off. Their small business began attracting a steady stream of customers from the local community, leading to improved financial stability and a sense of pride and purpose for the family. Raju and Ajitha's success story inspired others in their community to face similar challenges with resilience and determination, often sharing their journey and encouraging others to seek assistance from programs like EPEP.

Source: EPIP cell, Local Self-Government Department.

Several other departments have also joined forces to extend support. The Co-operative Department initiated measures to provide grants and loans through societies and banks to support the extremely poor. Departments such as the Registration, Fisheries, Kerala Water Authority, KSEB, Suchitwa Mission collaborated to bring their expertise and resources to the project. In addition, government has decided to give priority to the EPEP families in all the schemes implemented by the development departments.

Additional support from the Government

The Micro Plans have been prepared using the resources of Local Self Governments. However, to bridge the gap, the State Government allotted Rs. 160.00 crore to LSGs as Gap fund from 2023-24 to 2025-26 to meet additional expenditure for implementing the projects.

Way Forward: Sustaining Kerala's Extreme Poverty-Free Status - EPEP 2.0

Kerala's achievement of eradicating extreme poverty is a historic milestone, which is also a testament to coordinated governance, compassionate policy, and an unwavering commitment to human dignity. However, this success is not the ultimate destination, but only a beginning towards eradicating absolute poverty. Sustaining this hard-won status requires a deliberate, multi-sectoral strategy that embeds poverty prevention and household welfare into the permanent institutional framework of local self-governance. Long-term resilience for households lifted out of extreme poverty requires a combination of stable income, continued social protection, accessible health care, secure housing, and ongoing monitoring. The sequel to the EPEP

programme, namely EPEP 2.0, aims to achieve Proactive Prevention and Zero Reversion as its objectives.

Although we have succeeded in eradicating Extreme Poverty, sudden shocks can often force people to slide into extreme poverty. Every Local Self Government Institution must integrate extreme poverty prevention into its core mandate by identifying vulnerable households within its jurisdiction, allocating dedicated budgetary resources, and proactively delivering essential services without awaiting higher-level intervention. This shift from reactive relief to proactive support transforms local governance institutions into permanent guardians of poverty eradication. It ensures sustainable living conditions for those currently lifted out of extreme poverty, and creates a safety net to prevent those immediately above extreme poverty from falling into it.

CHAPTER

03

AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED
SECTORS

AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS

3.1 AGRICULTURE

Agriculture continues to be a key sector of the economy, contributing to food security, income generation, and overall socio-economic development. Nearly half of the global population lives in households connected to agrifood systems. Strong linkages between agriculture and sectors such as animal husbandry, dairy, irrigation, fisheries, industry, agro-processing, and trade make it a vital driver of inclusive and sustainable economic development.

Kerala's agriculture is distinct due to small and fragmented landholdings and diverse agro-climatic conditions that support the cultivation of plantation crops, cash crops, spices, and food crops. The sector has demonstrated resilience through diversification, adoption of technology, and institutional support, despite challenges related to climate variability, resource limitations, and market fluctuations. The approach under the 14th Five Year Plan focuses on improving crop productivity and accelerating the revival of agricultural growth in the State. Agricultural development programmes have been aligned with a farm plan based development approach, with emphasis on integrated farming systems, to address sectoral challenges and reduce the risk of production decline.

Gross Value Added in Agriculture

The share of agriculture and allied sectors in the

GVA of the country at constant prices, 2011-12 declined marginally from 14.7 per cent in 2023-24 to 14.4 per cent (P) in 2024-25. The agriculture and allied sectors share in total GSVA (at constant prices 2011-12) of the State also declined to 7.64 per cent (Q) in 2024-25, compared to 7.97 per cent (P) in 2023-24 (**Table 3.1.1**).

Trends in Growth Rate

The annual growth rate of GSVA at constant prices, 2011-12 of agriculture and allied sectors (including crops, livestock, forestry and logging, and fishing and aquaculture) has been fluctuating over the years. In 2023-24, the growth rate per annum of agriculture and allied sectors was 1.25 per cent (P). In 2024-25, it increased to 2.14 per cent (Q) (**Table 3.1.2**). The annual growth rate of crop sector was 2.43 per cent (Q) in 2024-25 (Department of Economics and Statistics, GoK).

Monsoon 2025

The pre-monsoon rainfall received in the State from March 1, 2025 to May 31, 2025 was categorized as 'large excess'. The actual rainfall received was 776.6 mm against the normal rainfall of 359 mm, with a departure of (+) 116 per cent from the normal rainfall. Except for Alappuzha, which received 'excess' rainfall, all other districts in the State experienced 'large excess' rainfall during this period.

Table 3.1.1 Share of agriculture and allied sectors in GVA/GSVA National and State level, constant prices 2011-12

Year	Share of agriculture and allied sectors in Total GVA (India) (%)	Share of agriculture and allied sectors in GSVA (Kerala) (%)
2015-16	15.4	10.74
2016-17	15.2	9.96
2017-18	15.3	9.61
2018-19	14.8	9.03
2019-20	15.1	8.55
2020-21	16.3	9.64
2021-22	15.6	8.92
2022-23	15.5	8.37
2023-24	14.7	7.97 (P)
2024-25	14.4 (P)	7.64 (Q)

Note: (P) Provisional, (Q) Quick

Source: National Accounts Statistics 2025, GoI; Department of Economics and Statistics, GoK

Table 3.1.2 Growth rate per annum in Gross Value Added in agriculture and allied sectors in Kerala, 2015-16 to 2024-25

Year	Growth rate per annum in Kerala (%)
2015-16	-5.1
2016-17	-0.65
2017-18	2.11
2018-19	-2.09
2019-20	-2.56
2020-21	1.58
2021-22	4.12
2022-23	0.15
2023-24	1.25 (P)
2024-25	2.14 (Q)

Note: (P) Provisional (Q) Quick

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, GoK

In 2025, the South-West monsoon reached Kerala on May 24, 2025, ahead of the usual onset date of 1st June. The actual rainfall received in the State during South-West Monsoon season (June 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025) was 'normal' with actual

rainfall of 1752.70 mm as against the normal rainfall of 2018.6 mm. This was a departure of (-) 13 per cent from the normal rainfall. Idukki, Malappuram, and Wayanad districts received deficient rainfall during this period, with departure of (-) 35 per cent, (-) 27 per cent, and (-) 36 per cent respectively (**Figure 3.1.1**). Withdrawal of the South-West monsoon 2025 commenced on 14th September against the normal date of 17th September. The State received 'large deficient' winter rainfall from January 1, 2025 to February 28, 2025. District-wise actual rainfall, normal rainfall and percentage of departure for 2025 during winter rainfall, pre-monsoon, South-West monsoon, and North-East monsoon are given in **Appendix 3.1.1**.

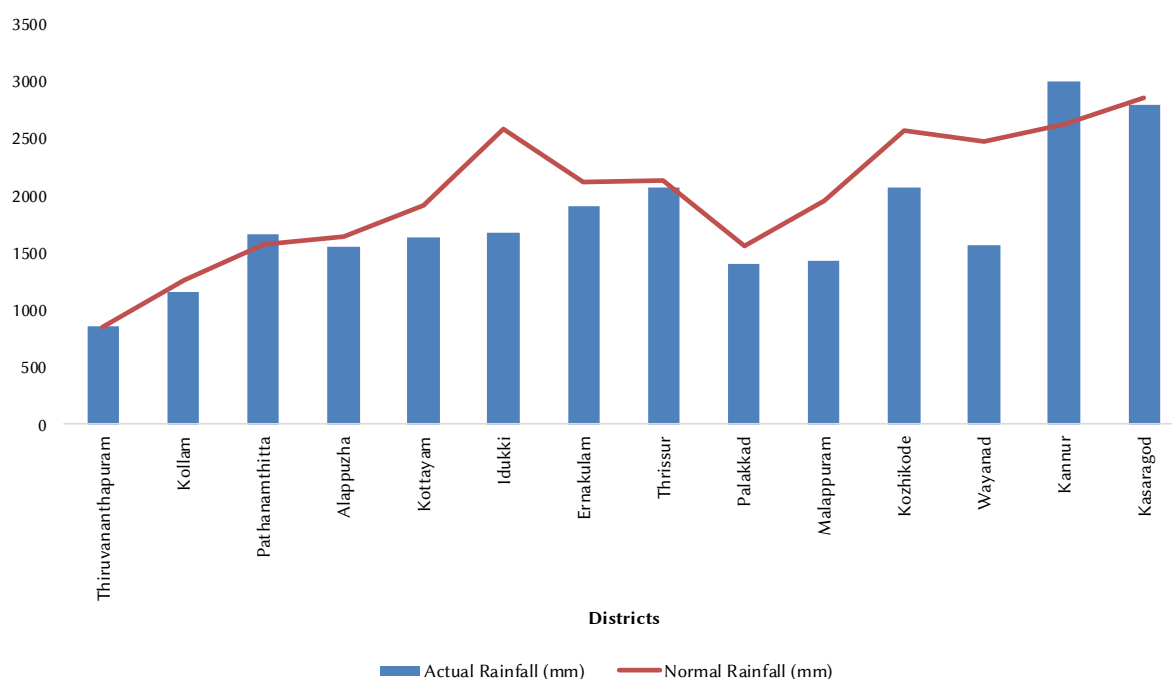
Land Use Pattern

As per the land use data of the Department of Economics and Statistics (DES) for the year 2024-25, out of the total geographical area of 38.86 lakh ha, total cropped area was 25.15 lakh ha (64.71 per cent) and the net area sown was 19.67 lakh ha (50.61 per cent). Land put to non-agricultural use was 6.18 lakh ha (15.89 per cent) and area under forest cover was 10.82 lakh ha (27.83 per cent). In 2024-25, the area under land put to non-agricultural uses, land under miscellaneous tree crops, cultivable waste, and fallow other than current fallow recorded an increase of 1.33, 4.99, 1.44, and 0.34 per cent respectively over 2023-24. The area under barren and uncultivated land and current fallow recorded a decline of 1.33 per cent and 6.57 per cent respectively over 2023-24. Data on land use pattern for the year 2023-24 and 2024-25 is given in **Appendix 3.1.2**. **Figure 3.1.2** show the land use pattern for the year 2024-25.

The total number of operational holdings in the State has increased from 68.31 lakh in 2010-11 to 75.83 lakh in 2015-16 showing an increase of 11 per cent. The average size of operational holding has declined to 0.18 ha in 2015-16 from 0.22 ha in 2010-11 (**Appendix 3.1.3**). According to the NSS 77th round of Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households 2019, 33.2 per cent of rural households in the State are agricultural households compared to 54 per cent at the national level. Among them, 34.4 per cent are self-employed in crop production sector in the State compared to 68.9 per cent in the country.

As per the 'Situation Assessment Survey of Agricultural Households in Kerala (2024-25)' by

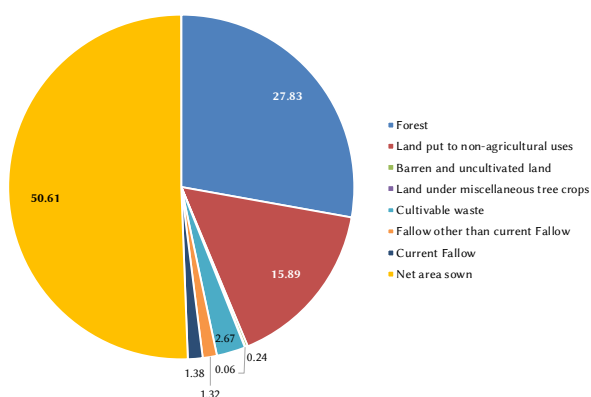
Figure 3.1.1 South-West Monsoon rainfall received from June 1 to September 30, 2025



Source: India Meteorological Department 2025

the DES, GoK, the rural areas of the state had an estimated number of 19.47 lakh agricultural households and 26.75 lakh non-agricultural households and the average monthly income of agricultural households (at current prices) was Rs 28,984. Findings from the survey indicate that the State is on track to achieve or even surpass the target of 50 per cent increase in average agricultural household income by 2026.

Figure 3.1.2 Land use pattern of Kerala 2024-25



Source: Department of Economics and Statistics, GoK

Cropping Pattern

According to DES, Cropping Intensity (CI) of the

State in 2024-25 was 127.86 per cent. Coconut constituted the major share of the total cropped area with 30.44 per cent followed by rubber with 21.78 per cent. Rice constituted 7.01 per cent of the total cropped area in 2024-25. Plantation crops such as tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom constituted 28.22 per cent of the total cropped area. Compared to 2023-24, the area of ginger, turmeric, cashew nut, and sweet potato recorded an increase in 2024-25 by 7.85 per cent, 7.50 per cent, 2.05 per cent, and 0.82 per cent respectively. Data regarding the area, production and productivity of principal crops grown in Kerala are shown in **Appendix 3.1.4**.

Crop-wise Analysis

Rice

According to the data of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), worldwide rice production in 2024-25 was 546.6 million tonnes. India was the top producer of rice in the world, followed by China. The forecasted world-wide rice production in 2025-26 was 551.5 million tonnes (milled basis). As per the third Advance Estimate of production of food grains by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, rice production in India was estimated at 1,490.74 lakh tonnes in 2024-25, with an increase of 8.16 per cent production over the previous year.

In 2024-25, rice constituted 7.01 per cent of the total cropped area in the State. The area, production, and productivity of rice (wetland) were 1.76 lakh ha, 5.30 lakh tonnes and 3,006 kg per ha respectively. Compared to the productivity of rice in 2023-24, it increased by 43 kg per ha in 2024-25. The area under rice (wetland paddy) recorded a marginal decline of 1.45 per cent in 2024-25 and the production remained nearly constant. Since last 10 years, the highest share of area under paddy was recorded in 2020-21 i.e., 2.02 lakh ha with a production of 6.27 lakh tonnes (**Appendix 3.1.5**).

In 2024-25, the area under *Puncha* (summer) crop was increased by 5.43 per cent and that of *Mundakan* (winter) and *Virippu* (autumn) crops were decreased by 4.06 per cent and 6.99 per cent respectively over 2023-24. In the case of season-wise production, *Mundakan* and *Virippu* crops recorded a marginal decrease in 2024-25 and *Puncha* crop registered an increase in production by 1,916.32 MT during the same period. Among the three seasons, *Puncha* recorded the highest productivity of 3,100 kg per ha, followed by *Mundakan* with 3,046 kg per ha, and *Virippu* with 2,790 kg per ha (**Appendix 3.1.6**).

Mundakan crop contributed to 38.93 per cent of the total cultivated area of rice (wetland) in 2024-25 with highest area of 19,475.03 ha in Palakkad District. The area under *Virippu* crop was also dominant in Palakkad District (28,689.30 ha). Palakkad District contributed 69.92 per cent of the State's total *Virippu* crop production. The *Puncha* crop was dominant in Alappuzha District (23,329.62 ha) with a production of 57,389.91 MT in 2024-25 (**Appendix 3.1.7**).

In 2024-25, Palakkad, Alappuzha, Thrissur, and Kottayam districts accounted for 81.53 per cent of the total area of rice in the State, contributing to 83.14 per cent of the total rice production. Palakkad District stood first with respect to area and production of rice followed by Alappuzha District. With respect to productivity, Palakkad District (3,281 kg per ha) stood first followed by Malappuram District (3,220 kg per ha). Palakkad District recorded the highest increase in both area and production of rice in 2024-25, with the increase in area by 1.82 per cent and production showing a substantial increase of 18 per cent over the previous year. In addition to wetland cultivation, upland paddy was cultivated in an area of 163.05 ha in 2024-25, producing 221.38

MT, with a productivity of 1,358 kg per ha (**Appendix 3.1.8**).

In 2024-25, a total of 98.43 per cent of the paddy area extending to 1.74 lakh ha was cultivated with high yielding varieties and 2,760.98 ha with local varieties. District-wise area for high yielding and local varieties are given in **Appendix 3.1.9** and **Appendix 3.1.10**.

Through the 'Rice Development' scheme, the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare aims to promote paddy cultivation in the State, with special emphasis on the identified zones such as Kuttanad, Onattukara, Pokkali, Kole, Palakkad, Wayanad, and Kaipad. The major programmes under the scheme include area expansion, operational support for padashekhara samithis, assistance for promotion of fallow land cultivation, specialty rice cultivation, foliar application of micro nutrients, registered seed grower's programme, support to paddy development agencies, and royalty to paddy land owners. As part of Sustainable Development of Rice, assistance of Rs 5,500 per ha was provided for agriculture inputs in paddy cultivation.

Vegetables

In 2024-25, the vegetable production in the State (including bananas and plantains) increased from 17.21 lakh MT to 19.11 lakh MT from a total cultivated area of 1.22 lakh ha. With the objective of promoting vegetable production to attain self-sufficiency and nutritional security in the sector, the State has been implementing the 'Vegetable Development' scheme. Various stakeholders such as Agriculture Development & Farmers Welfare Department, Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council Keralam (VFPCCK), HortiCorp, State Horticulture Mission (SHM), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Kerala Agricultural University, and LSGD were involved in a mission mode to promote vegetable development in the State. The major programmes of the Agriculture Department in 2024-25 were distribution of high-yielding and hybrid vegetable seeds and seedlings, support for vegetable cultivation in homesteads, urban areas, and institutions, promotion of open field precision farming, cool season vegetable cultivation in Idukki and Wayanad districts, assistance to vegetable clusters, and commercial vegetable cultivation. In 2024-25, the establishment of nutrition gardens/*Poshakathottams* in homesteads

was introduced and a total of such 87,000 nutrition gardens were established in the State. Assistance for rain shelters for vegetable cultivation was provided at Rs 50,000 per 100 sq. m. In 2024-25, rain shelters covering 25,724 sq. m were installed. In addition, the 'KAU Safe to Eat' project component is being implemented at the Pesticide Residue Research and Analytical laboratory, in College of Agriculture, Vellayani to check the quality and quantity of pesticides in vegetables imported from other States.

VFPCCK is implementing various schemes funded by the Central and State Government in the vegetable and fruit sector for the betterment of farming community and a total of 81,521 MT of vegetables were produced by the farmers in the Council in 2024-25, from an area of 17,212 ha.

Coconut

As reported by the Coconut Development Board, according to the International Coconut Community (ICC, 2023), global coconut production stood at 67,617 million nuts in 2023 with a marginal increase from 67,122 million nuts in 2022. The three major coconut-growing countries namely India, Indonesia, and the Philippines together accounted for nearly 75 per cent of global area and more than 74 per cent of global production of coconut.

According to the second Advance Estimate of 2024-25 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the area under coconut in India was 22.16 lakh ha with a production of 20,397.68 million nuts and productivity of 9,206 nuts per ha. Among the coconut growing States, the southern States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh contributed to 89.36 per cent of the total area and 90.13 per cent of the total production. The Coconut Development Board has been implementing programmes for analyzing the factors affecting production in the major coconut growing areas of the country and has specifically come up with major activities such as projects for root wilt affected areas, research and extension activities in collaboration with agricultural universities and other research institutes and runs schemes for promoting value addition in coconut.

In 2024-25, coconut was cultivated in 7.66 lakh ha occupying 30.44 per cent of the total cropped area in the State, with a marginal decrease of area by 222 ha over 2023-24. Coconut production in

the State stood at 5,612 million nuts in 2024-25, reflecting a modest increase of 1.62 per cent over the previous year. The productivity of coconut recorded at 7,330 nuts per ha in 2024-25 with an increase from the productivity of 7,211 nuts per ha in 2023-24. The performance of coconut sector in the State has been fluctuating over the last five years (**Appendix 3.1.11**).

Productivity improvement and technology adoption programmes in the coconut sector were imparted to farmers at grass root levels through the Agriculture Department in the State. A cluster based-Keragramam programme was implemented in the State to rehabilitate existing coconut gardens. The integrated management of coconut including coconut basin opening, mulching, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest and Disease Management (IPDM), provision of irrigation facilities, organic manure production, distribution of climbing machines, and initiation of coconut-based value addition units were the major activities carried out through Keragramam programme. In addition, Kera Raksha Varam campaign was organized across the State to create awareness about the importance of scientific management practices in coconut cultivation. It is expected that these initiatives will result in better yield and production in future. As part of the coconut seedling distribution under the Coconut Development Council, a total of 56.44 lakh coconut seedlings comprising of West Coast Tall (WCT), dwarf and hybrid varieties were distributed throughout the State from 2020-21 to 2024-25 (**Table 3.1.3**).

Black Pepper

As per the estimates of International Pepper Community, Vietnam maintained first position in pepper production and export in 2024, contributing to 31.90 per cent of the global pepper production and 52.3 per cent of global shipment. Brazil remains the second largest producer with a 19.70 per cent share of global production. India was the third-largest producer with 16.50 per cent of the global pepper production share (UPASI Annual Report, 2025).

As per the first Advance Estimate of the Spices Board, area and production of black pepper in India recorded a steep decline of 18.63 per cent and 38.48 per cent respectively in 2024-25. There was a sharp reduction in production of black pepper in the leading producing States

Table 3.1.3 Status of distribution of coconut seedlings (numbers) under Coconut Development Council (2020-21 to 2024-25)

Year	WCT	Dwarf	Hybrid	Total
2020-21	606967	29217	120986	757170
2021-22	898647	31293	130052	1059992
2022-23	1123790	40965	98812	1263567
2023-24	1173095	69509	144827	1387431
2024-25	975428	76962	123613	1176003
Total	4777927	247946	618290	5644163

Source: Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare, GoK

viz., Karnataka and Kerala. In 2024-25, the area and production of black pepper from Karnataka were estimated at 1.64 lakh ha and 47,891 MT respectively, reflecting a decline of 26.41 per cent in area and 44.31 per cent in production compared to 2023-24. According to the pepper survey conducted by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development (DASD) in October 2024, the major black pepper-growing States reported a decline in production. The decrease was primarily due to a prolonged dry spell during the flowering season, followed by a period of heavy and incessant rainfall.

The downward trend of area and production of black pepper in the national level was also reflected in Kerala. According to DES, GoK, in 2024-25, the area under black pepper declined to 69,891.07 ha from 72,669.27 ha in 2023-24, with a reduction of about 3.82 per cent. The dry pepper production also decreased from 30,798.21 tonnes in 2023-24 to 29,503.42 tonnes in 2024-25, registering a decrease of 4.20 per cent. Despite these declines, the productivity remained nearly stable, with a marginal reduction from 424 kg per ha to 422 kg per ha (**Appendix 3.1.4**).

As per the estimate of the Spices Board, in 2024-25, the export of black pepper from India recorded at 20,830 tonnes, recording a 16.43 per cent robust increase from 2023-24. The export value of black pepper also recorded a significant increase of 43.25 per cent from Rs 736.49 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 1055.00 crore in 2024-25.

Cashew

According to FAO Statistics 2023, Cote d' Ivoire retained its first position in cashew nut production in the world followed by India and Vietnam.

According to the third Advance Estimate by Directorate of Cashewnut and Cocoa Development (DCCD), the national production of raw cashew nuts in 2024-25 was 8.02 lakh MT, with a marginal increase of 0.94 per cent over 2023-24. The area under cashew also recorded an increase to 12.05 lakh ha in 2024-25 from 11.99 lakh ha in 2023-24 (**Appendix 3.1.12**). Among the cashew, growing States in India, Maharashtra retained its first position in production in 2024-25 accounting for a share of 23.98 per cent followed by Andhra Pradesh with 17.43 per cent of the domestic production. Kerala was in the sixth position with 9.30 per cent of share in domestic production of cashew nuts.

As per the report of the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI), in 2024-25, India exported 37,084 MT of cashew kernels valued Rs 2,473 crore in foreign exchange. United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the largest export market for Indian cashew, followed by Japan. Compared to the previous year, cashew kernels export in 2024-25 recorded a decline of 19.79 per cent.

As per the third Advance Estimate of DCCD, the extent of cashew cultivation as well as its productivity in the State increased to 1.13 lakh ha and 888 kg per ha respectively in 2024-25. The production of raw cashew nut in 2024-25 was 74,658 MT from the State (CEPCI).

Plantation Crops

In view of the potential for export, employment generation and poverty alleviation, plantation crops play a vital role in the National and State economy. Kerala has a substantial share in the four plantation

crops such as rubber, tea, coffee and cardamom. These four crops together occupied 7.10 lakh ha, accounting to 28 per cent of the total cropped area in the State (**Appendix 3.1.13**).

Rubber

According to the UPASI Annual report 2025, the world Natural Rubber (NR) production in 2024 was 14.54 million tonnes, recording a 1.8 per cent increase over 2023. Among the major NR producing countries, Thailand recorded the highest production of 47.89 lakh tonnes, followed by Indonesia with a production of 22.62 lakh tonnes. India was the sixth largest producer with a share of six per cent of world NR production. The global consumption of NR also increased in 2024 over the previous year by 7.10 per cent. India was in the second position in terms of NR consumption, next to China in 2024.

As reported by the Rubber Board, the NR production in the country in 2024-25 (provisional) recorded an increase over the previous year, with a growth of 2.10 per cent. The productivity of rubber increased from 1,485 kg per ha in 2023-24 to 1,500 kg per ha in 2024-25. The area under NR in the country also recorded an increase from 8.88 lakh ha in 2023-24 to 9.39 lakh ha in 2024-25.

Among the principal crops, rubber occupies the second largest area in the State next to coconut with 21.78 per cent of the total cropped area. According to the provisional data from the Rubber Board, in 2024-25, the rubber production in the State increased by 2.55 per cent to 6.25 lakh tonnes compared to 2023-24. The area under rubber in 2024-25 was 5.48 lakh ha, remaining almost unchanged from the previous year. The productivity of rubber increased from 1,573 kg per ha in 2023-24 to 1,586 kg per ha in 2024-25 (**Appendix 3.1.13**).

In 2024-25, India's domestic consumption of NR decreased marginally by 0.06 lakh tonnes and reached to 14.10 lakh tonnes. India exported a total of 4,800 tonnes of NR in 2024-25, and recorded an increase of 600 tonnes from the previous year export volume (UPASI annual report, 2025). The import of NR in 2024-25, increased to 5.51 lakh MT compared to 4.93 lakh MT in 2023-24 (**Appendix 3.1.14**). Annual average domestic price for RSS 4 grade rubber increased to Rs 19,985 per 100 kg in 2024-25 compared to Rs 15,572 per 100 kg in 2023-24. NR prices increased steadily in the

first three months of 2025 in the domestic market (**Appendix 3.1.15 and 3.1.16**).

Coffee

As per the UPASI Annual Report 2025, the International Coffee Organization estimated the global coffee production in 2024 at 174.41 million bags (60 kg bags). Brazil was at first position in coffee production with a share of 38.30 per cent of the global coffee production, followed by Vietnam with 16.4 per cent share. India was positioned seventh with 3.5 per cent share in global coffee production.

Coffee Board estimated the domestic coffee production in 2024-25 at 3.64 lakh MT, with Robusta coffee production of 2.58 lakh MT and Arabica coffee production of 1.06 lakh MT. Among the major coffee producing States, Karnataka maintained the first position with production of 2.56 lakh MT, followed by Kerala.

As reported by the DES, GoK, the production of coffee estimated by the Coffee Board in the State recorded a decrease by 3.82 per cent in 2024-25 and reached to a total production of 70,933 MT. The area planted under coffee in 2024-25 was 85,957 ha (**Appendix 3.1.13**) and the productivity of the crop in Kerala was 834 kg per ha.

Tea

As per the International Tea Committee, global tea production was estimated at 7,052.60 million kg. China was the leading producer of tea in the year 2024, contributing to 53 per cent of the world tea production followed by India and Kenya with a share of 18.5 per cent and 8.5 per cent respectively (UPASI Annual Report, 2025).

According to the Tea Board, domestic tea production in 2024-25 was 1,315.77 million kg, and Assam was the leading tea producing State in the country (666.82 million kg) followed by West Bengal (387.51 million kg). In 2024-25, export volume of tea from India was 257.88 million kg and the Cochin auction price of tea was Rs 162.18 per kg (**Appendix 3.1.17**).

As reported by the DES, GoK, the area under tea plantations in Kerala was 35,697.16 ha in 2024-25 and 35,679.82 ha in 2023-24, indicating that the extent of cultivation remained almost unchanged between the two years. The production and productivity of tea in the State was recorded

at 57,290 MT and 1,605 kg per ha respectively in 2024-25 (**Appendix 3.1.13**).

Cardamom

India is the second largest producer of small cardamom in the world next to Guatemala. Climate change and pest-related damages adversely affected cardamom production globally. According to the Advance Estimate of the Spices Board for 2024-25, small cardamom production in India was estimated at 20,696 MT, reflecting an 18 per cent decline compared to 2023-24. In Kerala, production also fell by 20 per cent, recording 18,310 MT in 2024-25. The area under small cardamom cultivation remained stable at 40,345 ha in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Despite the overall decline in production due to adverse weather and pest incidence, productivity increased from 567 kg per ha in 2023-24 to 608.41 kg per ha in 2024-25 (**Appendix 3.1.13**).

As per the export data for 2024-25 by the Spices Board, India exported 6,728 tonnes of small cardamom, valued at Rs 1,56,682 lakh. Compared to 6,168 tonnes valued at Rs 99,959.85 lakh in 2023-24, exports registered an increase of 9 per cent in quantity and 57 per cent in value (Rs), indicating strong global demand and higher export prices for Indian small cardamom.

Consumption of Fertilizers and Pesticides

As indicated in **Table 3.1.4**, highest chemical pesticide consumption in the State in 2024-25 was for paddy crop, followed by banana and spices. The total consumption of pesticides reported in 2024-25 was 992.79 MT. This constituted 504.47 MT of chemical pesticides and 488.32 MT of bio-pesticides.

Compared to 2023-24, total consumption of Nitrogen and Potassium fertilizers increased in 2024-25. The consumption of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium was at 75,636 MT, 32,569 MT, and 59,676 MT respectively (**Table 3.1.5**). The per ha consumption of Nitrogenous, Phosphorus, and Potassium fertilizers was 28 kg per ha, 12 kg per ha, and 22 kg per ha respectively (**Appendix 3.1.18**).

Agricultural activities through Kudumbashree

Kudumbashree, the poverty eradication and women empowerment mission, has emerged as a key player in promoting agricultural activities in the State. By mobilizing women into Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and promoting collective farming, Kudumbashree has played a pivotal role in enhancing livelihood opportunities and food security. Kudumbashree took active involvement in a range of agricultural activities across the State including lease land farming by women JLGs. A total of 94,594 JLGs had been formed till 2024-25, engaging in various cultivation activities. The area brought under cultivation of paddy, vegetables, banana, and tubers in 2024-25 was 6,802.63 ha, 6,555.66 ha, 894.57 ha, and 4835.78 ha respectively. Other crops were cultivated in 1,558.38 ha. In 2024-25, a total of 61,216 JLGs were engaged in the cultivation of these crops. A total of Rs 10.50 crore was provided as area incentive and interest subsidy to JLGs. Details of area covered under collective farming in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 3.1.19**.

Kudumbashree conducted weekly markets named *Nattuchantha* to market the products of JLGs and a total of 31,376 *Nattuchanthas* were conducted, generating an income of Rs 16.48 crore. Through

Table 3.1.4 Crop-wise consumption of chemical and biopesticides, technical grade, MT

Commodity	Chemical Pesticides		Biopesticides		Total	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Paddy	116.58	147.04	128.74	114.67	245.32	261.71
Vegetables	78.91	73.53	88.86	86.14	167.77	159.67
Spices	67.46	76.87	67.62	69.24	135.08	146.11
Coconut	70.21	67.66	92.58	68.05	162.79	135.72
Arecanut	34.9	47.56	37.06	35.67	71.96	83.23
Banana	101.56	91.80	118.15	114.55	219.71	206.35
Total	469.62	504.47	533.01	488.32	1002.63	992.79

Note: Consolidated data of Kharif and Rabi seasons

Source: Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare, GoK

season-oriented activities such as *Onakkani* and *Nirapolima*, Kudumbashree achieved a sales turnover of Rs 7.79 crore from vegetables and Rs 3 crore from flowers during the Onam season. Under the *Venal Maduram* project, 987 JLGs were engaged in watermelon cultivation in 756 acres. Other major achievements of Kudumbashree include the establishment of 3.32 lakh agri-nutri gardens, 855 *Jaivika* plant nurseries, vegetable cultivation in 250 BUDS/BRC institutions, establishment of 264 medium-scale value addition units, and 1,126 small-scale value addition units across the State.

Table 3.1.5 Fertilizer (NPK) Consumption Pattern in the State, 2019-20 to 2024-25 (MT)

Year	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
2019-20	75292	36797	55866
2020-21	89238	42613	75085
2021-22	76682	36327	50072
2022-23	83594	39819	64751
2023-24	69794	32740	57263
2024-25	75636	32569	59676

Source: Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers Welfare, Kerala

Kudumbashree Technology Advancement Programme (KTAP), is a new intervention to equip women-led SHGs, Producer Groups, and Farmer Producer Companies with novel technologies in areas such as processing, smart farming, organic farming, packaging, licensing, and branding. Through the creation of a Technology Bank under KTAP, women members can access, borrow, and utilize technologies. Under this programme, 180 technologies were purchased by Kudumbashree from various institutions to promote technology transfer and support women-led enterprises.

Soil Conservation

Soil conservation forms a vital component of sustainable soil resource management and agricultural development within the State. Recognizing its importance, the Department of Soil Survey and Soil Conservation has implemented a wide range of initiatives to promote sustainable land use, enhance agricultural productivity, and strengthen resilience against land degradation. These initiatives encompass soil health and fertility management, establishment of

infrastructure for soil erosion control, water flow regulation, in situ moisture conservation, flood moderation, and mitigation of saline intrusion through a comprehensive watershed management approach. The Department has also developed a scientific database on soil and land resources and provides soil health support services to farmers.

In 2024-25, a total of 46,857 soil samples were analysed, surpassing the annual target of 30,000, and over 30,336 Soil Health Cards (SHCs) were distributed to farmers. All laboratories under the Department achieved NABL accreditation, ensuring high-quality analytical services. In Wayanad District, the mobile soil testing laboratory conducted 26 field campaigns, analysing 712 soil samples and issuing an equal number of SHCs. The Mannu mobile application was upgraded to provide fertilizer recommendations based on soil nutrient status. The laboratory services generated Rs 5.52 lakh in non-tax revenue through providing analytical support to outside agencies. Over the 14th Five-Year Plan period, a total of 1.20 lakh soil samples were analysed and more than 80,000 SHCs were distributed.

In 2024-25, the Soil Informatics Cell completed detailed soil surveys covering 36,497 ha. A total of 35,111 ha area was covered under DSS updation of Panchayats, digitized soil maps for 230 panchayats, and published 27 soil survey reports. Under the Scheme 'Creation of Data Bank for Classification of Land', the Data Bank of 62 panchayats belonging to Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Thrissur districts were completed.

Under the RIDF-assisted watershed programme, conservation works were undertaken over 7,680 ha at a cost of Rs 13.02 crore, while landslide stabilization projects were implemented across 562 hectares in major hilly districts with an expenditure of Rs 1.75 crore. Catchment protection works at Aruvikkara, Sasthamkotta, and Peruvannamoozhi reservoirs were implemented over 104 ha at a cost of Rs 32 lakh, while micro-watershed projects in the Thrithala, and Kuttiyadi constituencies conserved 605 ha with an expenditure of Rs 1.42 crore. Under NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA), participatory and sustainable micro watershed projects in Thaliparamba covered 380 ha with a total spent amount of Rs 4.26 crore. Revival of traditional water bodies, including ponds and groundwater

Box 3.1.1 Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation Project (KERA Project)

The World Bank funded Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernization Project was launched during 2024-25. The total project cost of KERA is 285 million US Dollars with estimated World Bank assistance of 200 million US dollars. The core objective of the KERA Project is to promote the resilience and commercialisation of Kerala's food and agriculture sector. It was approved on October 31, 2024 under the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare, and will continue for five years, ending on November 30, 2029. The KERA Project is structured around five major components viz., climate resilience in agriculture, enhancing small-holder commercialization for value addition, strengthening agri business and the food system, Project Management Unit, and contingent emergency response. In the Budget 2024-25 and 2025-26, an amount of Rs 100 crore, including the State share was earmarked for the project.

Currently project has three Regional Project Management Units (RPMUs) viz., RPMU-North, RPMU-Central, and RPMU-South and their headquarters are at Kannur, Thrissur, and Kottayam respectively. In addition, four project implementation units (PIUs)- Department of Industries and Commerce, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala Startup Mission, and KINFRA were onboarded to the project. During the project preparation stage, which continued until March 31, 2025, an amount of Rs 6.16 crore was expended. Further, the consultancy studies have been initiated for all project components, based on which, the actual implementation is going to be carried out.

recharge initiatives in Alappuzha and Palakkad Districts, was undertaken across 43 ha with an expenditure of Rs 80 lakh.

Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, eco-restoration works were completed over 15,532 ha utilizing Rs 42.82 crore, while soil and water conservation projects worth Rs 9.37 crore were implemented through District Panchayat funds. Wetland conservation works under the State Wetland Authority Kerala (SWAK) were undertaken with an expenditure of Rs 57.9 lakh. In addition, the works under Idukki and Kasaragod packages were also undertaken by the department.

Agricultural Marketing

A network of wholesale and retail markets spread across rural and urban areas supports the marketing of agricultural commodities in the State. These market outlets operate at multiple levels, enabling the sale of farm produce through various aggregation methods, such as direct collection from farmers or cluster-based business models.

The Department of Agriculture initiated marketing of the agricultural products under a unified brand name *Keralagro* to intensify the marketing of various agricultural products from farmers, FPOs, farm groups, other farmer associations and co-operatives, thereby increasing the income of farmers and supplying agricultural products to the consumers at fair price. A total of 15 *Keralagro* branded shops were set up as part of establishing a network of *Keralagro* branded shops across the State. Under the farm plan project, steps were

taken to set up one *Keralagro* outlet in each District. Around 200 *Keralagro* branded products were made available to public through the online marketing platforms. As of now, 853 products developed by 144 entrepreneurs have been approved for branding under *Keralagro*. Additionally, 13 products from Kerala Agro Industries Corporation (KAICO), 48 products from HortiCorp, one product from Onattukara Development Agency, seven from Oil Palm India, and 39 publications from Kerala Agricultural University were included under the brand.

In 2024-25, VFPCCK contributed to strengthening the agricultural marketing system of the State through various activities including the strengthening of rural farmer markets, formation of new bulking points and collection centers, and providing infrastructure facilities and managerial support to the existing farmer markets. Trading of 86,283 MT of vegetables and fruits amounting Rs 295 crore was carried out through 296 *Swasraya Karshaka Samithies* formed by VFPCCK. In addition, a total of 110 retail outlets (*Thalir* and *Sasya* branded) were established in the State and Agmark net nodes was established in 219 VFPCCK *Swasraya Karshaka Vipanis*.

In collaboration with agencies such as VFPCCK and HortiCorp, the Department of Agriculture organized *Onamsamrudhi* fruit and vegetable markets during the festival season to supply quality produce at affordable prices while ensuring fair returns to farmers. A total of 1,956 onam markets were conducted in 2024-25. These include 1,076

markets of Department of Agriculture, 720 markets of HortiCorp, and 160 markets of VFPC. The Kerala Agro Business Company (KABCO), established under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, represents a major step toward building a resilient and market-driven agricultural economy in the State. It aims to address key challenges such as fragmented supply chains, poor market access, limited value addition, and stagnant farm incomes. The Government of Kerala formally approved the establishment of KABCO on August 2, 2023. KABCO has proposed infrastructure projects worth Rs 695 crore to establish world-class agribusiness facilities across Kerala, including the agri tower, expo centres and sector specific agro parks.

Post-harvest Management and Value Addition

Post-harvest management and value addition play an important role in enhancing the efficiency and profitability of the agricultural sector. Effective post-harvest handling reduces losses, maintains quality, and ensures food safety from farm to market. Value addition, processing, and product diversification increases farmers' income, generates employment, and strengthens the agri-based rural economy.

Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is an organization under the Department of Agriculture, Government of Kerala, working for the promotion of agribusiness for the benefit of farmers and entrepreneurs by providing necessary linkages for the establishment and running of successful agribusiness. Formation and promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), and post-harvest management and value addition including promotion of micro, small and medium agro-processing units, are the major schemes implemented by SFAC in Kerala. In 2024-25, a total of 11 MSME units received support through SFAC. In addition, the formation of 50 new FPOs and the strengthening of 50 existing ones under the RKVY scheme for the promotion of FPOs were continued in 2024-25.

VFPC is the Cluster Based Business Organization (CBBO) for the formation of FPOs under Central SFAC and accordingly, 5 FPOs were formed in five blocks of the State. A total of 41 Farmer Producer Companies were formed under VFPC, engaged in primary processing, organic cultivation and exports, value addition of fruits, vegetables, spices, tubers, and honey. Through its

seven Primary Processing Centres (PPCs), VFPC supplies *Thalir* branded products to supermarkets. As part of promoting organic and safe-to-eat produce under the RKI, a network of 63 *Thalir* Green ecoshop outlets were established. A model retail outlet under the *Thalir* brand was also commissioned at Kakkanad in June 2025.

The Kerala State Warehousing Corporation (KSWC) is a statutory corporation established under the Warehousing Act, 1962. It functions with equal shareholdings from the Government of Kerala and the Central Warehousing Corporation. The idea behind the whole warehousing scheme is to give scientific storage to the agricultural produce. KSWC has 55 warehouses across the State with a total storage capacity of 2.36 lakh MT and average capacity of 4,282 MT per unit. A container freight station and customs bonded warehouse are also operated by KSWC at Ernakulam District, which is instrumental in managing the import and export of goods through the State's Ports. With the support of the NABARD Warehouse Infrastructure Fund, the Kerala State Warehousing Corporation has constructed new warehouses with capacities of 2,345 MT at Kozhinjampara, 1,393 MT at Mavelikkara, 3,433 MT at Muthalamada, 672 MT at North Paravur, and 1,217 MT at Thalassery. Additionally, the construction of warehouses at Punalur (2,606 MT capacity) and Sasthamkotta (1,840 MT capacity) is nearing completion. The Corporation has initiated the construction of modern warehouses with cold storage facilities to meet changing storage requirements. A new cold storage facility at Vandanmedu Warehouse was already started functioning. As part of diversification of activities, the Corporation undertakes pest control operations for various government, private, and public institutions.

Mechanisation

In order to overcome the shortage of agricultural labour force existing in the State, thrust has been given for the promotion of mechanisation of agricultural operations in the past years. As part of this, Krishisree Centres were established by integrating Agro Service Centres (ASCs), Karshika Karma Senas (KKSs), and Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) to provide all services through a single-window system. Kerala State Agricultural Mechanization Mission (KSAMM) constituted in the State in 2018, functions with the objective of ensuring coordination and monitoring of

activities of the ASCs, KKSs, CHCs, and similar service providers. As reported by the Mission, 99 ASCs and 365 KKSs and 28 KSCs were established in the State. In 2024-25, a total of 763 individuals, comprising 472 women and 290 men, and one transgender were engaged as service providers through the ASCs and 2,727 agricultural technicians, comprising 1,596 women and 1,131 men were engaged in the KKSs.

The Mission organized a State level programme 'Karshika Yanthra Parirakshana Yajnam' to undertake the repairs of all the agricultural machineries for different districts, based on the demand. In 2024-25, a total of 48 agricultural machineries worth Rs 33.23 lakh were repaired under this programme. In addition, the Mission conducted agro machinery repair and service campaign across the State, under the tag 'Karshika Yantram Sarvam Chalitham Keralam'. Besides providing mechanisation services, KSAMM was assigned the responsibility for organizing Agro Machinery Care Centre (AMCC) for Kule lands as a part of the RKI Project and organizing Combine Harvester Efficiency Monitoring and Inspection Mobile Unit (CHEMIMU) for monitoring and inspection of efficiency of combine harvesters engaged by agents in Kuttanad.

The Centrally Sponsored Scheme viz., the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), aims to increase the reach of farm mechanization to small and marginal farmers, particularly in regions where mechanization facilities are currently unavailable. Under the scheme, financial assistance was provided for the purchase of agricultural machinery, establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs), and setting up of farm machinery banks. In 2024-25, a total of 26,849 individuals were benefitted from the scheme and financial assistance of Rs 56.23 crore was sanctioned. In addition, 145 farm machinery banks were established in the State.

Installation of energy efficient vertical axial flow pumps to replace traditional petti-para systems for drainage system being implemented under the scheme 'Development of Agriculture Sector in Kuttanad'. As reported by the Agriculture Department, in 2024-25, a total of 52 Vertical Axial Flow pumps were installed in padashekharams of Alappuzha, Kottayam, and Pathanamthitta districts.

Major Achievements of Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare in 2024-25

During the 14th Five Year Plan period, the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare implemented various schemes focusing on the holistic development of the agriculture sector, with emphasis on the expansion of the Farm Plan Development Programme initiated in 2022-23, promotion of income-generating activities, homestead vegetable cultivation, strengthening of farmer groups, post-harvest management, and value addition initiatives. Under the Farm Plan Development approach, the concept of FPO formation and development through collectivization of farms was promoted to facilitate efficient marketing and better value realization of produce for farmers. As envisaged by the State Planning Board, this approach also targeted the development of a supply chain network linking farmers with FPOs, marketing hubs, retail outlets, and consumers, while ensuring prompt payment to farmers.

Schemes supporting major crops such as coconut, paddy, vegetables, fruits, flowers, medicinal plants, and spices were also implemented by the Department to bring self-sufficiency in crop production. Considering the unpredictable climate events, natural disasters, and pest and disease outbreaks, schemes such as State crop insurance, Contingency programme to meet natural calamities, and Crop health management were implemented. Through the scheme 'Crop diversification, intensification and introduction', the area expansion of pulses, oilseeds, and millets was given priority. Market development, post-harvest management and value addition, organic farming and safe to eat food production, soil health management, farm mechanization, and strengthening agricultural extension were the other major farmer welfare programmes supported by the Department. Some of the major highlights of the achievements in 2024-25 are as follows:

- As part of the Farm Plan-based Development Approach, 10,977 model plots were established in the State. Assistance was provided to strengthen 46 existing FPOs formed under this approach, with an expenditure of Rs 92.59 lakh in 2024-25. In addition, assistance was also provided to strengthen ten hubs already established under this scheme and to set up 14 new retail outlets.
- As part of the Sustainable Development of

Rice, assistance as input subsidy of Rs 5,500 per ha was provided in 40,189.49 ha of paddy. Assistance was also provided for soil ameliorant application in 42,740.33 ha, specialty rice cultivation in an area of 154.68 ha, fallow land cultivation in 605.99 ha, and aerial spraying of bio fertilizers/bio pesticides/micronutrients using drone in 5969.84 ha of paddy. To support the production of good quality paddy seeds, the Registered Seed Grower's Programme was implemented in an area of 941.48 ha.

- Under the 'Vegetable Development' scheme, hybrid/high yielding variety vegetable seeds, purchased from the institutions such as Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Agricultural Universities, and VFPCCK were distributed free of cost to farmers, incurring an expenditure of Rs 81.75 lakh.
- With the objective of promoting safe-to-eat vegetable production in the homesteads, a total of 25 lakh vegetable seed packets and 40 lakh vegetable seedlings were distributed to various beneficiaries including students, farmers, NGOs, and residents' associations. In addition, establishment of 87,000 nutrition gardens, and distribution of 7,953 terrace cultivation units each containing 25 clay/HDPE pots were undertaken.
- Cluster-based vegetable cultivation was also promoted under the 'Vegetable Development' scheme and 774 clusters were provided with subsidy assistance up to Rs 1.25 lakh per unit of cluster. Total area bought under cultivation was 3,870 ha.
- As part of the promotion of cluster-based coconut development, 23 new *Keragramams* with an area of 100 ha each were established in the State. *Kera Raksha Varam* campaign was conducted in various locations and the campaign included the supply of green manure seeds for eight lakh palms, crown cleaning and application of plant protection chemicals for 4.25 lakh palms. As part of the activities under the Coconut Development Council, a total of 9.75 lakh West Coast Tall (WCT), 76,962 dwarf and 1.24 lakh hybrid coconut seedlings were distributed.
- As part of development of fruits, a total of 13.19 lakh planting materials of fruit plants including high-quality graft, layers, tissue culture banana seedlings and fruit seedlings were distributed to farmers. As part of development of flowers, cut flowers were raised in an area of 18.57 ha, loose

flowers in 54.6 ha, and foliage plants in 3.5 ha and a total of 1,381 farmers were benefitted.

- In 2024-25, a total of 10.72 lakh planting materials of medicinal plants were produced from departmental farms and cluster-based medicinal plant cultivation was undertaken in an area of 38 ha, benefitting 325 farmers.
- Under the scheme 'Crop diversification, intensification and introduction', the achievements of the area expansion of pulses, oilseeds, and millets were 451.12 ha, 380.13 ha, and 267.35 ha respectively. Similarly, under the scheme 'Development of spices', the achievements of area expansion of black pepper, nutmeg, and clove were 1332.59 ha, 79.25 ha, and 110.17 ha respectively.
- A total of 985 soil testing campaigns were conducted across the State in 2024-25 and ten new Plant Health Clinics were established. In addition, 601 farmers were implemented National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) certification process.
- Good quality planting materials including 595.80 tonnes of paddy seeds, 4.17 lakh tissue culture banana plants, 29.73 lakh rooted pepper cuttings, 40.60 lakh vegetable seedlings, 22.77 tonnes of vegetable seeds, 7.51 lakh planting materials of fruits, 50.60 tonnes of tuberous planting materials, 1.98 lakh cashew grafts, 6.39 tonnes of ginger, 25.73 tonnes of turmeric, other planting materials and various value added products were produced and distributed by Departmental farms across the State.
- As part of quality control enforcement of fertilizers, pesticides, biofertilizers, and organic manures distributed in the State, samples were collected from outlets and analyzed in Departmental laboratories. Accordingly, 2,130 pesticide samples, 3,830 fertilizer samples, and 55 biofertilizer and organic manure samples were analyzed.
- The procurement price of green coconut was raised from Rs 32 per kg to Rs 34 per kg from April 1, 2023. In 2024-25, 1254.03 MT of green coconut was procured from 2,748 farmers.
- As part of agricultural extension programmes 2024-25, *Karshaka Sabhas* and *Njattuwela Chanthas* were organized in the State. As part of Krishi darshan, 'Karappuram Karshika Kazhchakal' programme was conducted at Cherthala in Alappuzha District.
- Pension scheme for small and marginal farmers is being implemented in the State as support for the farmers who have reached the age of

Box 3.1.2 Digital Initiatives of the Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare

The Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' Welfare has initiated a comprehensive digital transformation to enhance service delivery and improve efficiency through e-Governance. The major IT initiatives being undertaken by the Department includes the following;

1. Kerala Agriculture Technology Hub and Information Repository (KATHIR)

KATHIR is a major innovative digital initiative by the Department to consolidate all agriculture activities under a single platform. It is envisioned as an integrated agriculture data hub and digital farmer services platforms. This will facilitate integration of existing data from both State and Central Government database and scope of satellite and AI technologies. The major services include agro advisory services, soil information system, plant doctor system, agriculture scheme information, land information, e-market system, and information on the availability of planting materials and agricultural equipment.

2. Agri Stack and Farmer Registry

The Agri Stack is built on three foundational registries viz., Farmer registry, Geo-referenced village maps, and Crop sown registry. The Government of Kerala initiated the farmer registry with administrative sanction on September, 28, 2024 and established a State Programme Management Unit on October, 15, 2024. State-wide farmer registration was commenced on May 8, 2025. As on August 22, 2025, the total number of registered farmers were 23.89 lakh.

3. Digital Crop Survey (DCS)

Government of India has selected Kerala as one of the pilot states for the implementation of DCS in the year 2023-24 and Department of Agriculture as the nodal Department for conducting the survey. Its goal is to create a single, verified crop sowing data for the State. As part of this, a pilot survey was conducted in Alappuzha, Palakkad, and Wayanad districts in 2023-24. For the Kharif season of 2025, the survey infrastructure is ready to deploy across 749 villages in the State. In 2024-25, survey was conducted in 196 villages in Kharif season and 199 villages in rabi season.

4. Agriculture Information Management System (AIMS)

AIMS is a comprehensive, farmer-centric, integrated service delivery platform developed by the Department in collaboration with NIC, Kerala. It provides a single-window facility for farmers to register and apply for various services with the primary goal to provide timely, efficient, and transparent service delivery by reducing the workload of field-level officers. The AIMS platform facilitates online applications for various schemes through its various modules from submission to the direct transfer of assistance to the farmer's bank account through the Centralized Direct Benefit Transfer (CDBT) system. The Department has already transferred over Rs 182 crore to 3.7 lakh farmers for natural calamity relief through the AIMS. Currently AIMS is having 42.59 lakh individual farmer registrations.

60 years. As per the reports of the Agriculture Department, Rs 370.73 crore had been paid as pension to 1.95 lakh beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-25.

- Kerala is one of the top performing states in implementing the PM-KISAN scheme at the national level. From December, 2018 to July, 2025, a total of Rs 11,508 crore was distributed to 38 lakh farmers under this scheme.
- 'Nawo-dhan' scheme was launched to commercialize unused and fallow land resources in the State. Under the supervision of Department of Agricultural Development and Farmers Welfare, KABCO was appointed as the Special Purpose Vehicle for the implementation of this scheme.

Crop Insurance Schemes

The crop insurance schemes under implementation in the State are the Restructured State Crop Insurance Scheme and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS).

The Restructured State Crop Insurance covers losses caused by natural calamities and a total of 27 major agricultural crops namely coconut, arecanut, rubber, cashew, banana, tapioca, pineapple, pepper, cardamom, ginger, turmeric, coffee, tea, cocoa, ground nut, sesamum, vegetables, clove, betel vine, pulses, tubers, sugarcane, tobacco, paddy, nutmeg, mango, and millets were covered under the scheme. In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 33.14 crore was provided as insurance to a total of 16,959 farmers. In addition, as a part of the 'Contingency Programme to Meet Natural Calamities and Pest

and Disease Endemic' Scheme 2024-25, an amount of Rs 5.25 crore was expended as natural calamity relief assistance through AIMS Portal. A total of 4,422 farmers were benefitted under the scheme.

The Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) is implemented by Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC). Under the scheme, each notified Panchayat was linked to one Automatic Weather Station (AWS) or Reference Weather Station and claims were settled for adverse weather incidence on the basis of weather data from the respective weather stations for each notified crop. A total of 172 such AWSs had been installed for the scheme. The crops notified under the scheme were paddy, banana, pepper, ginger, turmeric, pineapple, cardamom, arecanut, nutmeg, sugarcane, cashew, coconut, mango, millets, pulses, vegetables including cool season vegetables, rubber, tapioca, betel vine, sesamum, tubers, coffee, and tea during Kharif and Rabi seasons. As reported by AIC, in Kharif 2024 season, 92,743 farmers were enrolled under RWBCIS covering an insured area of 33,657.67 ha. For the Rabi 2024-25 season, 1,26,906 farmers were enrolled with an insured area of 46,319.31 ha.

Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council, Keralam (VFPCCK)

Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council, Keralam (VFPCCK) is a company constituted under the Indian Companies Act, 1956, with the mandate to support the commercial fruit and vegetable growers in Kerala in various farm operations from seed to marketing in a sustainable way. VFPCCK has adopted the Self Help Group model as a key strategy in all its interventions such as crop cultivation, agricultural extension, rural credit, group marketing, and value addition. In 2024-25, a total of 81,521 MT of vegetables and 95,328 MT of banana were produced by the farmers of the Council from an area of 17,212 ha under vegetable cultivation and 16,134 ha under commercial banana cultivation. In addition, VFPCCK had inducted 2,699 new farmers and formed 61 new SHGs, thereby increasing the database of farmers to 2,16,891 and SHGs to 10,445 by March, 2025.

In 2024-25, the Council supplied 57.56 lakh vegetable seedlings through their seedling production units viz., Krishi Business Kendras, Seed Processing Plant, and High-tech plug nursery. In addition, VFPCCK supplied 21.82 lakh vegetable seed kits for various Government schemes. Under

Vegetable Development Scheme 2024-25, VFPCCK distributed 39,800 hybrid vegetable seed kits. Hybrid seed production of vegetables including tomato, brinjal, bhindi, chilli, and watermelon was undertaken by VFPCCK and trial plots were conducted in the selected farmers' field for evaluating the performance and suitability to the Kerala conditions. As part of production of good quality planting material, the Seed Processing Plant at Alathur produced 28.5 MT vegetable seeds. Through the mushroom spawn production unit at Kakkanad, VFPCCK supplied 3,881 packets of mushroom spawn for cultivation. A total of 2,940 soil samples were tested in 2024-25 through the soil testing laboratories of VFPCCK at Malappuram and Alappuzha districts. The Biocontrol lab of VFPCCK at Palakkad produced 26 MT of *Pseudomonas* and 596 kg *Trichoderma*.

VFPCCK also involved in export promotion of vegetables and fruits in the State. The council catered to the export of products including Nendran, Njalipooovan, jackfruit, banana stem, and flower which were sourced from farmers of Malappuram and Kozhikode districts. The export protocol on banana was disseminated among the farmers and several awareness programmes were conducted by VFPCCK for various stakeholders. Jackfruit processing centres were initiated at Idukki and Wayanad districts. In 2024-25, a total of 4,35,072 kg of jackfruit was procured with assistance extended to 803 farmers. VFPCCK was entrusted with green coconut procurement for KERA FED. In 2024-25, VFPCCK provided financial assistance of Rs 1.38 crore for the 2949.80 MT green coconut procured, benefitting 5,854 farmers.

State Horticulture Mission (SHM)

The State Horticulture Mission (SHM), is a society registered in October 2005 under the Travancore-Cochin Literary Scientific and Charitable Societies Act, 1955. It was established to implement the National Horticulture Mission (NHM), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which has been included under the umbrella scheme of the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) since 2014-15. SHM provides support in terms of subsidies, technical guidance, and infrastructure development for the development of horticulture sector in the State. Apart from MIDH, SHM also implemented other horticulture development programmes through RKVY, RIDF, and RKI.

The programmes of the MIDH scheme include initiatives on production and productivity improvement, post-harvest management, and marketing. In 2024-25, a total of 78,108 farmers were directly benefitted under MIDH scheme. Establishment of 2,105 ha of new fruit orchards, cultivation of 1,263 ha of hybrid vegetables, 898.2 ha of floriculture, and 1,983.2 ha of spices were supported under the area expansion programme of MIDH. The achievement under area expansion of crops through the Mission is provided in **Table 3.1.6**. In addition, a total area of 146.7 ha was brought under protected cultivation.

Under RKVY, the major achievements in 2024-25 include the installation of 80 Arka vertical garden structures, implementation of open precision farming in 10.4 ha of banana and 92 ha of

vegetable cultivation, support for 601 small-scale and 26 large-scale mushroom production units across 20 designated villages, and the establishment of nutritional fruit gardens covering a total area of 404.7 ha.

SHM established the Centre of Excellence for vegetables and flowers at Regional Agricultural Research Station (RARS), Wayanad. The centre aims to impart required skills, knowledge, and training in hi-tech cultivation of flowers and vegetables, besides providing good-quality planting material of vegetables and flowers. From its inception until August 2025, the Centre has produced a total of 14.14 lakh seedlings of vegetables, 7.35 lakh seedlings of flowers, 22.67 MT of vegetables, and 1.53 MT of flowers. Additionally, 27 training programmes were conducted, involving 1,110 trainees.

Table 3.1.6 Achievement under the area expansion programme of MIDH through the mission in 2024-25

SL	Crops	Area expansion in hectare
1.	Dragon Fruit – without integration	45.0
2.	Strawberry – with integration	5.00
3.	Strawberry – without integration	35.0
4.	Banana	750.0
5.	Pineapple	628.4
6.	TC Banana	96.00
7.	Papaya- with integration	13.73
8.	Papaya- without integration	30.92
9.	Fruit crops-High Density Planting	22.53
10.	Mango	77.93
11.	Jack fruit	137.74
12.	Avocado	46.82
13.	Rambutan	172.33
14.	Passion fruit	15.88
15.	Mangosteen	23.96
16.	Garcinia	3.75
17.	Hybrid Vegetables	1262.96
18.	Cut flowers	210.26
19.	Loose flowers	687.96
20.	Seed/Rhizomatic spices-Ginger, Turmeric	500.00
21.	Perennial spices-Pepper, Nutmeg Clove, Cinnamon etc.	1483.20
22.	Aromatic plants-Betel vine, Vetiver etc.	567.47
23.	Plantation crops- Cashew, Cocoa	494.71
Total		7311.58

Source: State Horticulture Mission

Data on prices of agricultural commodities, agricultural inputs, indicators of development are given in **Appendices 3.1.20, 3.1.21, 3.1.23 and, 3.1.24.**

Agriculture Research, Extension and Education

Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), is the premier agricultural institute in the State, with a mission of excellence in agricultural education, research and extension for sustainable agricultural development and livelihood security of farming community. KAU has been accredited by the National Agricultural Education Accreditation Board (NAEAB) of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, since 2001. The university, along with its constituent colleges and courses, has been granted ICAR accreditation for a further five years (2024-2029) with an 'A' grade. In 2025, KAU was ranked 12th in the Agriculture and allied sectors category by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). KAU has a network of institutions viz., eight Colleges, six Regional Agricultural Research Stations (RARS), 16 Research Stations, Central Training Institute, Communication Centre, Institute of Agricultural Technology (Pattambi), Extension Training Centre (Manjeswaram) and seven Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).

Under its four faculties viz., Agriculture, Forestry, Agricultural Engineering & Technology, and Basic Science & Humanities, KAU offers the Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Doctoral programmes in Agriculture, Agricultural Engineering, Co-operation and Banking, Horticulture, and Forestry. In 32 disciplines, the University offers Post-Graduate (PG) programmes. Doctoral programmes were offered in 10 disciplines of Agriculture, five disciplines of Horticulture, five disciplines of Forestry, three disciplines of Agricultural Engineering, one discipline in Community Science, and one discipline in Co-operation and Banking. A total of 3,164 UG students, and 948 PG/Ph.D. students carry out their education in the University.

Some of the major achievements of the University in 2024-25 are as follows:

- KAU released 16 new varieties of different crops, including two varieties each of rice, coconut, cowpea, and vegetables, one of fodder grass, six of cocoa, and one of mushroom. In addition, a total of 33 technologies were developed in 2024-25.

- Patent has been granted for a cocoa pod crushing device developed by Kelappaji College of Agricultural Engineering and Food Technology, Tavanur.
- KAU collaborated with the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, to study the impact of microgravity on crop seeds as part of the Axiome 4 mission of NASA. Seeds of two rice varieties, Uma and Jyothy; cowpea variety, Kanakamony; sesame variety, Thilathara; brinjal variety, Surya; and tomato variety, Vellayani Vijay were taken to the International Space Station (ISS) by the astronauts of the Axiome 4 mission. Evaluation of those seeds is in progress.
- KAU was entrusted with providing technical support for the Farm Plan-Based Development Programme through the development of master trainers, preparation and execution of technical modules, and regular extension activities.
- KAU scientists took the leadership in operating the Block Level Agricultural Knowledge Centres (BLAKCs) in 152 blocks. State wide celebrations were held as part of 'KAU Technology Day' at all 152 BLAKCs.
- In 2024-25, more than 150 Front-Line Demonstrations (FLDs) and more than 60 On-Farm Trials (OFTs), and more than 1,000 training programmes in various agricultural disciplines were conducted through various KVKs under the control of Directorate of Extension (DoE).
- Introduced 'Mukhamukham' (Agro Clinic & Farm Advisory Conclave), an innovative platform enabling farmers to directly engage with interdisciplinary teams of scientists. It was implemented in collaboration with the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).
- Distribution of quality seeds, seedlings, inputs and value added products was carried out through the Communication Centre, ATIC and KVKs. Planting materials worth over Rs 3 crore were sold during this period.
- With the involvement of Thrissur and Kannur KVKs, a total of five Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) were established. Additionally, in collaboration with MANAGE and ATMA, DoE implemented Diploma Programme for Agri-Input Dealers (DAESI).
- Centre for e-Learning (CeL, KAU) under the DoE conducted various Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) viz., mushroom cultivation, apiculture, organic manures and biofertilizers,

pests and disease management through biocontrol agents, hi tech agriculture, and commercial Floriculture and online certificate courses were offered.

- KAU RKVY-RAFTAAR-Agribusiness Incubator (KAU RABI) has launched the sixth Agripreneurship Programme ‘Cohort VI’ to foster entrepreneurship in the agriculture sector and conducted 15 days long workshop.
- DoE implemented the project, Satellite Incubation Centre (SIC) at RARS, Pattambi in collaboration with ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekaryam for addressing the tuber crops related location specific and value-chain problems through entrepreneurship.

Way forward

In order to keep in pace with the recent advances in the sector globally, Kerala’s agriculture needs to embrace new technologies, particularly biotechnology and nanotechnology. There is a need for climate-resilient practices in Kerala’s agriculture sector, which is critical due to the State’s increasing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Youth should be attracted to agriculture by making it economically rewarding and intellectually stimulating. Skill development by providing training in modern agricultural techniques, entrepreneurship, and value-added farming practices can empower farmers. Efficient land use systems can improve resource efficiency and boost economies of scale. Production and marketing interventions must use the strengths of the State’s Co-operative sector. Crop specific value chains need to be developed to strengthen agriculture and farmers income. In addition, sustainable agricultural practices in the sector are also crucial for maintaining ecosystems and ensuring long-term resource availability.

FINANCE TO AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS

Agriculture finance in Kerala plays an important role in strengthening the State’s agrarian economy, which is marked by small and marginal holdings and diverse agro-climatic conditions. Agricultural finance now goes beyond traditional crop loans to allied sectors such as dairy, fisheries, plantation crops, and emerging agri-businesses. This broader approach helps to strengthen the overall farming ecosystem and supports sustainable growth in agriculture. There is a high demand for capital

investment in agriculture and allied activities, which helps farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to invest in modern technologies, infrastructure, and value addition. Smaller investments are also critical for farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises to enhance productivity. Effective credit flow, coupled with institutional support and innovative financial products, is essential to enhance productivity, improve farmer income, and drive inclusive rural development in the State. Additionally, the climate-related aspect of financing is also becoming important.

Kerala has significant potential for credit flow in agriculture sector. As reported in the State Focus Paper 2025-26 by NABARD, the credit projection for the total priority sector in Kerala for 2025-26 was estimated at Rs 2,78,509.45 crore, including Rs 1,41,541.56 crore for agriculture. Compared to the projected agricultural credit potential of Rs 1,23,757.70 crore in 2024-25, the projections for 2025-26 reflects a growth of 14.37 per cent.

Agricultural Credit Policy

The Government of India has initiated several policy measures to improve the accessibility of farmers to the institutional sources of credit. The emphasis of these policies has been on progressive institutionalization for providing timely and adequate credit support to all farmers. Particular focus was given to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections of society, enabling them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices for enhancing agricultural production and productivity. The policy emphasis on augmenting credit flow at the ground level through credit planning, adoption of region-specific strategies, and rationalization of lending policies and procedures. The Government of India fixes agriculture credit disbursement targets for the banking sector every year and banks have consistently surpassed these targets. The achievement for total priority sector credit against the target in the financial year 2024 was 105 per cent. The credit flow to agriculture recorded an achievement of 116 per cent during 2024–25, registering a growth of 20.83 per cent over the achievement in 2023–24 (**Appendix 3.1.27**).

Institutional Arrangements

Financial institutions play a greater role in providing credit across the entire supply chain in agriculture and allied activities. Agricultural credit is disbursed through a multi-agency network

consisting of Commercial Banks (CBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks (SFBs), and Co-operatives. By promoting financial inclusion, these institutions empower marginalized communities and foster entrepreneurship. They also contribute to poverty alleviation, making them instrumental in the overall development of the State.

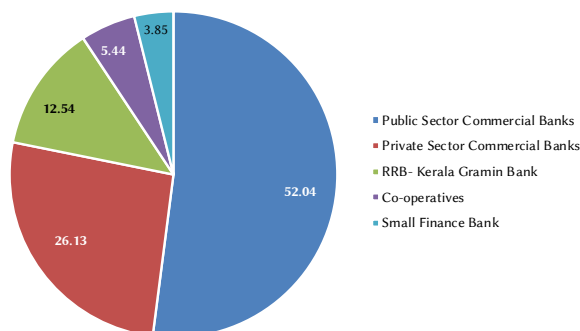
Kerala achieved significant progress in its banking sector, marked by extensive financial inclusion, a well-established network of bank branches, and widespread accessibility of banking services. Kerala became the first State in India to offer fully digital banking services on January 7, 2023. Technological advancements transformed the banking sector, enabling customers to access nearly all services remotely through smartphones. This digital shift significantly reduced dependence on physical cash and facilitated instant transactions from almost anywhere. In March 2025, the total business of Commercial Banks grew by nine per cent over previous year, driven by a ten per cent expansion in deposits and an eight per cent increase in advances. As per State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) data, the total number of bank branches in Kerala as of March 2025 was 8,085. Of the total number of bank branches, 1,829 branches were in urban areas, 5,432 branches in semi-urban area and 824 branches in rural areas. This strong presence of banks significantly contributed to enhancing credit flow to the primary sector. Out of the total primary sector disbursement in 2024-25, 52.04 per cent was contributed by Public Sector Commercial Banks, 26.13 per cent by Private Sector Commercial Banks, and the remaining 21.83 per cent was disbursed by RRB -Kerala Gramin Bank, Co-operatives, and Small Finance Banks (Figure 3.1.3).

In Kerala, a number of banking policies and initiatives targeted at the socio-economic development are coordinated and carried out in large part by the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC). In accordance with RBI rules, the State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) was established under the Lead Bank Scheme. As a high-level inter-institutional forum, it facilitates coordination between Banks and the Government over issues related to banking development. Canara Bank is the convenor of the State Level Bankers Committee for Kerala. Effective development programme implementation is facilitated by SLBC in the areas of training, financial literacy,

employment for the unemployed, supplying banking services in areas without banks, and poverty alleviation. In order to carry out several Government directives, particularly those pertaining to financial inclusion and lending to the priority sector, SLBC collaborates with the State Government.

The Co-operative Banks and Primary Agriculture Credit Societies (PACS) have played a greater role in financial inclusion in the State. PACS play a major role in bringing rural and low-income populations to the banking system and also function as the backbone of the rural credit system. As on March 2025, the Credit Co-operatives maintained a strong and extensive local presence through 1,636 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). This wide network enabled them to remain deeply connected to rural communities, ensure last-mile delivery of financial services, and play a vital role in supporting farmers and other primary sector activities across the State.

Figure 3.1.3 Share of primary sector disbursement in 2024-25

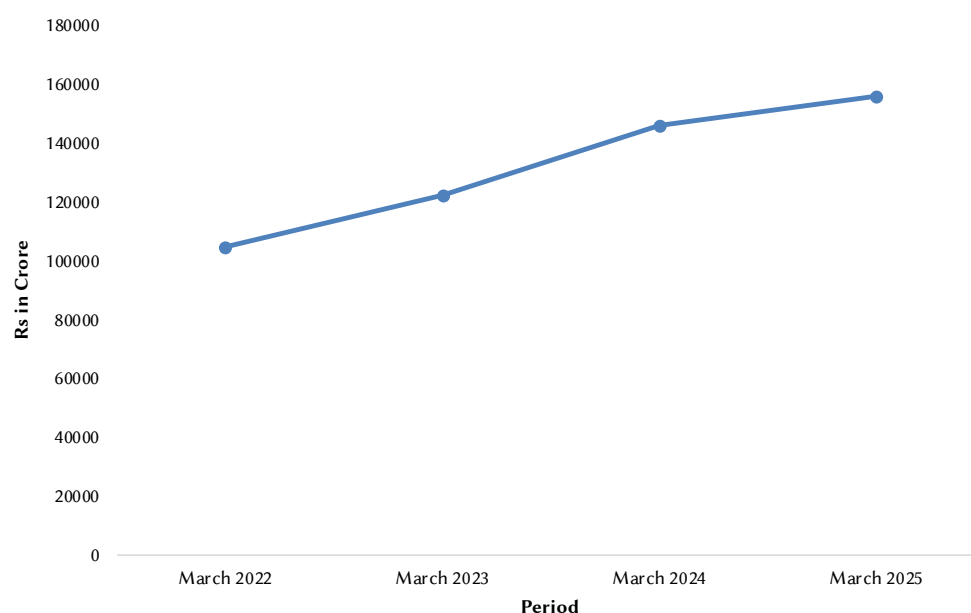


Source: SLBC

Growth in Agriculture Advances

Credit availability remains a major factor in strengthening the agriculture sector by supporting investment, modernization, and risk management at the farm level. According to the SLBC data, the credit flow to the primary sector, especially to agriculture exhibited a significant upward trend in 2024-25. Primary sector lending in Kerala has achieved 116 per cent in March, 2025 quarter as against the target fixed for 2024-25, reflecting a growth over the previous year's achievement of 87 per cent. The total agricultural advances (including Co-operative Banks) in the State increased from Rs 1,46,183 crore in March 2024 to Rs 1,55,775 crore in March 2025, marking a growth of 6.56 per cent over the previous year (Figure 3.1.4). Agricultural advances accounted for 22.79 per cent of the total

Figure 3.1.4 Growth in agriculture advances from March 2022 to March 2025 (Rs in crore).



Source: SLBC

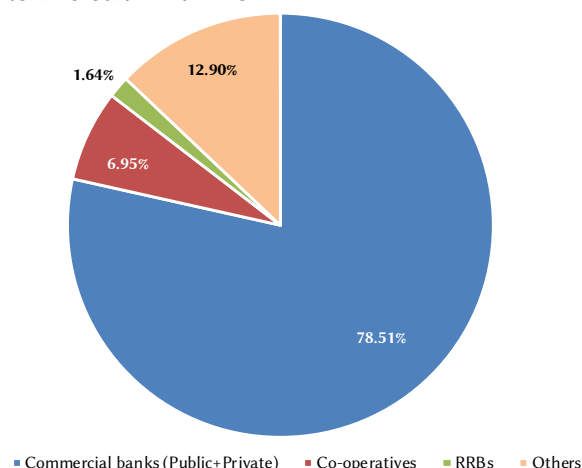
advances in the State, indicating the continued priority accorded to the agricultural sector in the overall credit portfolio. In 2024–25, Public Sector Commercial Banks accounted for the major share of agricultural advances with 50.3 per cent share, followed by Private Sector Commercial Banks with 24.3 per cent share.

Credit flow to Agriculture Sector

The total agriculture credit flow in the State includes crop loans and agriculture term loans. There was a considerable increase in agriculture credit flow in the State from Rs 1,38,490 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 1,67,336 crore in 2024-25 (**Appendix 3.1.25**). Out of the total agriculture credit lending in 2024-25, Rs 1,30,803.45 crore was disbursed by Public and Private Sector Commercial Banks, Rs 9,106.92 crore by Co-operative Banks, Rs 20,991.23 crore by RRBs, and Rs 6,434.71 crore by other Banks. The credit flow under crop loans in the State was Rs 1,17,484.37 crore, of which Private and Public Sector Commercial Banks lent Rs 91,663.3 crore, Co-operative Banks lent Rs 5,642.73 crore, RRBs lent Rs 20,175 crore and Rs 3.34 crore by other banks (**Appendix 3.1.27**). Under agricultural term credit lending, Commercial Banks accounted for 78.51 per cent of the total and achieved 114.8 per cent of their lending target, while Co-operative Banks and RRBs contributed 6.95 per cent and 1.64 per cent respectively. Agency wise credit flow of agriculture term-

credit in 2024-25 is given in **Figure 3.1.5**. The achievement in total agricultural loan lending was 116.07 per cent of the target fixed for 2024-25. The total priority sector credit stood at Rs 2,55,685.54 crore, achieving 105.02 per cent of the target set for the year. Commercial Banks accounted for the majority of credit extended to the priority sector i.e., 82.69 per cent.

Figure 3.1.5 Agency wise credit flow of agriculture term-credit in 2024-25



Source: NABARD

Production credit and Investment Credit

Agriculture depends on both production and investment credit for progress. Production credit helps in sustaining the day-to-day operations of the agricultural sector. It provides farmers with timely access to working capital required for purchasing inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, feed, and fuel, and for meeting labour expenses during the crop season. Investment credit holds importance in agriculture because it focuses on long-term improvements that enhance the overall productivity and sustainability of farming operations. These investments lead to lasting improvements in farm efficiency and reduce input costs over time. In the long run, investment credit is crucial for transforming traditional agricultural practices into modern, sustainable, and commercially viable enterprise. A balance between production credit and investment credit should be ensured to support sustainable agricultural growth. In 2024-25, production (short-term) credit and investment (long-term) credit constituted 70 per cent and 30 per cent respectively of the total Ground Level Credit (GLC) flow to agriculture. A total of Rs 1,17,484 crore was disbursed as production credit and lending under investment credit was Rs 49,852 crore. The growth in production credit was higher than that of investment credit, showing expansion in short-term agricultural lending. Break up of production and investment credit is provided in **Appendix 3.1.25** and in **Figure 3.1.6**.

In 2024-25, the agriculture credit was utilised in different sub-sectors including crop loans, minor irrigation, land development, farm mechanisation, plantation, horticulture, dairy development, poultry, fisheries, forest/wasteland development, storage, and others. Out of the total agriculture credit of Rs 1,67,336 crore, 70.21 per cent was utilised for crop loans and 9.55 per cent for dairy development. Sub-sector wise agriculture credit flow is shown in **Appendix 3.1.26**.

The Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio of the State has shown a significant improvement over the last five years. According to SLBC, as on March 2025, the CD ratio of the State stood at 72.08 per cent, showing an increase from 66 per cent in March 2020. This reflects improved mobilization of deposits into credit across the State. Among the districts, Wayanad had the highest CD ratio at 131.87 per cent, followed by Idukki at 123.54 per

cent. In terms of asset quality, the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) in the priority sector was 5.35 per cent in 2024-25. The agriculture sector, which forms a significant part of the priority sector, recorded a lower NPA of 3.82 per cent.

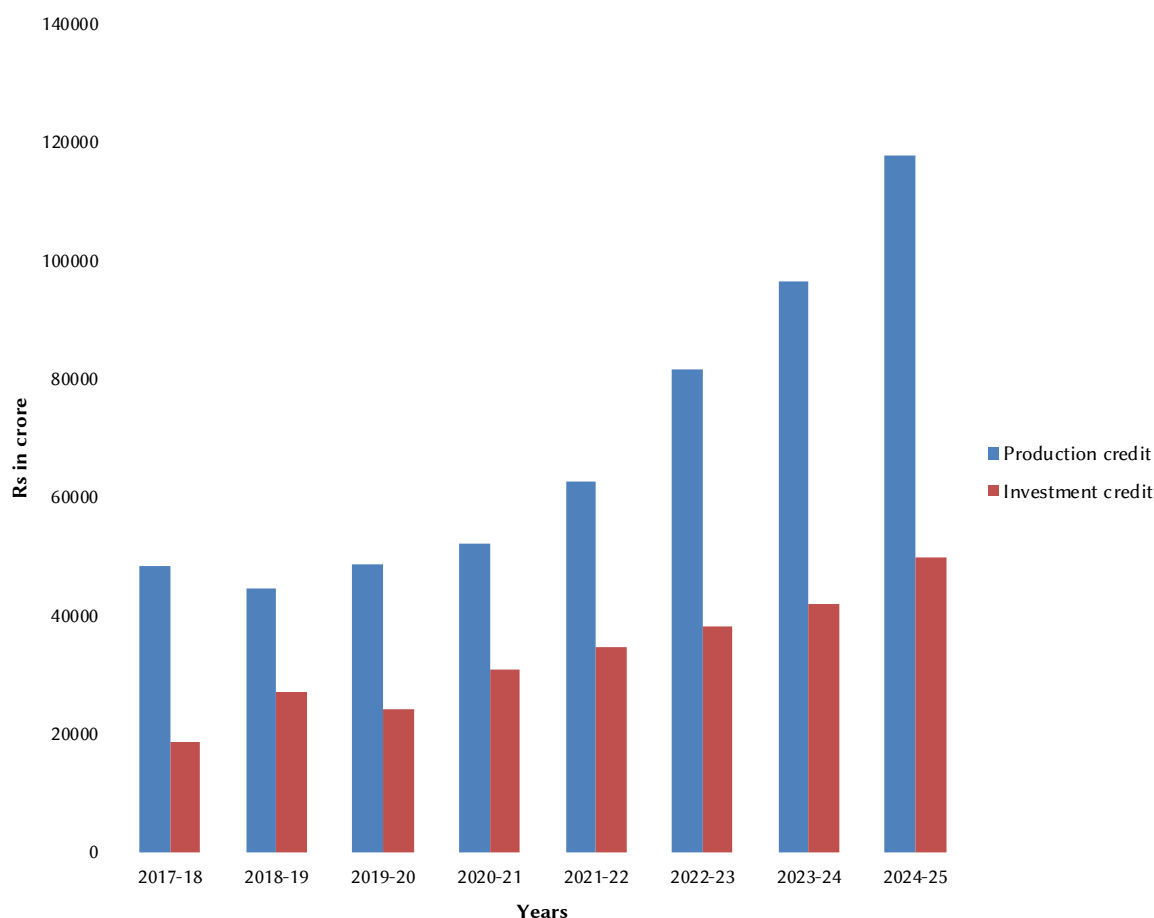
Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

The KCC scheme was introduced in 1998-99 to provide timely and affordable credit to farmers. It aims to simplify the process of availing credit for agricultural activities, ensuring that farmers have easy access to funds for purchasing seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other inputs required for crop production. KCC also covers allied activities such as dairy, poultry, and fisheries, making it a comprehensive tool for rural financial inclusion. As on March 31, 2025, the balance outstanding under the Kisan Credit Card was Rs 38,526.66 crore in the State. The cumulative disbursement under KCC in the year 2024-25 was Rs 28,522.79 crore and a total of 11,36,614 Kisan Credit Cards were issued to farmers across the State through various financial institutions. The progress in issue of KCC through various agencies is shown in **Appendix 3.1.28**. RuPay Kisan Credit Cards were issued to farmers as a smart and efficient tool for accessing credit. This card functions similarly to a debit or credit card. It is linked to the KCC account, which allows farmers to conveniently withdraw cash, make purchases, and pay for agricultural inputs directly at point-of-sale (POS) terminals. Additionally, the Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (PAIS) was integrated with the KCC to provide insurance coverage to farmers against accidental death or disability. According to the SLBC data of March, 2025, a total of 6,36,409 persons were covered under PAIS. KCC was made mandatory for availing the benefit of Interest Subvention on Short-term loans (ISS) disbursed since April 2020.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)

The Government of India launched the AIF scheme in 2020 with the primary objective of mobilizing medium- to long-term debt financing for investment in viable projects. This includes projects related to post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets. The scheme provides incentives and financial support to strengthen agriculture infrastructure across the country. Under this scheme, interest subvention of 3 per cent per annum is available for loans up to a limit of Rs 2 crore. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years. As

Figure 3.1.6 Share of production and investment credit in total agriculture credit from 2017-18 to 2024-25



Source: SLBC

reported by the SLBC, Kerala, as on May 20, 2025, a total of 3,368 loan applications were sanctioned under the AIF scheme. Out of these, an amount of Rs 795.45 crore was disbursed in the State since the inception of the scheme.

NABARD

NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) is an apex regulatory body in India that focuses on the development of rural areas by promoting agriculture and rural industries. NABARD acts as a liaison between the Indian Government, State Governments, and other institutions to ensure smooth coordination and implementation of rural development policies. NABARD extends support to the States in the form of loan/refinance and also as grant support. Loan/refinance is extended for augmenting ground level credit flow to agriculture and allied sectors and for the creation of rural infrastructure. Financial assistance in the form of grants is

extended for various developmental activities such as fostering innovation in the farm sector, promotion of Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs), skill development, support for financial inclusion, digitizing banking transactions, creation of livelihood opportunities through Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), and capacity enhancement through training.

NABARD provides short-term refinance to Co-operative Banks and RRBs to support production credit activities. For investment credit aimed at capital formation in the agriculture sector, it extends medium- and long-term refinance. NABARD also offers special refinance facilities and functions as a subsidy channelling agency for various Central Government schemes. In 2024-25, NABARD, Kerala region had disbursed a total refinance of Rs 15,678 crore, including long term refinance of Rs 3,927 crore and short term refinance of Rs 11,751 crore. In 2024-25, the

achievement percentage under refinance was 101 per cent. Of the total fund disbursed under short term refinance, 65 per cent was disbursed through State Co-operative Bank, 32 per cent was routed through Kerala Gramin Bank, and the remaining three per cent through Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (KSCARDB). In the case of long-term refinance, 38 per cent was disbursed through the State Co-operative Bank, 15 per cent each through the Kerala Gramin Bank and Non-Banking Financial Companies/Microfinance Institutions (NBFCs/MFIs), and 32 per cent through the KSCARDB.

NABARD provided concessional refinance to State Co-operative Banks at three per cent, which in turn lends to PACS at four per cent to increase quality infrastructure and to rejuvenate the PACS as MSCs (Multi-Service Centres). A total of 231 PACS have been provided support in the State and a total of Rs 481.66 crore was sanctioned by NABARD under the special refinance scheme for PACS as MSCs. The agency-wise disbursement of re-finance assistance by NABARD is shown in **Appendix 3.1.29**.

Other major achievements of NABARD in 2024-25

Through various funds instituted by the Govt. of India in NABARD, it has been supporting the creation of infrastructure in rural areas under agriculture and allied sectors. Major infrastructure initiatives in Kerala through NABARD include the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA), Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Warehouse Infrastructure Fund (WIF), Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF), and Food Processing Fund (FPF).

- The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) supports the State's efforts in the creation of infrastructure for agriculture development. In 2024-25, a total of 28 projects worth RIDF loan of Rs 762.16 crore were sanctioned. These include major projects such as modern rice mill in Kottayam, construction works related with specialty hospital at Pinarayi (Phase II) in Kannur, and solarisation of 3,393 grid connected agricultural pumps under PM KUSUM scheme. The tranche-wise sanction and disbursements under RIDF are shown in **Appendix 3.1.30**.

- Through various products such as NIDA, Rural Infrastructure Assistance to State Governments (RIAS), and Direct Refinance Assistance (DRA), NABARD sanctioned projects to Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri-Value Chain Modernisation (KERA), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) and refinance to Kerala Bank.
- NABARD, Kerala region has sanctioned a project to establish Rural Business Incubation Centre (RBIC) titled 'KAU-WSU Launchpad for Ag-Tech Forward Transformation'. The project aims to create a dynamic environment to empower rural entrepreneurs and drive sustainable development in Kerala's agricultural sector. The hub will feature instructional spaces, cutting-edge equipment, and a focus on areas like vertical farming, precision farming, and food processing.
- NABARD disbursed Rs 492.10 lakh for 11 ongoing Tribal Resilience Initiative for Building Environmentally Sustainable Livelihoods (TRIBES) projects, being implemented across nine districts of Kerala.
- NABARD launched NABARD Green Lending Facility (NGLF) with a goal to foster a greener and more resilient rural India by supporting projects that promote energy efficiency, cleaner production and sustainability. The facility supports all activities that generate a positive environmental impact in rural areas or contribute to their long-term sustainability. Under its climate change initiatives, grant assistance of Rs 16.59 lakh was sanctioned for the community-based early warning preparedness programme for landslide disasters in Wayanad.
- Under Farm Sector Promotion Fund, various programmes/ pilot projects were sanctioned by NABARD such as popularization of medicinal plants cultivation among rural farmers, promotion of value chain in millets in Idukki District, value chain development of pulses in Palakkad District.
- NABARD supported various initiatives promoting microfinance and financial inclusion in the State. This support encompassed multiple interventions, including the establishment of 28 centres for financial literacy, deployment of 824 micro ATMs to the Kerala State Co-operative Bank, and provision of 300 PoS machines to Kerala Gramin Bank (KGB). In addition, VSAT deployment were supported in rural branches of KGB.

- NABARD launched a pilot project viz., 'Money Purse App' in collaboration with the Kerala State Co-operative Bank for real-time SHG transactions.

Way forward

A comprehensive strategy is essential to strengthen agricultural financing in Kerala. Priority should be given to enhancing the accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of financial resources for farmers through integrated efforts. Expanding digital financial services and deepening financial inclusion will ensure that small and marginal farmers can easily access formal credit through user-friendly digital platforms. Strengthening the Co-operative Banking network and microfinance institutions will help to bridge the credit gap in rural areas. Encouraging investments in modern agricultural technologies, logistics, supply chain development, processing, and value addition through concessional finance and credit guarantees will accelerate capital formation in the sector. Public–Private Partnerships can further catalyse funding for innovative and value-added agricultural ventures such as agro-processing and agribusiness incubation. Promoting climate-smart financing mechanisms is equally critical to support investments in renewable energy, green technologies, and climate-resilient infrastructure. Such measures will not only help reduce carbon emissions but also empower smallholders and rural communities to adopt sustainable, resilient, and income-enhancing farming practices.

3.2 CO-OPERATIVES IN KERALA

The co-operative sector has played an important role in the socio-economic development of the State, with special focus on rural communities and livelihoods. Co-operatives are member owned and member managed enterprises formed to meet common economic, social, and cultural needs. They are guided by the values of solidarity, democracy, and equality. The co-operative movement operates across the world and covers a wide range of economic activities. The United Nations declared 2025 as the International Year of Co-operatives with the theme “Co-operatives Build a Better World”. This designation highlights the role of co-operatives in promoting inclusive and sustainable development and in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty reduction, gender equality, and sustainable economic growth.

Co-operative societies in Kerala have contributed to improving the economic conditions of different sections of the population, particularly weaker and marginalised groups in rural areas. The State has a wide network of co-operatives engaged in agricultural credit, support to the public distribution system, agricultural marketing, health care, education including professional education, housing, agro-processing, and development programmes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women, and fisheries. The co-operative movement in Kerala has shown steady progress and continues to support community development and social well-being.

Co-operative societies are classified based on area

of operation, nature of work, authorities, and functions. There were 16,429 co-operative societies in Kerala as on March 31, 2025. Of these, 12,278 societies were active, while the remaining societies were dormant. Consumer co-operatives form the largest group, with 4,609 societies, of which 3,736 were functioning. **Appendix 3.2.1** provides details of the different types of co-operatives in Kerala.

Credit Co-operatives

Credit co-operative societies play a significant role in strengthening the grassroots financial system in the state. The Co-operative Credit structure in Kerala comprises of Kerala Bank, Primary Agricultural Co-operative Society (PACS), Farmers Service Societies (FSS), Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (KSCARDB), and Primary Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs), play a lead role in credit disbursement to the primary sector. The primary society in Kerala has a high market share under the short-term credit structure, mobilize a substantial deposit, and maintain relationships with its members. The institutions, including PACS have branches that are spread across the State. The Government had initiated several measures to bring about a structural change in the co-operative agricultural credit sector of the State and also taken a policy decision to convert the prevailing three tier credit structure of the State into a two-tier structure. As on March 31, 2025, 3,756 credit co-operative societies were registered under Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS), of which 3,370 co-operative societies are working in the State.

Credit co-operative societies account for 22.86 per cent of the total number of co-operatives in Kerala. Selected credit operations and physical achievements of Credit Co-operatives are given in **Appendix 3.2.2**.

Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)

PACS are the foundational units of India's co-operative credit structure, operating at the village or grassroots level. They provide short-term and medium-term credit to farmers for agricultural and allied activities, making formal finance accessible to rural communities. These institutions also undertake other services like agriculture input distribution, operation of consumer and medical stores, aggregation and marketing of agriculture produce, value addition, grading, branding, and packing. As on March 31, 2025, there were 1,636 PACS in the State, of which 1,588 societies were functional. Selected indicators of credit operations and performances of PACS are given in **Appendix 3.2.3** and **Appendix 3.2.4**.

The Kerala State Co-operative Bank (Kerala Bank)

The Kerala Bank, established in November 2019, has a vision of becoming a universal bank within the co-operative framework, with an extensive network across the State and abroad. It aims to provide a comprehensive range of financial services to all sections of society under one roof, combining professionalism with a strong sense of social commitment. Kerala Bank promotes savings and investments of individuals and institutions. The Bank prioritizes lending and provides services to individual customers, Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies, other co-operative societies and institutions, industries, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs). Kerala Bank has head office at Thiruvananthapuram, seven regional offices, a corporate business office at Ernakulam, 13 credit processing centres and 845 branches across the State with membership coverage of 1,688 numbers. The members include the Government of Kerala and 1,687 societies (as 'A' class members). As on March 31, 2025 the total share capital of the Bank was Rs 2,157.60 crore, which included the share of the Government, societies, and individuals. The total deposit was Rs 707.63 crore, which included the deposits of societies, individuals, and institutions. The total borrowing of the Bank was Rs 10,856.73 crore, which included borrowings from NABARD, Government of Kerala, long-term deposits and

others. The detailed financial particulars of the Kerala Bank for the financial year 2024-25, are given in **Appendix 3.2.5**. Kerala Bank provided many services to Primary Agriculture Co-operative Societies (PACS), which are owners of the Kerala Bank. The Bank floated a revival package for the weaker PACS and established PACS advisory committee in 14 districts of the State. The bank maintained a strong focus on the agriculture sector, with 27 per cent outstanding advances directed towards agricultural activities. In 2024-25, Rs 4,552 crore disbursed to 1,32,162 farmers. Under AIF/PACS as multi service centers, a total of Rs 467 crore was sanctioned for projects in agriculture and allied sectors. The mobile banking application of Kerala Bank has been revamped with 15 new features, including facilities for Fixed Deposits and Recurring Deposits. As of now, a total of 2,62,273 retail customers were registered for mobile banking and 2,03,000 customers were registered for UPI services.

A special 100-day Gold Loan Campaign was launched on 24th August 2025 with a target of achieving a Rs 1,500-crore increase in the gold loan portfolio. The campaign is part of the Bank's long-term objective to reposition itself as the preferred bank for all Keralites. In this backdrop, an intensive statewide campaign was conducted with the tagline '*Malayalees Own Bank*' to promote the gold loan scheme. The initiative received overwhelming support at the ground level, resulting in an increase of Rs 1,250 crores within the first 57 days of the 100-day campaign. The Bank has also signed an agreement with the Kerala Start-up Mission to establish the Kerala Innovation Hub in Ernakulam district. Additionally, Kerala Bank has entered into a partnership with MILMA to introduce special schemes aimed at promoting indigenous milk production and providing credit facilities to MILMA franchises. Under the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO) initiative, Kerala Bank plans to establish 200 FPOs by 2027. In 2024-25, a Government grant of Rs 3,00,000 each was allocated to 18 FPOs. Since its merger, Kerala Bank has been recognized by the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks (NAFSCOB) for its outstanding performance, receiving the award for best State Co-operative Bank for three consecutive years.

Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Bank Ltd (KSCARDB)

Kerala State Co-operative Agricultural and Rural

Development Bank Ltd. (KSCARDB) is the pioneer in long-term lending, advancing credit for agricultural and allied activities, non-farm sector activities and rural housing, with a motto of comprehensive rural development through credit. The Bank depends mainly on refinance provided by NABARD, and channelled to the ultimate borrowers through the network of affiliated Primary Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs). The branches of PCARDBs are located in each Taluk, with the head office of KSCARDB located at Thiruvananthapuram. The prime objective of the Bank is the social and financial upliftment of the rural folk at the grassroot-level. Nearly 80 per cent of KSCARDB borrowers are small and marginal farmers. The total long-term loan issued in 2024-25 was Rs 854.78 crore, of which Rs 16.21 crore was issued as ordinary loans for purposes including construction and renovation of wells and tanks, pump sets and agricultural machinery, horticulture, animal husbandry, land development, construction of godowns and cattle sheds, fencing, construction of drainage channels and others. A total of Rs 839 crore was issued as scheme loans for purposes including minor irrigation, plantation and horticulture, agricultural machinery, dairy and animal husbandry, land development, poultry, fisheries, purchase of land and others. Classification of long-term loans issued by KSCARDB is given in **Appendix 3.2.6**.

Assistance from National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC)

NCDC has been providing assistance to co-operatives directly or through the State Government for expanding and strengthening their business and infrastructure creation in credit, marketing, rural and service sectors.

Integrated Co-operative Development Project (ICDP) is a unique project assisted by NCDC for comprehensive and integrated development of selected districts through co-operative networks. The other objectives of the scheme are to develop PACS as viable multipurpose societies by increasing value and range of business, strengthening the existing co-operative structure by providing vertical and horizontal linkage, revamping the agricultural and credit sector to cater the needs of small and marginal farmers and weaker sections.

As on August 31, 2025, NCDC disbursed

cumulative financial assistance of Rs 11,311.13 crore for various co-operative development projects in Kerala. Of this, Rs 2,662 crore was provided through the State Government and Rs 8,649 crore disbursed as direct funding. Under direct funding, the long-term loan component was Rs 3.12 crore, and Rs 20.19 crore was subsidy component, and Rs 8,626.13 crore was disbursed as working capital assistance.

Details of NCDC assistance are shown in **Appendix 3.2.8**. Sanctions and release of NCDC funds in Kerala are shown in **Appendix 3.2.9**. Year wise release of loans and interest rates are shown in **Appendix 3.2.10**.

Consumer Co-operatives

In Kerala, Consumer Co-operatives serve as key agencies in the public distribution system by supplying essential and consumer goods to the public at reasonable prices. As of March 31, 2025, a total of 4,609 Consumer Co-operative Societies were registered in the State, of which 3,736 were functioning. The Consumer Co-operative network includes the Kerala State Co-operative Consumers' Federation Ltd. (Consumerfed) at the State level, which operates through 11 regional offices and 6 business divisions..

The major business divisions are explained below.

A. Triveni Division

The Triveni supermarkets and mobile Triveni units are working under District level Regional Offices. At present, there are 164 Triveni units functioning across Kerala. The total sales volume in Triveni segment in 2024-25 was Rs 320.51 crore. According to the direction of the Government of Kerala, Consumerfed organised subsidy outlets and other market intervention programmes for price stabilization of essential items. In 2024, the Federation had achieved Ramsan, Vishu, and Onam total subsidy sales of Rs 116.70 crore by conducting 1,860 festival markets. During the Onam season 2025, consumerfed was able to achieve a sales turnover of Rs 157 crore including subsidy and non-subsidy articles.

C. Beverages Division

Consumerfed owns 45 foreign liquor shops and 3 beer shops across Kerala. In 2024-25, the sales turnover had reached Rs 1,047.28 crore. In this financial year up to August 2025 the sale of Foreign Liquor shops was Rs 1,017.9 crore. With

the objective of increasing sales, the foreign liquor shops were upgraded with self-service counters, premium counters, and delivery counters.

D. Notebook Division

Consumerfed also owns a notebook production unit at Thrissur, which manufacture good quality notebooks. The unit had sales of Rs 7.06 crore in 2024-25 and the total sales turnover from April 1, 2025 to August 31, 2025 was Rs 4.48 crore. Triveni notebook has also received 'Coop-mark' certification.

E. Neethi Gas Bottling Plant

Consumerfed also owns a gas plant at Moongilmadakal, Palakkad through which domestic gas named *Neethi* Gas is filled and distributed across Kerala, with a total sales of Rs 109.41 lakh in 2024-25. From April 2025 to August 2025 the sales reached to Rs 49.97 lakh.

F. Triveni Institute of Pharmacy (TIP)

Consumerfed operates 'Triveni Institute of Pharmacy', which offers B. Pharm course since 2018. The Institute has a total of 213 students enrolled in the B.Pharm course and 103 students in the D.Pharm course. In the academic year 2024-25, TIP achieved 100 per cent pass rate and placement for its students, marking a significant academic milestone.

G. Vanitha Co-operatives

The co-operative movement has made an important contribution to women's empowerment. The Kerala Women Co-operative Federation (VANITHAFED), is an apex federation of Primary Women Co-operative Societies, which started functioning on April 1, 2003. The main objective of the Federation is to provide integrated credit and services to the beneficiaries through its member societies in an effective and co-ordinated manner for improving the social and economic conditions of the women in the State. As on March 2025, 1,256 women Co-operative Societies were registered in the State, of which 940 societies were working.

H. Housing Co-operative Societies

The Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd (Housefed) is the apex body of the housing co-operatives, functioning with State Government and Primary Housing Co-operative Societies as members. As on March, 2025, there were 390

primary housing co-operative Societies in the State, of which 281 societies were active.

I. Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Co-operative Societies

Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Co-operatives are organized and established for the socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in the State. The revival of SC/ST Co-operatives is vital, for supporting the income and livelihood of the SC/ST families. As on March 31, 2025, there were 849 Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Co-operative Societies registered in the State, of which 431 were working. In 2024-25, total assistance of Rs 350 lakh was provided to 30 Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Co-operatives. An apex institution of primary SC/ST co-operatives known as Kerala State Federation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Co-operative is also functioning in the State for the promotion of SC/ST. The Federation has a total of 704 members, comprising, the state government, 567 Scheduled Caste Co-operatives, 103 Scheduled Tribe Co-operatives, 33 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Co-operatives.

J. Marketing Co-operatives

The activities of co-operatives in marketing are organised by the apex institution of primary marketing societies known as Kerala State Co-operative Marketing Federation (Marketfed), and the apex body of primary rubber marketing societies known as Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation (Rubber Mark). As on March 31, 2025, there were 626 primary marketing and processing societies, of which 252 societies were working in the State.

K. Health Co-operatives

As on March 31, 2025, a total of 188 health co-operative societies were registered in the State, of which 92 societies were active. An apex body of health co-operatives named Kerala State Hospital Federation Ltd. (Hospital fed) is functioning in the State with Ernakulam as its headquarters.

L. Miscellaneous Co-operatives

As on March 31, 2025, there were 4,693 registered miscellaneous co-operative societies in the State, of which 3,136 were functioning. Miscellaneous co-operatives include labour contract, transport, rubber plantation, poultry, collective farming, and tourism societies.

Education, Research, and Training

Co-operative Academy of Professional Education (CAPE)

The Co-operative Academy of Professional Education (CAPE) is an autonomous society under the Department of Co-operation, Government of Kerala. It was established to set up institutions in professional sectors and to provide opportunities for education and training. In 2024–25, an allocation of Rs 605 lakh was made, of which Rs 367.41 lakh was sanctioned for infrastructure development of institutions under CAPE

State Co-operative Union (SCU)

The State Co-operative Union (SCU), established as a statutory body under Section 89 of the Kerala Co-operative Societies Act, 1969, is mandated to provide education on co-operative principles and practices and to organize related training programmes. Training centres located at Kottarakkara, Cherthala, Wayanad, and Kannur operate exclusively for SC/ST students. The Government extends grant-in-aid to support member education programmes and the functioning of these SC/ST centres. The Kerala Institute of Co-operative Management (KICMA) at Neyyattur, an associated institution of the SCU. These initiatives contribute to enhancing the skills and career development of individuals in the co-operative sector..

Institute of Co-operative Management (ICM)

The Institute of Co-operative Management in Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur is established by the Government under the administrative control of the National Council for Co-operative Training. The Institute provides advanced training courses to the officers of Co-operative Department, officials and non-officials in the co-operative sector. The State Government is providing financial assistance to the institutions as grant-in-aid as per the Budget allocation every year. . During 2024-25 the institute was conducted three training programme in Kannur campus.

Agricultural Co-operative Staff Training Institution (ACSTI)

The Agricultural Co-operative Staff Training Institute (ACSTI) was established in 1992 and sponsored by the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC). In 2024-25, the Institute conducted 27 training programmes with 1419 participants.

Mikav-2024

The project '*Mikav-2024*' is being implemented to make training to all officers of the Department of Co-operatives. As part of this initiative, a training module has been developed in the HRMS software implemented by C-DIT. The training programs were inaugurated on April 21, 2025, at ACSTI, Manvila and provided training to 240 officers in 8 batches at ACSTI, Manvila, and ICM Kannur.

Co-operative Initiative in Technology Driven Agriculture (CITA)

Co-operative Initiative in Technology-Driven Agriculture (CITA) is a program that integrates technology into the co-operative sector to enhance agricultural practices. It is designed to address the challenges faced by small and marginal farmers in Kerala by leveraging co-operatives to support them in processing and marketing their products, either directly or through value addition. The scheme formulated jointly by Kerala State Planning Board and Department of Co-operation. The scheme ensures intervention in production and marketing, increasing production efficiently through farming in open fields, precision agriculture, kitchen gardens, terrace farms and also integrating allied activities such as animal husbandry and fisheries. The scheme is implemented by utilizing the small farmers of the area with the help of Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS). In 2024-25, Rs 546.82 lakh was allotted for Strengthening of Agricultural Credit Facilities (CITA). Details of CITA Scheme are shown in **Appendix 3.2.11**.

Branding and marketing of co-operative products

To enhance brand visibility and increase the sales of products from various Co-operative Societies in the State, the Department of Co-operation has introduced the plan project titled Branding and Marketing of Co-operative Products. The project focuses on ensuring the quality of products produced by co-operative societies in Kerala, developing a unified brand and marketing network, and making quality products available to consumers. It also includes plans to expand into national and international markets, open outlets at selected locations, establish quality-testing laboratories, and create an online marketplace. As part of efforts to strengthen the quality and marketing framework, a trademark for co-operative products, *coop kerala*, was launched during 2020–21. A six-member Management Committee has been

constituted to issue the *coop kerala* certification mark to co-operative products that meet the prescribed standards and criteria. Currently, 75 co-operative societies are engaged in manufacturing and have produced around 400 products. The brand name *coop kerala* has been registered under the Trademarks Act, 1999. As part of the project, plans have been made to launch the *Angadi Kerala* mobile application to market products that have received the *coop kerala* certification mark.

Palakkad Paddy Procurement Processing & Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd. No P 1449 (PAPCOS)

As a permanent solution to the problems faced by the paddy farmers in Palakkad District, the Co-operative Department has decided to set up a co-operative Society in Palakkad District and to set up a modern rice mill with the facility of processing and storage of rice produced by the farmers under it. The major objective of the Society is to procure and process paddy and to market products such as rice, broken rice, bran, rice powder and husk. The society purchased 27.66 acres of land in the Kannambra Village of Alathur Taluk in Palakkad for constructing rice mill. The society has 36 PACS in Palakkad District as its member societies.

The Kerala Paddy Procurement Processing & Marketing Co-operative Society (KAPCOS) Ltd No. 4505

The Kerala Paddy Procurement Processing & Marketing Co-operative Society (KAPCOS) Ltd No. 4505 was registered on August 28, 2021 with authorized share capital of Rs 3.10 crore. At present, the society has 43 PACS in Kottayam District as member societies. The area of operation of the Society is entire districts of Kerala except Palakkad district. The society Purchased 9.62 acres of land in Kidangoor Village at Kottayam district for constructing rice mill. The society is designed to address the issues faced by paddy farmers in the State in procurement and marketing of rice. The KAPCOS will procure paddy at fair price from the farmers and after milling, the rice will market through Government, Semi-Government, Co-operative and Private Marketing Institutions, via online marketing platforms and through their own marketing centers.

Sahakarana veedhi

Sahakarana veedhi is the official publication of the Department of Co-operation, which highlights the major policies and major activities in the Co-

operative sector. In 2023-24 and 2024-25 (up to July 31, 2025), more than 1,48,164 copies of *Sahakarana veedhi* were published.

CARe Home

In the CARe Home scheme, rebuilding of the fully or severely damaged houses of people affected in Kerala Floods-2018 is implemented with the support of co-operative institutions. Kerala Government accorded sanction to construct 2,000 houses all over the State under the first stage of CARe Home project and the number was extended to build 2,094 houses. Construction works of all the houses were completed and handed over to the concerned beneficiaries. In the second phase of the CARe Home project, it was decided to construct one collective dwelling (flat) in Kannur, Thrissur and Palakkad district and 86 families have been rehabilitated, who lost their land and house during flood and natural calamities in 2018 and 2019. In addition to the CARe Home project, CARe grace and CARe Loan schemes were also introduced by the department.

Navakeralaleeyam Kudishika Nivaranam (One Time Settlement Scheme)

In order to reduce the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of co-operatives, the Department of Co-operation announced a one-time settlement scheme called *Navakeralaleeyam Kudishika Nivaranam*. All co-operative societies and Banks under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies are included in this scheme and maximum interest incentive has been offered to the borrowers. Under this scheme, only simple interest is charged for the outstanding loan amount of defaulters. Those who are deceased, suffering from serious health issues such as cancer, heart and kidney disease and those who are affected by flood, Covid-19 pandemic, and loss of employment due to subsequent lockdown are entitled to get maximum incentives in this scheme. In 2024-25, a concession of Rs 573 crore had been granted to 1, 60,594 default accounts under the scheme.

Social Security Pension Distribution through PACS

For the smooth running of Social Security Pension Distribution to the beneficiaries in the state, the Kerala Social Security Pension Limited was constituted at the Government level under the Companies Act. As per the Government's direction, a consortium of co-operative societies comprising PACS, Employees' Co-operative

Societies, and other Primary Co-operative Societies was formed to raise funds for the company to facilitate pension distribution in accordance with the Government order. In the March 2025, financial year balance in the Consortium Pool Account was Rs 4,605.01 crore. The amount was raised from these Co-operative Societies at an interest rate of 9.1 per cent

Muttathe Mulla Scheme

To safeguard the general public from the grasp of private money lenders, the *Muttathe mulla* scheme was introduced in 2018. The scheme has been implemented through Kudumbasree units. As on March 31, 2025 an amount of Rs 4,478 crore was disbursed to beneficiaries as loan under this scheme.

100 days programme-2024-25

As part of the fourth Hundred Days Programme for 2024–25, the co-operative sector has taken up several projects across the State. These include building a Co-operative Mall in Kollam under the Dreams project; setting up the Akshara Museum Hub in Kottayam by the Literary Workers' Cooperative Society to showcase letters, writing forms, and language discourses; and expanding a medicinal forest with semi-processing facilities for medicinal plants under the Mattathur Labour Contract Society. The programme also covers the inauguration of the nursing college, laboratory, and library at Punnapra under CAPE; the construction of a food processing unit and resting station in Kollam for the GIG Workers' Co-operative

Society; and the establishment of a Material Bank under the Kerala State Labour Co-operative Federation to supply construction materials and promote the use of modern machinery. It also includes building housing for flood-affected families in Kannur under the Co-operative Ashvas Care Home initiative and developing a co-operative resort at Kumily.

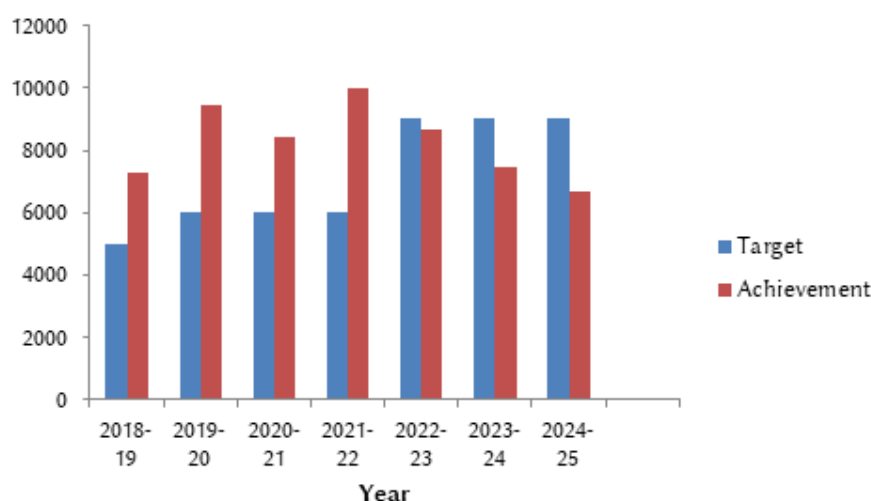
Deposit mobilization campaign

In 2024-2025, the Department of Co-operation conducted the deposit mobilization campaign to attract depositors including youth. The campaign was successful and the sector mobilized Rs 6,657 crore, against a target of Rs 9,000 crore and the achievement percentage was 73.97 per cent (Appendix 3.2.7 and Figure 3.2.1)

Co-operative Expo

The Department of Co-operation organised 'Co-operative Expo' 2025 with the tagline 'Orumayude Pooram' 3rd Edition from 21st April to 30th April, 2025 at Kanakakkunnu palace in Thiruvananthapuram. In the expo, there were more than 180 stalls of Apex Co-operatives, Co-operative Boards, Health Co-operatives, Producers Co-operatives, other major Co-operative Societies, institutions under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Co-operatives under the Functional Registrars, National Co-operative institutions. The expo opened up a platform for exhibition and trading of their products and an opportunity to showcase their achievements, challenges faced and the popular activities in the State, National

Figure 3.2.1 The progress of deposit mobilisation campaign from 2018-19 to 2024-25 in Kerala



Source: Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Kerala

and International levels. In addition, there was a knowledge sharing sections of seminars, discussions on various subjects in the Co-operative sector, various cultural programmes and business meets with the aim of expanding the business of the Co-operatives.

Modernization of Department

CIMA (Co-operative Inspection Management Application)

The Co-operative Department, which regulates and inspects over fifteen thousand co-operative societies, has developed a new, comprehensive online system to keep pace with modern times the Co-operative Inspection Management Application (CIMA) Version 1.0. With only - 275 inspectors currently available, this digital transformation is essential to ensure the efficient and effective functioning of the department. This project has been designed as a digital system to automate inspections in Co-operative Societies across Kerala.

Human Resource Management Software (HRMS)

To improve administrative efficiency and transparency, the department has developed a new Human Resource Management System (HRMS). The system manages services such as employee transfers, promotions, and the selection of trainees based on predefined criteria. All information related to the *Mikav 2024* training program, including the names of participating trainees, is maintained within the HRMS to prevent assigning the same trainee to a training more than once. The system also includes security features such as SSL protection, data encryption, and controlled access to safeguard sensitive information.

Integrated Co-operative Department Management System (ICDMS)

The ICDMS software has been developed to make the registration of byelaws and amendments of byelaws of co-operative societies more convenient, transparent, and efficient. At present, the byelaw registration and byelaw amendment processes of co-operative societies are carried out through the ICDMS software. This will ensure that the registration and amendment of byelaws are carried out more quickly and efficiently.

Kerala's co-operative sector comprised 16,429 societies, with 12,278 active across sectors including credit, consumer goods, housing,

healthcare, education, marketing, and agro-processing. Credit co-operatives such as Kerala Bank, PACS, and KSCARDB provide financial support to farmers and rural communities, while housing, SC/ST, and women's co-operatives address social and economic needs. Programs like CARE Home, Muttathe Mulla, and Navakeraleeyam Kudishika Nivaranam support disaster-affected families and reduce non-performing assets. Capacity-building initiatives, including CAPE, SCU, ICM, ACSTI, Mikav-2024, and CITA, strengthen skills and knowledge in the sector. Branding and marketing projects such as *coop Kerala*, PAPCOS, and KAPCOS enhance production, marketing, and reach of co-operative products. Digital platforms including CIMA, HRMS, and ICDMS have improved administrative efficiency, transparency, and governance. Collectively, these initiatives support inclusive economic development and the welfare of communities across the State

The Co-operative Department can be further improved by enhancing digital infrastructure, strengthening governance, building financial resilience, empowering staff, promoting innovation, and expanding market. These initiatives will make the sector more transparent, member-driven, and resilient.

3.3 LIVESTOCK

The livestock sector is an important part of the global food system and the economy, and it supports the livelihoods of a large population. The sector is a key component of agriculture and contributes to food security, nutrition, poverty reduction, employment, and economic growth. Livestock serve as a critical asset and safety net for the poor, particularly women and pastoral communities, and provide nutrition to billions of rural and urban households. Livestock in India are reared as an integral part of mixed farming systems. They meet their energy requirements through crop residues and by products and, in return, provide draught power and dung manure for crop production. Livestock also supply milk, meat, and eggs for human consumption and hides, skins, bones, and hair for industrial use. The livestock sector also functions as an important source of credit and insurance. Livestock and livelihoods are closely linked, especially in arid and semi arid regions. The Government therefore allocates substantial resources to improve productivity, disease control, fodder production, value addition, and adoption of scientific breeding practices.

India has one of the largest livestock populations in the world. The total livestock population stood at 536.76 million in 2019, as per the 20th Livestock Census. This represents an increase of 4.8 per cent over the Livestock Census of 2012. Rural areas accounted for 514.11 million livestock, which is 95.78 per cent of the total, while urban areas accounted for 22.65 million livestock, or 4.22 per

cent. The livestock population increased by 4.56 per cent in rural areas and by 11.19 per cent in urban areas.

The livestock population of Kerala was reported as 29.09 lakh, accounting for 5.4 per cent, according to the 20th Livestock Census 2019. The poultry population in the State was 297.7 lakh, which accounted for 3.5 per cent of the total poultry population in the country. The poultry population in Kerala grew by 22.6 per cent between the 2012 and 2019 Livestock Censuses, which was higher than the national growth rate of 16.8 per cent for total poultry population during the same period.

Contribution to the National and State Economy

As per the estimates of National Accounts Statistics (NAS) 2024, the contribution of livestock in total agriculture and allied sector's Gross Value Added (GVA) by economic activity at constant (2011-12) prices increased from 29.93 percent in 2022-23 to 30.73 per cent in 2023-24. The contribution of the livestock sector was 5.5 per cent of total Gross Value Added (GVA) at basic prices in 2022-23. (Annual Report 2024-25, Dept. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying).

According to the Statistical Report on Gross Value of Output (GVO) from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24) by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, GoI, the livestock sector has witnessed a significant

boom during the last decade with the total value of livestock products spanning from Rs.487.8 thousand crore to Rs.919.3 thousand crore. Livestock GVO nearly doubled, making it one of the fastest growing components of the sector. Milk remains the backbone of the livestock sector with the highest share of almost 66 per cent, though its share fell slightly, suggesting faster growth in other segments. Meat is the fastest-growing component, increasing its share from 19.7 per cent to 24.1 per cent and GVO by 130 per cent. With its share remaining relatively constant, the value of eggs grew modestly during the period under consideration. Other livestock products (wool, hides, silk etc.) saw relative decline, indicating a shift in economic importance. The livestock sector has grown at a faster rate, outpacing several crop categories. The value of livestock has nearly doubled from 4,88,000 crore (25.6 per cent) to 9,19,000 crore (31.2 per cent) from 2011-12 to 2023-24.

According to the Statistical Report on Value of Output from Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2011-12 to 2023-24) MOSPI, the composition of State-wise contributions to the GVO of the livestock sector has broadly remained similar during the past decade. However, shift in the absolute value is indicating shifts in production dynamics and regional growth. Uttar Pradesh, although still the top producer by absolute value, has lost share, from 14.9 per cent to 12.7 per cent. Tamil Nadu showed the highest relative growth among major states with approximately 2.5 times increase in GVO and a gain of 2.2 percent points in share. A hike of around 200 basis points has been reported by Rajasthan in the total value of livestock products as compared to 2011-12. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra maintained stability with modest growth. According to the State wise value of output (at 2011-12 prices) increment in livestock in Kerala is from Rs.3,994 lakh in 2022-23 to Rs.4,244 Lakh in 2023-24. State wise value of output (at 2011-12 prices) livestock in Kerala increased from Rs. 13,21,632 in 2022-23 to Rs. 13,68,817 in 2023-24.

In Kerala, the livestock sector is one of the fastest growing sectors of the rural economy. The contribution of the livestock sector in total agriculture and allied sector Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices 2011-12 was 24.18 per cent (Quick estimates) (DES, 2024-25). The share in the total Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices of the State was 2.6 per

cent during 2023-24 (P) and 2.4 per cent during 2024-25(Q). In real terms, GSVA in the Livestock sector at current prices (2011-12) was Rs.26,74,820 lakh in 2023-24(P) and it increased to Rs.27,00,766 in 2024-25(Q) (DES, 2024-25). GSVA in the Livestock sector at constant prices (2011-12) was Rs. 11,30,619 in 2023-24(P) and it decreased to Rs.11,18,862 in 2024-25(Q) (DES, 2024-25).

Major Department and Agencies under Livestock Sector

The major departments and agencies under the Livestock sector of Kerala are Animal Husbandry Department, Kerala Feeds Limited (KFL), Kerala Livestock Development Board (KLDB), Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC), Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU), Meat Products of India Ltd. (MPI), Dairy Development Department and Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd (KCMMF-MILMA).

The major activities of the Animal Husbandry Department are veterinary services, animal healthcare, disease eradication, and development of cattle, goat, pig and poultry, control of zoonotic diseases, conducting and coordinating extension activities and training programmes for farmers and veterinarians, and production of biologicals.

The Department of Animal Husbandry in Kerala spearheads development activities related to this subsector. The Department's primary objectives are to increase the State's cattle population in terms of both number and quality. The State has implemented cattle development programmes to increase milk and meat production. The major programme among these is crossbreeding. The Dept. offers training in the various activities such as Dairy farming, goat farming, duck farming, pig farming, broiler production, layer management, backyard poultry production, quail farming, and chick sexing. Additionally, the department offers programmes for the development of poultry, the breeding of pigs and rabbits, and the raising of goats and buffalo. It provides farmers with training on scientific production unit management in order to increase output. Women are trained to keep domestic livestock and poultry of a manageable size to supplement their families' incomes. The Department also conducts the Quinquennial Animal Census and an Integrated Sample Survey to estimate the production of main livestock products like milk, eggs, and meat annually.

Animal Husbandry Department provides veterinary care mainly through 14 District Veterinary Centres, 214 Veterinary Hospitals, 50 Poly Clinics, 870 Veterinary Dispensaries, 38 Regional Animal Husbandry Centres, 1327 Veterinary Sub Centres, 5 Mobile Veterinary Hospitals, 4 Mobile Veterinary Dispensaries, 5 Mobile Farm Aid Units, 10 Livestock Management Training Centres, and one Motor Boat Veterinary Hospital. Now 228 Mobile Veterinary units are in service as part of the existing institutions (VD/VH). Effective and timely action was taken by the Animal Husbandry Department in liaison with Local Governments to eradicate contagious diseases. Mass vaccination campaigns such as foot and mouth disease control programme, rabies-free Kerala vaccination programme, Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases (ASCAD), and regular poultry vaccinations are being conducted (Source: Dept. of Animal Husbandry).

Animal Birth Control Programme

According to 20th Livestock Census (2019), the state of Kerala recorded an estimated 8,36,275 owned dogs and 2,89,986 stray dogs. The rising population of free-roaming dogs in urban and rural areas has brought increased public health concerns, particularly with regard to rabies, a fatal zoonotic disease. Kerala's Animal Birth Control programme is a comprehensive strategy to control the stray dog population through sterilisation. The Programme involves capturing, neutering and releasing dogs according to Animal Welfare Board of India guidelines as which LSGD coordinates local body's activities integrated funds with District Panchayath & Block Panchayath to set up ABC centres. To address the infrastructural and social barriers limiting the effectiveness of the ABC-Anti-rabies Programme, it is proposed to establish Portable Animal Birth Control (ABC) units in selected districts of Kerala. An amount of Rs.200 lakh has been earmarked for the portable ABC Programme in 2025-26. Total Street dogs vaccinated during the financial year 2024-25 is 5,34,01 numbers (Source: Dept. of Animal Husbandry, GoK).

Details of outbreaks, attacks and death of animals due to major contagious diseases in Kerala from the period 2017-18 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 3.3.1.**

Kerala Feeds Limited (KFL) is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Animal Husbandry department of Government of Kerala and is committed to produce and sell good quality

compounded cattle feed and feed supplements to dairy farmers at affordable rates, caters the major portion of cattle feed demand in the State by timely supply of its feeds and supplements through a strong and established network of private dealers and societies.

Kerala Livestock Development Board (KLDB) provides the inputs required for cattle breeding in line with the breeding policy of the State, promotes fodder production under field condition to support economic milk production, offers training courses in animal husbandry and fodder production, develops malabari goats through the production and supply of selected breeding stock, produces and supply good quality piglets for breeding and fattening.

Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC) is a fully owned Government of Kerala Undertaking primarily to provide increased momentum and thrust to propel the poultry industry of the State. The Corporation has been providing impetus for the promotion and development of the poultry sector in the state of Kerala.

Meat Products of India Ltd. (MPI) is a fully Government owned company incorporated with the main objective of processing, production and marketing of safe and wholesome meat and meat products by observing all Food Safety Rules and Animal Welfare Regulations for which slaughter houses, animal and bird rearing farms, rendering plants, feed mixing plants, sales outlets, cold storages, plants for processing value added meat products etc. were established.

Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU) which came into existence on June 14, 2010, is the result of the recognition of the need to advance animal production sector activities and to widen the arena of academic opportunities, applied research and entrepreneurship in the field of animal health, production and allied subject.

The initial thrust of the Dairy Development Department was on the establishment of processing facilities in a few major centres of the state. The department is also the nodal agency for fodder development activities and now the department's activities are focused on the holistic development of the dairy sector in the state. The department's quality control activities are focused on ensuring fresh, safe and quality milk at the

procurement level and thereby ensuring the same to the consumers of the state.

Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF-MILMA) which was formed in 1980 as a state adjunct of the National Dairy Programme 'Operation Flood' is a three-tiered organization. The primary societies are grouped under three Regional Co-operative Milk Producers' Unions viz TRCMPU for Thiruvananthapuram region, ERCMPU for Ernakulum region and MRCMPU

for Malabar region. The financial performance of the animal husbandry sector is shown in **Table 3.3.1.**

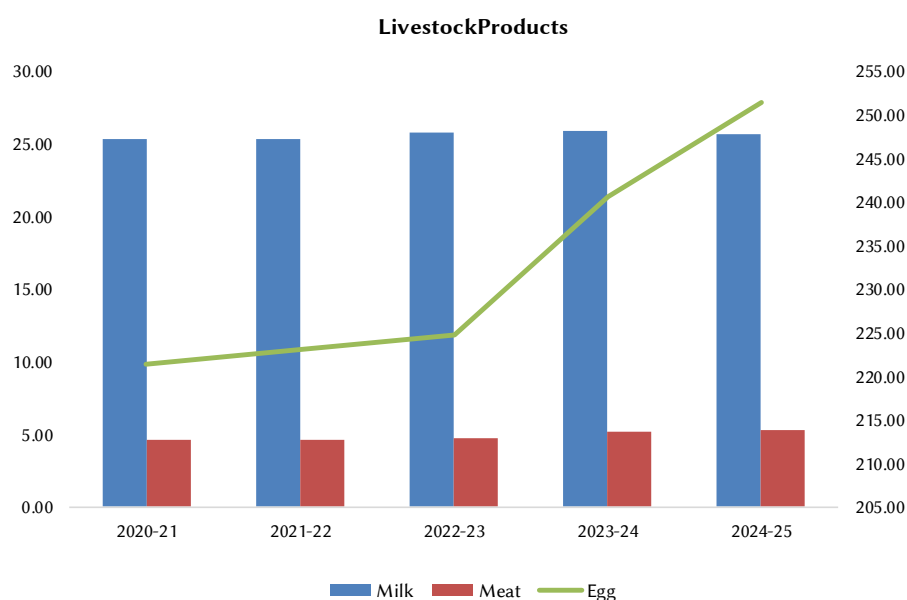
In 2024-25, the total outlay provided for the Livestock sector was Rs.38,639.00 lakh and the total expenditure was Rs.1,96,93.22 Lakh (50.97 per cent). In 2025-26, the outlay was Rs. 43,450.00 lakh with an expenditure of 8189.21 lakh (18.84 per cent) as on August 31, 2025.

Table 3.3.1 Department /agency wise outlay and expenditure during the last three years of the 14th FYP period, in Rs lakh and in percentage.

Sl. No.	Department/ PSUs	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26 as on 31.8.2025		
		Outlay	Expenditure	Expenditure (in %)	Outlay	Treasury Expenditure	Expenditure (in %)	Outlay	Treasury Expenditure	Expenditure (in %)
1	Animal Husbandry Department	16805.00	9148.96	54.44	13763.44	7836.83	56.94	15936.44	4229.65	26.65
2	Kerala Feeds Limited	2000.00	618.26	30.91	1620.00	560.00	34.57	1620	392	24.2
3	Kerala Livestock Development Board (KLDB)	2968.00	1798.34	60.59	3146.56	1390.78	44.2	3246.56	1066.30	32.84
4	Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC)	700.00	371.00	53.00	900.00	340.00	37.78	1000	140.00	14.00
5	Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU)	6500.00	2930.89	45.09	5700.00	3095.26	54.3	6100	1998.26	32.76
6	Meat Products of India Limited (MPI)	1350.00	450.00	33.33	1714.00	1199.00	69.95	1714	190	11.09
7	Dairy Development Department	11476.00	5444.67	47.44	11795	5271.35	44.69	12963	15.4.98	11.61
8	Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF)	750.00	487.49	65.00	870	391.67	45.02	870.00	173	19.89
Total		42549.00	21249.61	49.94	38639.00	19693.22	50.97	43450	8189.21	18.84

Source: Plan Space, GoK

Figure 3.3.1 Production of milk, egg and meat from 2020-21 to 2024-25



Source: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Govt. of India

Major Livestock Products in Kerala

Milk, Meat and Egg are the major livestock products in the State. The production of these three livestock products during 2020-21 to 2024-25 is shown in **Figure 3.3.1**.

The production of both egg and meat has increased in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 but in case of milk the production shows a slight decrease in 2024-25 in comparison with 2023-24. Cows of Kerala are the high yielding varieties. Shortage in availability of fodder and high cost of cattle feed are major reasons for underfeeding of cows resulting in suboptimal production of milk as per the estimates of Dairy Development Department, GoK. Lack of sufficient land for establishing large poultry farms, high labour and feed cost, declining poultry population, lack of quality backyard layer chicks, inflow of eggs at lesser price, lack of quality feed, broiler day-old-chicks at an optimal price and lack of commercial egg production are the factors which reduced the egg production in the State (Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation).

Kerala Development Report 2021 had undertaken a detailed analysis of the long term decline of milk production in Kerala after 2012-13. There were efforts during the 13th plan period to arrest this decline. However these efforts were set back by the two floods of 2018 and 2019, as well as the

covid-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. Regardless of these adversities, which had a long spill over period, milk production rose over the 14th plan period from 25.3 lakh tons in 2020-21 to 25.61 lakh in 2024-25. There was a similar decline in the production of eggs due to various disease outbreaks and the two floods of 2018 and 2019. But egg production picked up over the 14th plan period from 221 crore in 2020-21 to 251 crore in 2024-25. In the case of meat, the total production was stagnant for a prolonged period but increased from 4.6 lakh tons in 2020-21 to 5.2 lakh tons in 2024-25 (Dept. of Animal Husbandry, GoK).

Milk Production

India holds the 1st position in global milk production for several years now, and contributes nearly a quarter of the world's supply. The dairy sector has grown into one of the strongest pillars of the rural economy and has become central to food and nutritional security. Currently, dairy is the largest agricultural product in India, contributing 5 percent to the national economy and directly employing more than 8 crore farmers as per National Accounts Statistics, 2024. The sector touches more than 8 crore rural households, many of whom are small and marginal farmers. Women play a significant role in production and collection, which makes dairy a strong driver of inclusive growth.

Over the past decade, India's dairy sector has shown a remarkable growth. Milk production rose by 69.43 per cent from 146.30 million tonnes in 2014-15 to 247.87 million tonnes in 2024-25. There is a consistent increase in the production of milk over the years registering a growth of 3.58 per cent (BAHS 2025). Figures from the Food and Agriculture Organization 2025 confirm that India continues to be the largest milk producer in the world, well ahead of countries such as the United States, Pakistan, China and Brazil.

The per capita availability of milk has been increasing in India and stands at 485 grams/day in 2024-25 (BAHS 2025), significantly higher than the global average of 322 grams per day (Food Outlook November 2025). The highest per capita availability is in Punjab (1318 grams per day) followed by Rajasthan (1229 grams per day). The species-wise milk production in the country shows that nearly 31.18 per cent of total milk production is contributed by indigenous buffaloes, followed by cross-bred cattle (31.11 per cent). The indigenous cattle contribute 11.20 per cent of the total milk production in the country. Goat milk contributes 3.32 per cent of the total milk production (Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025).

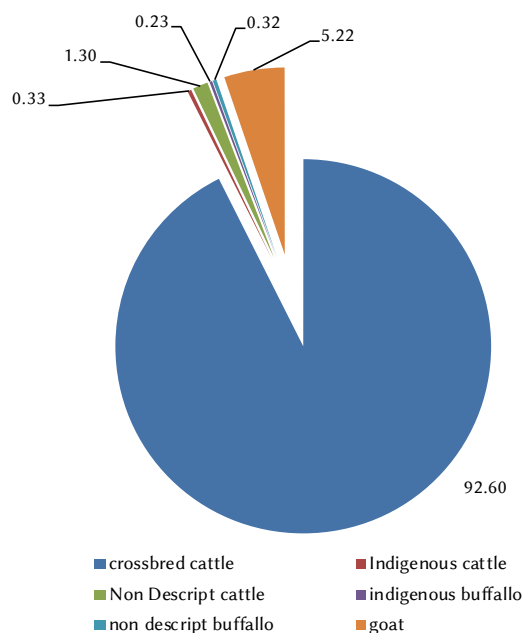
Kerala's per capita availability is 197 grams per day (Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2024). The total requirement of milk in Kerala in 2024-25 was 33.85 lakh metric tonnes. But the annual production was only 25.61 lakh metric tonnes. (Department of Animal Husbandry) The state is 24.34 per cent deficient as far as self-sufficiency in the sector is concerned. Thus there is a gap of around 8.24 LMT per annum (Dairy Development Department, GoK). Out of 25.61 LMT of milk produced in the State, a major share of 23.71 LMT was produced by cross bred cattle (92.6 per cent). Indigenous cattle produced only 0.84 MT of milk (0.33 per cent). The contribution of non-descript cattle was 3.35 MT (1.31 per cent). The milk production from goats was 1.34 MT (5.22 per cent). Indigenous and non-descript buffaloes contributed the rest (Animal Husbandry Department, GoK). Details of species-wise milk production in Kerala in 2024-25 are provided in **Figure 3.3.2**.

Egg Production

Egg and meat production in India has taken a quantum leap in the last four decades, emerging from unscientific farming practices to commercial

production systems with state-of-the-art technological interventions. India is a leading global egg producer, typically ranking second after China. In 2024-25, India's total egg production was 149.11 billion, showing an annual growth of 4.44 per cent over the previous year.(FAO 2025) The top five egg-producing states are Andhra Pradesh (18.37 per cent) Tamil Nadu (15.64 per cent) Telangana (12.98 per cent) West Bengal (10.72 per cent) and Karnataka (6.67 per cent) contributing over 64% of the total production. Out of the total eggs produced, commercial poultry contributed 125.8 billion eggs, accounting for 84.49 per cent national output. Backyard poultry, on the other hand produced 23.13 billion eggs representing 15.51 per cent of the total production. The percapita availability of egg is 106 eggs per annum (BAHS 2025). With lower production costs and surplus capacity, India is well-positioned as 2nd in egg production to competitively supply the International market. (FAO)

Figure 3.3.2 Details of species-wise milk production in Kerala in 2024-25



Source: Dairy Development Department Govt.of Kerala

Kerala is bagged 14th position in holding egg production in the country. While Kerala has a high per capita egg consumption, its domestic production is significantly lower than demand, making it a major egg importer rather than a leading producer. The production of egg increased from 22.48 crore in 2022-23 to 25.14 crore in 2024-25 (Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2025).

By considering demand, Kerala's egg production remains low with average percapita availability of egg is 70. However the state has made a significant growth and registered 4.52 per cent which is above national growth rate of 4.44 per cent in 204.25

Egg produced per year (@180 eggs/bird) and (@ 300 eggs/bird) by Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC) through various schemes in 2025-26 was 81,56,700 numbers as on August 31, 2025. It was 1,27,77,120 numbers in 2024-25 and 1,77,84,855 in 2023-24. In 2025-26 as on August 31, 2025, the approximate income generated from sales of eggs (@ Rs.8/egg was Rs.6,52,53,600/-. It was Rs. 10,22,16,960/during 2024-25 (KSPDC, 2024) and 14,22,78,840/- in 2023-24. It shows a decline in the egg production and also in the approximate income generated from sale of eggs in Kerala during the year 2024-25. The actual number of birds distributed also shows a declining trend from 1,08,570 (2023-24) to 74,720 (2024-25) (Source: KEPCO). The details of Production and Income Generation of eggs are shown in **Figure 3.3.3**.

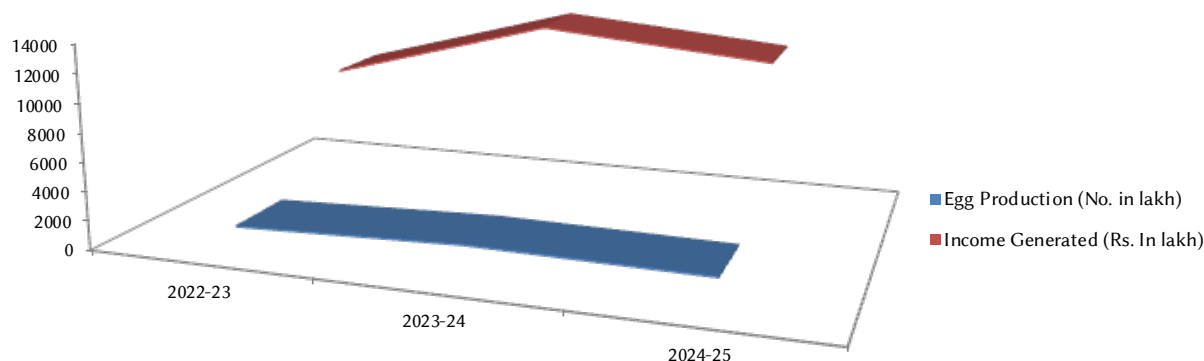
The above figure shows that there is a positive correlation between Egg Production and Annual Income generated. It shows that there is a decline in the production of eggs and decline in income generated from sale of eggs in the year 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 as in the data provided by KSPDC. But the egg production increased substantially while taken into account of the data in the last 10 years.

Meat Production

Global meat production increased by 1.7 percent in 2024, reaching 379 million tonnes (carcass weight equivalent) according to Meat Market Review 2024, FAO, published in 2025. Meat production has witnessed a steady increase over the last ten years in our country. India is in 4th position in meat production in the world. The total meat production in the country is 10.50 million tonnes in 2024-25, an increase from 10.25 million tonnes in 2023-24. Meat production in the country has increased by 2.46 per cent in 2024-25. The largest producer of meat in the country in the year 2024-25 was West Bengal producing 12.46 per cent of the total meat followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.20 per cent), Maharashtra (11.57 per cent), Telangana (10.49 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (10.84 per cent). These states together contribute 57.55 per cent of total meat production in the country during this period. The percapita availability has increased from 6.15 kg per annum in 2018-19 to 7.5kg per annum in 2004-25. The contribution shows that nearly 49.27 per cent of meat production is contributed by poultry, buffalo, goat, sheep, pig and cattle contributes 18.42 per cent, 15.06 per cent, 11.29 per cent, 3.65 per cent and 2.30 per cent of meat production respectively to the total meat production of the country. (BAHS 2025)

Kerala's contribution to the total meat production in the country was 4.98 per cent in 2024-25 (Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025). Kerala ranks 8th position in meat production in the year 2024-25 (BAHS 2025) Species-wise meat

Figure 3.3.3 Production and Income Generation of Eggs

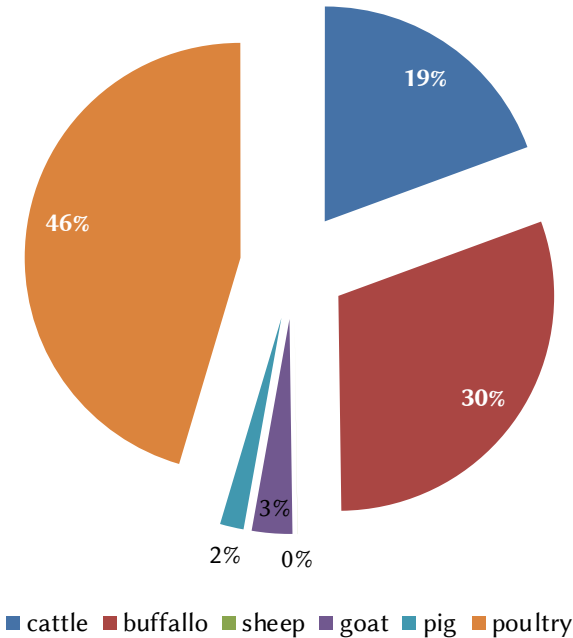


Source: Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation Ltd

contribution shows that 45.45 per cent of meat production in the country is contributed by poultry in the year 2024-25. (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairing GoI)

During the first 3 years of the 14th Five-Year Plan, meat production in Kerala was 14.54 MT. Total meat production in 2024-25 was 522.76 MT. The total requirement of meat in the State in 2024-25 was 880.33 MT. (Dept. of Anima Husbandry GoK) Species-wise meat production in Kerala is shown in **Figure 3.3.4**.

Figure 3.3.4 Species wise meat production in Kerala



Out of 5.23 MT of meat produced in the State, a major share was from Poultry is 237.41 MT (45.45 per cent) followed by Buffalo’s 158.96 MT(30.41 per cent), Cattle’s 101.10 MT (19 per cent), Goat’s 15.80 MT(3 per cent) Pig’s 9.27 MT (2 per cent) and Sheep’s 0.04 MT (0.008 per cent). The real potential of the meat sector in Kerala has not been fully tapped.

For the production of safe and wholesome meat, it is essential to establish modern scientific infrastructure for slaughter operations, promote value addition and strengthen human resource development to have trained human resources in the sector. With the help of LSGs, the Government has set up 40 rendering plants under PPP mode. The scientific infrastructure would eliminate environmental pollution, prevent the spread of infectious and zoonotic diseases and generate economic returns from by-products and waste.

Meat Products of India Ltd (MPI) achieved a notable increase of production in 2024-25 compared to the previous financial year 2023-24. To achieve the primary objective of this mission, MPI has established a comprehensive infrastructure including modern slaughter houses ,animal and poultry rearing farms, rendering plants, feed mixing units, cold storages, sales outlets, value added meat facilities. The Production and sales turnover is shown in **Table 3.3.2**

A notable increase in production and sales income from the year 2022-23 to 2024-25 has shown as above.

Domestic demand for meat has been growing at a faster pace. In this context, expanding the “Kerala Chicken” scheme is essential. Kerala Chicken is a project promoted by the Government of Kerala to create availability of quality broiler chicken meat at reasonable prices to consumers throughout Kerala under the brand name of Kerala Chicken. The project was started in November 2017 in association with the Animal Husbandry Department, Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation (KSPDC), Meat Products of India Limited (MPI) and Kudumbashree. Under this project, Government of Kerala envisages establishing Broiler chicken farms throughout Kerala, establishment of infrastructure viz., Breeder units, hatcheries, feed supply units, abattoirs, blast freezers, rendering plants, cold

Table 3.3.2 Production Growth and Strategic Market Initiatives

Description	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Production of Meat, Byproducts &Value added products in MT	240.884 MT	276.375 MT	351.86 MT
Sales Income (in Rs.)	Rs.7,36,36,556	Rs.7,06,32,030	Rs.8,11,16,129

Source: Meat Products of India Ltd

storages and marketing under the brand name “Kerala Chicken” and sales through outlets including Kudumbashree. A scheme to encourage growing of male calves should also be thought of in this regard.

Feed and Fodder Base

To support the development of the livestock sector, special focus has been given to fodder and feed production considering the wide gap in the availability of critical inputs. The Dairy Development Department is the nodal agency for fodder development activities in the State. Under the scheme, production and conservation of fodder in farmer fields and dairy co-operatives, commercial and massive fodder production in barren lands and wastelands has been initiated. The fertile lands which remain underutilized under the ownership of progressive farmers, other individuals, LSGDs and PSUs are selected and intensive fodder cultivation activities are taken up. Production and sale of Fodder Seeds by KLD Board is shown in **Appendix 3.3.2**.

According to Government Statistics, Kerala produces only 60 per cent of the roughages required for cattle in Kerala. The total cattle feed production in 2024-25 was 2.50 lakh metric tonnes. It was 2.95 lakh metric tonnes in 2023-24 (**Appendix 3.3.3**). In 2024-25 fodder cultivation was taken up in 1213.00 ha of land and 320.5 lakh fodder root slips/stem cuttings were supplied (**Appendix 3.3.4**).

The area under fodder farms in Kerala is shown in **Table 3.3.3**. The table indicates that there was a decrease in the area cultivated under fodder from the year 2022-23. But there is a marginal increase in the area cultivated as 1213.06 for the year 2024-25 over the previous year. The total fodder required for the milch animals in the State is 335.5 lakh kg per day. Public Sector Undertakings viz., Kerala Feeds Ltd., MILMA, District Cooperative Societies and Joint Liability Groups must be encouraged and supported to initiate and expand fodder production in the State. Besides improving productivity in areas already under fodder cultivation, improving productivity of grazing and pasture lands, raising perennial fodder crops on field bunds and boundaries, peri-urban areas and exploiting unutilized and under-utilized fodder crops are also some of the promising options to enhance fodder availability (Dairy Development Department, GoK).

As on March 31, 2025, there are 6,975 fodder plots in the State, of which, 5,266 plots (75.49 per cent) are between one acre and 2.5 acres in area. There are 1399 plots (20.06 per cent) with an area between 2.5 acres and 5 acres. There are 310 plots (4.44 per cent) of area more than five acres, as it was 203 plots (2.7 per cent) in 2023-24. This shows that the number of fodder plots of area more than five acres have increased in 2024-25. Marginal and Small farmers who are the major cattle owners of the State have limited space for fodder development. Since fodder is not directly yielding any benefit, fodder cultivation takes a back seat (Dairy Development Department, GoK). Dairying in Kerala has become an uneconomic activity mainly due to the increasing feed cost and labour cost. Applied research including screening trials and management trials will be carried out to identify and introduce new varieties of fodder suitable for the agro-climatic regions of the State (KLDB).

Table 3.3.3 Area under fodder farms, Kerala 2018-19 to 2024-25

Year	Total area covered under fodder cultivation (in Ha)
2018-19	2750.00
2019-20	2865.00
2020-21	2363.00
2021-22	2397.00
2022-23	2277.00
2023-24	1131.6
2024-25	1213.06

Source: Dairy Development Department, GoK

Besides, assistance was provided to farmers for Azolla cultivation, mechanisation of fodder cultivation and also for harvesting and irrigation facilities. The cost of feed ingredients has been increasing, particularly for de-oiled rice bran, maize, and rice polish, which constitute 70-75 per cent of the mix cost. Procurement rates of these materials and also that of de-oiled coconut cake and de-oiled cottonseed extractions have shown a steep increase over the year.

Breeding Support

Breeding is one of the important tools to facilitate production potential and bring about progressive genetic improvement in production on a long-term basis in animals. In our State, The Kerala Livestock Development Board (KLDB) is responsible for the

supply of breeding, management inputs for Cattle, Goat, Buffalo and Pigs and also fodder production in the state.

Cattle breeding has been carried out systematically and we have a well-planned breeding policy. According to the breeding policy of the State, the germplasm provided by Kerala Livestock Development Board alone is used in the State under the supervision of the Director of Animal Husbandry. Every year about 25 new technicians are given “Basic training in Artificial Insemination” commensurate with the starting of new AI Centres. Up to March 31, 2025, 1367 persons have been trained in AH activities. The Board is responsible for the supply of breeding management inputs for cattle, goat, buffalo and pigs and also for fodder production in the state. Animal Husbandry Department is ensuring artificial insemination facilities through veterinary hospitals in every Panchayat. The department also provides door step delivery of artificial insemination services through mobile veterinary units.

According to the existing breeding policy, the exotic inheritance-level is limited to around 50 per cent in the small holding population. But the small farmers with good resources and farmers involved in commercial and semi-commercial dairying are provided with semen of high-value pure breed Holstein Friesian bulls (imported/imported sexed/bulls procured from the outside State) under close monitoring by the State Animal Husbandry Department and the Kerala Livestock Development Board. The conservation programme for indigenous breeds of the State (like Vechur) is also undertaken. KLDB is supplying semen of indigenous breeds like Vechur, Gir, Kasargod dwarf, Red Sindhi, Kangayam, and Kangrej. The department is also spending plan funds for conducting infertility camps and has a separate institution namely, State Institute for Fertility Management for managing the infertility problems in cattle of our State.

KLDB has three bull stations, four bull mother farms and one each of indigenous cattle, goat and pig farms and a Pig Breeding Unit at Vagamon. It has seven regional semen banks, one each catering to two districts. In 2024-25, it strengthened infrastructural facilities in 3 Bull stations, maintained 3 Modern Bull Mother Farms and 352 Bull mothers, and produced 147 bull calves and 136 female calves. The bulls used for semen

production are screened for infectious and genetic diseases as per Minimum Standard Protocols advocated by GoI for production of frozen semen. All three semen stations under KLDB have been ISO 9001:2015 certified and have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certification with biosecurity measures in force. KLDB has initiated the production and supply of goat semen to the State livestock holders through the Animal Husbandry Department. KLDB has produced and distributed 55,425 Frozen Buck Semen doses as on March 31, 2025. The Board also undertakes the supply of breeding stock of pigs to Government agencies inside and outside the State and breeding and fattening stock to the pig farmers in the State. KLDB has maintained 41 male pigs, 180 female pigs, 258 farrowing as on March 31, 2025. In the period it has produced and sold 2126 and 1670 piglets respectively.

In Kerala, the frozen semen production in 2024-25 was 24.30 lakh doses. The distribution of frozen semen inside the State was 10.23 lakh doses. The distribution of frozen semen outside the State was 7.13 lakh doses. Details of the production and distribution of Frozen Semen in Kerala are shown in **Appendix 3.3.5**. In 2024-25, 7.76 lakh numbers of artificial inseminations (AI) were done in 3064 insemination centres with a calving recorded as 2.08 lakh. The average number of inseminations needed for producing one calf is four. The details of artificial inseminations conducted and recorded calving are shown in **Appendix 3.3.6**. The major activities of KLDB are given in **Appendix 3.3.7**. KLDB has developed a new software application for herd book registration electronically in association with Digital University (IITMK). The data could be synched with similar applications of the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development departments. The Board undertakes Kudumbasree linked forage programmes and establishment of fodder demonstration units and conservation and dissemination of indigenous cattle germplasm. It has taken up genetic upgradation of cattle through field performance recording programmes and assisting selection of bulls through genomic selection.

Due to the continued focus on exotic germplasm-based cross-breeding in the livestock sector, the number of indigenous breeds with better adaptability, disease-resistance and feed efficiency ratio is declining. Hence, it is essential to conserve

and improve the productivity of Indian indigenous breeds. The Department focuses on complete or total artificial insemination coverage along with the application of advanced cutting-edge reproductive technology developments.

The Special Livestock Breeding Programme (SLBP) is a calf rearing program that subsidizes cattle feed for rearing cattle up to 32 months along with health cover and insurance that has been under implementation since 1976. In 2006-07, the scheme was extended to buffalo calves to curtail the drastic reduction in the buffalo population. The number of new calves (cow) enrolled under the programme in 2024-25 was 37,610. Year-wise details of calves enrolled under the Special Livestock Breeding Programme from 2012-13 onwards are shown in **Appendix 3.3.8**

Production of Vaccine in Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Palode

The Institute of Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals, Palode is the sole agency that produces and distributes animal vaccines in Kerala. The production details of vaccines manufactured in the Institute are shown in **Appendix 3.3.9**. In 2024-25, poultry vaccine production was 51.16 lakh doses and livestock vaccine was 4.29 lakh doses. Production of poultry vaccine decreased by 73.20 per cent and livestock vaccine increased by 4.42 per cent compared to the previous year. The number of vaccinations done in 2024-25 was 28.91 lakh for livestock and 62.16 lakh for poultry. In comparison to the previous year, vaccination for livestock decreased by 4.5 per cent and poultry vaccination decreased by 35.4 per cent. Anti-Rabies vaccinations to dogs decreased from 4.77 lakh in 2023-24 to 3.75 Lakh in 2024-25.

Details are provided in **Appendix 3.3.10**

Bhumika – GIS based mapping as a tool for Animal Resource Management System
Animal Husbandry Department has developed GIS-based mapping of farmers “Bhumika” to build a geospatial data base of farmers engaged in animal husbandry activities for effective management and monitoring of health, breeding, production, risk and disaster, and human resource management. The institutions coming under the purview of the department have been brought under the geo-mapping system. It has been estimated that about 25 lakh households are involved in animal husbandry activities in the State. Total

Geospatial information of 5,49,642 farmers and 9,42,061 animals has been mapped in the portal as September 10, 2025. It was developed in association with Digital University through which the geographical location of farmers who are engaged in animal resources activities are mapped for effective management and monitoring of health, breeding, production, risk, disaster, and human resource.

Prices

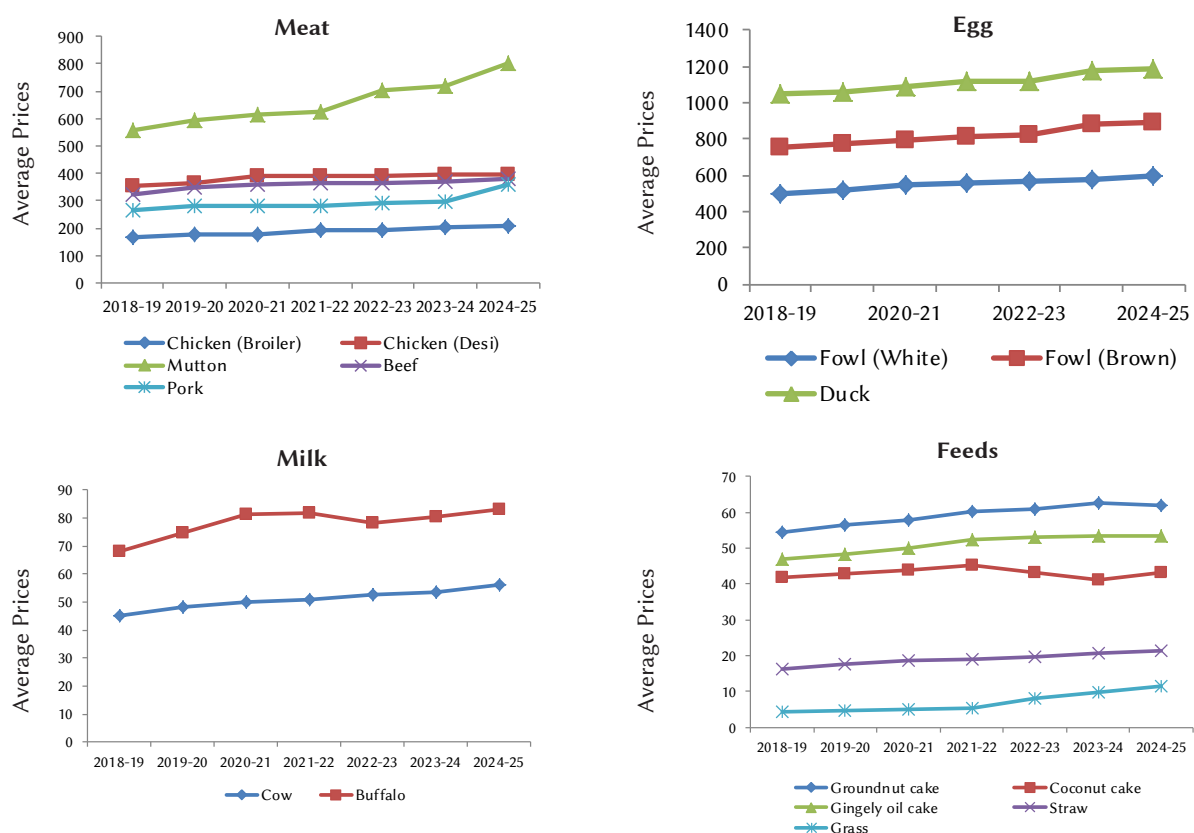
Average price of important inputs and products of livestock sector for the last seven years is presented in **Appendix 3.3.11**. All the products recorded an increase in prices from 2011-12, over this time period to 2023-24. According to the data from the Department of Animal Husbandry, in the year 2024-25, the price of chicken broiler, chicken desi, mutton, beef and pork has increased by 78.92 per cent, 105.5 per cent, 162.25 per cent, 143.79 per cent and 134.62 per cent respectively, compared to the previous year. Compared to 2023-24, the price of fowl-white egg has increased by 101.33 per cent, fowl brown egg by 111.37 per cent and duck egg by 132.61 per cent in 2024-25. The price of cow milk has increased by 104.36 per cent and buffalo milk by 152.55 per cent in the same period.

On the input side, in 2024-25, the price of straw increased by 165.12 per cent, grass by 363.78 per cent, that of ground nut cake decreased by 120.27 per cent, and gingerly oil cake decreased by 154.96 per cent, coconut cake increased by 126.91 per cent. The increase in the price of inputs is a serious threat to dairy farming and hence the possibility of indigenous source of feed is to be explored. The trend in average prices of livestock products from 2018-19 to 2024-25 is shown in **Figure 3.3.5**

Interstate migration of Livestock and Products

Interstate migration is a significant factor in Kerala's livestock sector, primarily through the importation of livestock and feed from other states to meet local demand. The state's own livestock production, especially of fodder and certain livestock types, has historically been insufficient to meet consumption needs, leading to a reliance on external sources. Kerala is a net importer of livestock, particularly cattle, for various purposes including dairy and meat. This is driven by high per capita consumption of milk, meat, and eggs, and limited land availability for large-scale livestock farming within the state. Cattle (especially

Figure 3.3.5 Trend in average prices of livestock products from 2017-18 to 2024-25



Source: Animal Husbandry Department GoK, 2024

Table 3.3.4 Import of cattle and others 2024-25

ITEM			TOTAL
LIVESTOCKS	Cattle (Nos)	Adult M	181664
		Adult F	47442
		Young	11449
	Buffallo (Nos)	Adult M	82547
		Adult F	12564
		Young	20441
	Goat (Nos)	Adult M	983
		Adult F	1635
		Young	15
POULTRY	Desi (Nos)	Adult	135916
	Broiller (Nos)	Adult	3889236
		Chicks	210854
		Duck (Nos)	94140
PETS	Pet Birds (Nos)		116

MILK PRODUCTS		Milk (Kg)	234612316
		Curd (Lts.)	5102834
		Butter (kg)	37509
		Ghee (kg)	192
		Ice cream (kg)	762678.5
		Milk Powder (Kg)	1089061
		Milk Cream (kg)	15300
		Paneer (kg)	792
		yoghurt (kg)	460
LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS	MEAT (Kg)	Chicken	259390
		Processed chicken	6877976
		Dressed chicken/Frozen	9051895
		Meat Others	4873
	EGG (Nos)	Fowl (Nos)	210932602
		Duck (Nos)	19286750
		Hatching egg (Nos)	10599359
		Others fertilized eggs	3874310
	HIDE (kg)	Cattle Hide	116000
FEED	kg	Cattle feed	13473781
		Poultry feed	4147456
		Straw	19230321
		Pig feed	286720
		Fodder grass	24282505
		Green grass	1071848
		Maize	19268000
		Rice Bran	1041000
		oil cake	155024
		Silage	1365000
Manure	Kg	Dung (Dry)	24582989
		Dung (Wet)	756100
		Poultry Manure	1268758
		Bone	865000
		Bi-compost	39000
		goat mannure	2289000

Source: Animal Husbandry Department, Kerala

crossbreds for milk production), goats, pigs, and poultry are among the livestock transported into Kerala from neighbouring states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Import of cattle and others through various check posts in 2024-25 shows in **Table 3.3.4**.

Physical Achievements of Animal Husbandry Sector in 2024-25

- The concept of mobile veterinary clinics and 24-hour veterinary services were introduced during the 13th plan and expanded further to 228 (out of 152 blocks) during the 14th plan.
- Farmers receive medicines at a uniform and affordable service rates in mobile veterinary units. A Total of 59 mobile units were operational in 2024-25. In addition, overnight emergency veterinary services are provided at the farmers' doorsteps from 6 pm to 6 am the next morning.
- Laboratory Infrastructure has been significantly upgraded to enhance disease diagnosis capabilities. Key Laboratories, such as the State Institute for Animal Disease (SIAD), the Avian Disease Lab in Thiruvalla, the District Lab in Palakkad and the Livestock Marine and Agri-Products Lab in Maradu, now operate with NABL accreditation.
- In the Animal Husbandry Department farms, 45.36 lakh eggs and 22.75 lakh chicks were produced.
- An amount of Rs. 1.31 crore was disbursed to those farmers as compensation under Plan fund and Rs.1.57 crore under State Disaster Response Fund(SDRF), whose animals are not covered under insurance.
- Total cattle feed sale of Kerala Feeds Limited was 1,63,424.644 MT in the financial year 2024-25 KFL has supplied 29,658.872 MT of good quality cattle feed at subsidized rates through different programmes and 53,755.5

Box No 3.3.1 Digital Herd Book Scheme

A breed registry, also known as a herd book, studbook or register, is an official list of animals within a specific breed whose parents are known. Animals are usually registered by their breeders while they are young. Such registries usually issue certificates for each recorded animal, called a pedigree, pedigreed animal documentation, or most commonly, an animal's "papers". Registration papers may consist of a simple certificate or a listing of ancestors in the animal's background, sometimes with a chart showing the lineage. The programme is being implemented in the same area as that of progeny testing and this was selected owing to the availability of a higher proportion of cross bred. It covers a breedable population of about 60,000 crossbred animals spread around 83 AI Centres.

Though Kerala started the artificial insemination technique as early as in 1970s, the pedigree records of our cows were not available at our fingertips for finding out the best cows in the State, or the bulls whose daughters are the best yielders, or find out the best generation of cows (line) in the State, or suggest the best semen for inseminating a particular cow to produce the best offspring etc. By digitalizing and maintaining a breeding history (digital herd register) along with health and management details, weather correlation on production, the State will be in a position to find the best cow/bull/breed suitable for Kerala and may even become a valuable data repository and a data warehouse to develop a suitable breed for the State in the future.

In order to find a way to resolve the problem, as suggested by Kerala State Planning Board, the Government has earmarked Rs. 72.00 lakh for the development of a digital Herd Book as a Decision Support System (DSS) under Modernisation and e-Governance scheme of the Animal Husbandry department during the financial year 2025-26 with the help of the Digital University (formerly IIITM-K) An amount of Rs.47.25 lakh was utilized as on August 31, 2025 for the implementation of the scheme. This Decision Support System (DSS) will capture all details of the dairy animals from birth to death like health, breeding, pedigree, selection, feeding, milk production, vaccinations, agro-climatic correlation in expression of genetic potential, traceability of animal product. This will become the basis of all future animal husbandry development activities.

The Department has developed an animal database with provisions for capturing birth, health, breeding, production and death details with appropriate dashboards and integration with other software maintained by the department, KLDB, NDDB etc. A mobile application for the farmers with provisions for viewing all the details of their animals including the treatment, breeding have also been developed for entering the daily production details of animals. This database will become a central repository where all the herd management activities of the animals will be captured and act like an animal aadhaar database. Up to March 31,2025 , 4,229 female calves has been identified and registered, 1,77,197 herd books have been maintained, opened 4229 herd books and 10,077 Heart girth measurements have been done

MT of cattle feed at subsidized rate to dairy farmers of Kerala. Purchased two Near-Infrared (NIR) Spectrophotometers at Kozhikode and Karunagappally units.

- Kerala Feeds has signed an agreement with Hyderabad-based Indian Immunological Limited (IIL) as part of its diversification, and launched its initial products, Gaudhara Shakti, Kalsagar and Vetfen, in the Kerala market in the financial year 2024-25.
- KLDB is responsible for the supply of breeding management inputs for Cattle, Goat, Buffalo and Pigs and also for fodder Production. It has maintained 1063 cattle and buffaloes, 689 goats and 645 pigs. Produced 363 kids and 2140 piglets; distributed 430 kids and 2140 piglets. Number of cows enrolled under milk recording was 4813 .
- Supplied frozen semen to 3064 Artificial Insemination centres in 2024-25. 24,29,515 doses of cattle and buffalo frozen semen were produced, 10,23,198 doses of frozen semen were sold in Kerala and 7,12,507 doses of frozen semen were supplied outside the State. In the case of frozen goat semen, production was 60,866 doses. 32,851 doses of frozen goat semen were sold in Kerala and 2,022 doses were sold outside Kerala.
- ADAPT (Application for Data Analysis in Progeny Testing Programme) : KLDB has developed a software ADAPT (Application for Data Analysis in Progeny Testing Programme) in collaboration with Digital University, Kerala that can reliably analyze the data of cows available from the field and coordinate field operations through computer/mobile application from farmer homes. This state-of-the-art digital technology will enable the various functions of the progeny testing program to be efficiently carried out under one roof, creating a new generation of cows backed by genetic traits to increase productivity and modernize and strengthen the dairy sector of the future. Under this, the Board has registered 4,229 number of female calves, enrolled 2,645 cows for milk recording and completed 2,038 lactations.
- KLDB has completed the estimation of Genomic Breeding value of Bulls selected for the AI purpose of Kerala as a part of Research Collaboration with University of Adelaide, Australia. It has also completed the Whole genome sequencing of Vechur animals in collaboration with IISER, Trivandrum.

- KSPDC has given assistance through various welfare schemes to 20253 beneficiaries 8.62 lakh layer birds, 39.12 tons of Poultry Feed, 10 no.s of readymade Hi-Tech poultry cages were supplied. 1791.23 additional tons of poultry meat and 54.97 crore eggs were produced in the State. An income of Rs. 190.53 crore and Rs. 27.71 crore were generated from the sale egg and meat respectively.
- Meat Products of India Limited was producing and distributing only frozen meat products, now it is venturing into fresh and chilled meat products. The company has received HACCP ISO 22000:2018 FSMS Certification for the export of Buffalo meat and pork. A value added meat production and processing plant was set up at Yeroor in Kollam district by Meat Products of India Limited. Production capacity is 2000 Kg per shift per day and production commenced from 16.05.2024. Production of meat, by products & Value added products in 2024-25 was 351.86 MT and sales income was Rs.8,11,16,129 during 2024-25.
- “OPPAM” - Livelihood Enhancement of Wayanad Tribal Colonies through Need Based Package of Inputs is a novel project of Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) supports the nutritional and livelihood needs of tribal communities.
- KVASU developed and patented a vaccine for Riemerella in ducks. KVASU also introduced a farmer friendly “Anemia Card” to easily detect and stage anemia in goats. KVASU established Technology Business Incubation Centre (TBIC) at the college of Dairy Science and Technology, Kolahalamedu.

Dairy Development

The dairy sector is a cornerstone of global nutrition and rural economies, providing nutritious food to millions, fostering economic stability, and driving agricultural growth and food security. The Dairy Market Review 2024 reports that World liquid milk production increased by 1.4 per cent to 982 million tonnes in 2024, slightly below the pace of increase of 1.9 per cent reached in 2023. In 2025, global milk production is projected to reach approximately 992.7 million tonnes, marking a year-on-year increase of one per cent as per the Food Outlook 2025. Out of Global milk production constitutes cow milk 81 per cent, buffalo milk 15 per cent, and the remainder 4 per cent is contributed by goat, sheep, and camel

milk. Growth in milk production is expected to be driven primarily by higher yields per animal rather than herd expansion, with India and Pakistan contributing over half of the increase in milk production. Whereas milk production in the European Union, the second largest producer, is expected to slightly decline. Yield improvements through enhanced animal health, feed efficiency, and superior genetics are anticipated to account for a significant portion of production growth worldwide. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), approximately 150 million households globally are engaged in milk production, with small holders playing a vital role in household livelihoods, food security, and nutrition.

Asia is the leading milk-producing continent and production is projected to continue its growth trajectory. Milk production in Asia reached nearly 460 million tonnes in 2024, marking a 2.4 per cent increase over the previous year. This increase was principally driven by a rise in production in the largest producing countries in the region, India and Pakistan. Milk output in India grew by 2.8 per cent with respect to 2023 owing to government support to increase cattle population across the country, favourable weather conditions ensuring steady availability of accessible fodder, and absence of major diseases outbreaks as per the Dairy Market Review 2024.

In India, dairy is the single-largest agro-commodity, providing employment to millions of rural households, particularly women, contributing to poverty alleviation, income generation, and food security. Rising demand, increased purchasing power, nutritional awareness, and preference for branded dairy products are projected to raise India's milk production to 628 MMT by 2047. The sector also contributes significantly to the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 1, 3, 5, 8, and 10, transforming the livelihoods of the agrarian population.

According to the Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics (BAHS) 2025, India is the world's largest milk producer, contributing 25 per cent of global milk output. India produced 247.87 million tonnes of milk in 2024-25, as compared to 239.30 million tonnes in 2023-24, registering a growth rate of 3.58 per cent. The per capita availability of milk increased to 485 grams per day, exceeding the world average of 329 grams per day in 2023.

Production is predominantly by small and marginal farmers and landless labourers, integrated with co-operatives and private players to ensure fair and transparent collection and distribution. The leading milk-producing states are Uttar Pradesh (15.66 per cent), Rajasthan (14.82 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (9.12 per cent), Gujarat (7.78 per cent), and Maharashtra (6.71 per cent), together contributing 54.09 per cent of total milk production. The organized sector, comprising government institutions, co-operatives, and private players, facilitates year-round milk collection. The total Indian dairy market was valued at Rs 18.98 lakh crore in 2024 and is expected to reach Rs 57 lakh crore by 2033 (IMARC 2025).

Kerala's livestock sector is among the fastest-growing components of the rural economy. The contribution of the livestock sector to the total agriculture and allied sector Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices was 27.97 per cent in 2011-12 (quick estimates), while its share in the total GSVA of the State was 2.6 per cent in 2023-24 (P) and 2.4 per cent in 2024-25 (Q). In real terms, GSVA in the livestock sector at current prices increased from Rs 26,74,820 lakh in 2023-24 (P) to Rs 27,00,766 lakh in 2024-25 (Q) (Directorate of Economics and Statistics, GoK).

Kerala produced 25.61 LMT of milk in 2024-25. Out of 25.61 LMT, a major share of 23.71 LMT was produced by cross-bred cattle (92.58 per cent), indigenous cattle contributed 0.08 LMT (0.31 per cent) of milk, goats 1.33 LMT (5.19 per cent) and others contributed the remaining. The State produced a total of 25.61 LMT of milk in 2024-25 against a requirement of 33.86 LMT, indicating a deficit of around 31 per cent, or approximately 8.25 LMT. Despite relatively smaller herd sizes compared to major milk-producing States, Kerala achieves higher productivity. The average yield from exotic / crossbred cattle was 11.20 kg per day per animal, while indigenous/non-descript cattle yielded 3.48 kg per day, ranking third highest after Punjab (14.10 kg/day) and Chandigarh (12.56 kg/day). This higher productivity is attributable to the greater proportion of crossbred and exotic animals in the population. The per capita availability of milk in Kerala stands at 195 grams per day. Milk Production in Kerala from 2015-16 to 2024-25 is provided in the **Table 3.3.5**.

Programmes and initiatives

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), organized the International Dairy Federation's First Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific 2024 (IDF RDCAP 2024) at Kochi from June 26, 2024 to June 28, 2024, focusing on enhancing productivity, animal health, safety, co-operative development, and climate action to promote sustainable dairying practices.

To enhance institutional credit access for allied sectors, the Government of India launched the Nationwide Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Campaign 2024-25, held from September 15, 2024 to March 31, 2025, aiming to extend KCC facilities to all eligible farmers, thereby promoting formal credit inclusion and reducing dependency on non-institutional sources. Under these campaigns, as on December 27, 2024, 51,59,049 applications were received, of which 50,77,511 were accepted and 35,44,752 were sanctioned in the country, resulting in the issuance of over 42.38 lakh fresh KCCs for Animal Husbandry and Dairy (AHD) farmers. In order to ensure increased credit flow, a total credit target of Rs 1,75,000 crore was exclusively for the dairy sector, including Rs 64,750 crore for working capital and Rs 1,10,250 crore for term loans as per the Annual Report 2024-25, Dept. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI.

Table 3.3.5 Milk Production in Kerala from 2015-16 to 2024-25

Year	Milk Production (in LMT)
2015-16	26.49
2016-17	25.20
2017-18	25.76
2018-19	25.49
2019-20	25.42
2020-21	25.34
2021-22	25.32
2022-23	25.79
2023-24	25.79
2024-25	25.61

Source: Dairy Development Department

The Fodder Task Force was constituted by the State Government to address the persistent shortage of green fodder and to promote sustainable livestock production. Serving as a nodal co-ordinating body, the Task Force brings together key departments viz. Animal Husbandry,

Agriculture, Forest and Wildlife, and Local Self Government to formulate and implement strategic interventions aimed at augmenting fodder availability across the State. Its mandate includes the identification and optimal utilization of cultivable wastelands, the rejuvenation of community pastures and degraded forest lands, and the promotion of fodder cultivation through both government initiatives and private sector participation. By ensuring effective inter-departmental collaboration and resource mobilization, the Fodder Task Force seeks to bridge the substantial gap between fodder demand and supply, thereby strengthening the livestock and dairy sectors and contributing to the State's overall agricultural resilience.

The Department of Dairy Development functions as the nodal agency in Kerala for rural dairy extension services, fodder resource management, and the facilitation of rural milk marketing. With financial support from both the State and Central Governments, the Department implements a range of schemes aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in milk production, enhancing fodder cultivation, reducing the cost of milk production, strengthening dairy co-operatives, and ensuring the supply of safe and quality milk to consumers. These initiatives also seek to provide a fair and remunerative price to producers and to promote the socio-economic upliftment of dairy farmers. The overarching mandate of the Department is the comprehensive and sustainable development of the dairy sector, with a focus on improving the well-being of farmers, consumers, and other stakeholders. Additionally, the Department serves as the nodal agency for the planning and implementation of fodder development initiatives across the State.

The Dairy Development Department maintains a robust institutional infrastructure comprising 162 Dairy Extension Service Units, 14 Quality Control Units, one State Dairy Laboratory (NABL accredited) for testing milk, milk products, and cattle feed. In addition, the Department operates 3 Regional Dairy Laboratories, 14 Mobile Quality Control Units, and 6 Dairy Training Centres to facilitate capacity building and field-level quality monitoring. A State Fodder Farm and a centralized Dairy Management Information Centre, functioning under the Directorate, support the Department's efforts in fodder development and data-driven governance of the dairy sector.

Table 3.3.6 Financial performance of Dairy sector during the 14th FYP

(Rs. in lakh)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure	Expenditure (in %)
2022-23	10681	7462.86*	70.00
2023-24	12226	6022.11*	49.00
2024-25	11795	5271.35	45.00
2025-26	12963	904.71	7.00
Total	47665	19661.03	41.00

Note: Expenditure for 2025-26 is anticipated expenditure (as on 31.08.2025)

Source: *Annual Plan Accounts; Planspace

Financial performance of Dairy sector during the 14th FYP is provided in the **Table 3.3.6**.

Dairy Co-operatives

Dairy co-operatives serve as a critical institutional mechanism for promoting self-sufficiency in milk production and dairy products in India, operating on the principles of maximizing farmers' income and enhancing productivity through collective action. As per the Annual Report 2024-25 of GoI, India's co-operative dairy network comprises 22 Milk Federations, 241 district co-operative milk unions, 28 marketing dairies, 25 Milk Producer Organizations covering about 2.35 lakh villages and 1.72 crore dairy farmers as members. This inclusive model not only enhances rural livelihoods but also plays a key role in sustaining India's position as the world's largest milk producer.

In Kerala, dairy co-operatives are among the most efficient and stable in the country, forming the backbone of the dairy industry. As of June 30, 2025, there are 3,594 registered Dairy Co-operative Societies (DCSs), including both APCOS and non-APCOS societies, of which 3,325 are functional and 269 remain dormant. Of the 3,325 functional societies, 3,045 operate as APCOS, while the remaining 280 function as non-APCOS societies. These co-operatives collect milk twice daily from member farmers, ensuring prompt payment based on quality parameters such as fat and SNF content. Around 8 lakh families depend on dairying for their livelihood, with about 3.94 lakh farmers under the co-operative sector. The State produces 25.61 lakh metric tonnes of milk annually, of which 6.19 lakh metric tonnes (16.95 lakh litres per day) are procured through co-operatives in 2024-25. The

yield rate of cattle in Kerala, averaging 11.20 kg per day per milk animal, compared to the national average of 9.05 kg per day per animal. These Dairy co-operatives have strengthened the dairy sector in Kerala by ensuring regular market access, enhancing farmers' incomes, and supporting sustainable growth of the dairy industry across the State.

Milk Marketing

The Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF), the apex body of the three-tier dairy co-operatives, implements the Operation Flood Programme in the State, ensuring organized milk procurement and marketing through its network of societies and dairies. As per data from the Dairy Development Department, in 2024-25, a total of 6,186.22 lakh litres of milk was procured by the dairy co-operative societies in Kerala, of which 4,029.93 lakh litres were supplied to the dairies and 2,035.51 lakh litres were marketed locally by the societies. Only 120.78 lakh litres of the total procurement was utilized for preparation of various milk products. According to KCMMF (MILMA), the total milk procured by the dairies in 2025 was 3,160.33 lakh litres annually, as compared to 4,258.72 lakh litres in 2024. Milk sales in 2025 were 4,552.80 lakh litres annually, compared to 5,954.87 lakh litres in 2024. The average milk procured per day by Anand Pattern Co-operative Societies (APCOS) in 2024-25 was 1,111.917 MT, against 1,256.57 MT in the previous year, with the average procurement per society per day being 356.04 litres. Except in Palakkad and Wayanad districts, milk sales exceeded procurement in 2024, with the shortfall met largely through arrangements with State Milk Federations of Karnataka and

Tamil Nadu and through the purchase of skimmed milk powder.

In addition to fluid milk, KCMMF produces and markets a wide range of products through its units, including ghee, butter, curd, ice cream, paneer, chocolates, flavored milk, gulab jamun, lassi, palada mix, peda, tetra-pack products, dairy whitener, mango juice, and packaged water. Detailed information on procurement and sale of milk by different dairies of KCMMF, as well as performance of KCMMF and milk procured by APCOS is provided in **Appendices 3.3.12, 3.3.13, and 3.3.14**. The historical price revision and price spread of milk from 2011 onwards are presented in **Appendices 3.3.15 and 3.3.16**.

Surplus Milk and Product Diversification

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of achieving greater self-sufficiency in the handling and processing of animal produce in Kerala, particularly in the dairy sector. The experience reinforced that the State is approaching self-sufficiency in milk production, underscoring the need to develop value-added milk products such as cheese, yogurt, and other diversified commodities. In response, advanced product diversification facilities have been established in existing dairy plants, and dairy companies are increasingly investing in new product development and marketing strategies to capture emerging consumer segments, moving beyond traditional liquid milk products. Ensuring the quality of raw milk at the farm level remains a critical concern, necessitating effective cold chain management from farm to fork to minimize bacterial load. Prompt cooling of milk at the collection point is essential, requiring enhanced financial support to strengthen the cold chain infrastructure. At present, the State has only 108 Bulk Milk Cooler Centres (BMCCs) with a total capacity of 392.50 KL as per the Annual Report 2024-25, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI, which must be expanded to match the milk procurement capacity of dairy co-operatives.

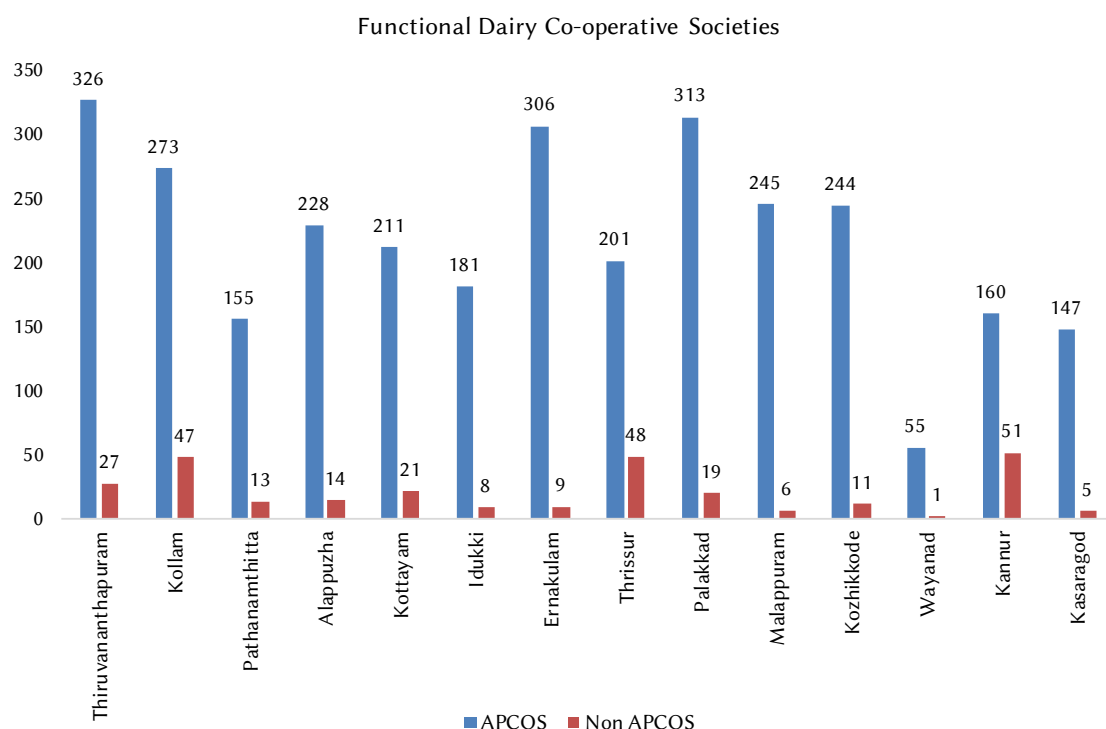
The dairy industry, based on product types, encompasses liquid milk, UHT milk, flavoured milk, curd, flavoured and frozen yogurts, probiotic dairy products, lassi, buttermilk, table butter, ghee, paneer, cheese, khoya, cream, skimmed milk powder, dairy whitener, sweetened condensed milk, ice cream, whey, A2 milk, organic milk, milkshakes, and a variety of dairy sweets. Among

these, liquid milk continues to account for the majority of the total market share, while the demand for value-added and diversified dairy products is steadily increasing.

Physical Achievements of Dairy Development Sector

- As a measure to stabilize and strengthen the dairy sector of the State, the Government initiated several major programmes in 2024-25. One of the key initiatives was the establishment of a 10 MT capacity milk powder plant at Moorkanad, Malappuram District, sanctioned with the objective of ensuring price stability and promoting value addition in the dairy sector. The plant was commissioned and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala on December 24, 2024, marking a significant milestone in the modernization of the State's dairy processing infrastructure.
- Fodder cultivation was undertaken on 1,165.46 hectares of land in 2024-25, resulting in an additional production of 2.04 lakh metric tonnes of fodder. Support was extended for maize cultivation over 50 hectares of land, irrigation facilities, SHG-led fodder initiatives, and mechanization assistance to progressive farmers. In addition, 65,150 fodder trees were distributed free of cost during 2024-25 to further augment fodder availability and promote sustainable livestock feeding practices.
- To mitigate the impact of recurring floods in the Kuttanad region, the Government established two elevated community cattle sheds in Kuttanad, Alappuzha District. These facilities are intended to protect livestock during floods and to provide a safe environment for farmers to resume their livelihood activities without disruption. The Champakulam Elevated Community Cattle Sheds were assisted with an amount of Rs.52.64 lakh during the year 2024-25.
- In line with the Government's vision to promote digital governance across all sectors, the Dairy Development Department launched Ksheerasree, a web-based e-governance platform developed by the National Informatics Centre. The initiative ensures transparency, efficiency, and fairness in service delivery and facilitates the digitization of all departmental activities. Notably, this is the first comprehensive digital governance initiative for the dairy sector in the country.

Figure 3.3.6: Details of APCOS and Non APCOS in Kerala



Source: Dairy Development Department, GoK

- As a major initiative of the decade, the Government implemented the Comprehensive Dairy Insurance Scheme (Ksheera Sandvanam), covering both dairy cattle and farmers across the State. This scheme represents a holistic step towards ensuring the socio-economic stability of dairy farmers. So far, 60,792 farmers and 18,278 cattle have been enrolled under this programme, providing significant security against potential losses and uncertainties in the sector.
- Further, the Government is in the final stages of implementing the Kerala Cattle Feed (Regulation) Act, aimed at ensuring the quality of cattle feed produced and marketed in the State. The legislation seeks to promote quality-based pricing and to safeguard the interests of dairy farmers by ensuring that only scientifically formulated feed reaches the market.
- Contingency funds were provided to 1,751 farmers to support them in recovering from unexpected losses encountered in dairying.

Way forward

Kerala's way forward in livestock and dairy development lies in shifting from small, intensive, fragmented systems to a modern, technology-

driven, farmer-centric sector. This requires boosting productivity through scientific breeding, better husbandry, and reliable access to quality feed supported by a State Fodder Plan, commercial fodder units, and use of community lands. Simplified, single-window licensing, recognition of dairying as an agricultural activity for easier credit, and incentives for large, hi-tech farms will attract investment and reduce production costs. Strengthening cooperatives, improving genetic material supply, expanding mechanization, and integrating digital platforms for marketing will enhance efficiency and market reach. Transition to value added products in the live stock sector is driven by a massive consumer shift towards "Food as Medicine", where protein is prioritised for health and longevity. Collaboration with Local Self Governments for fodder cultivation, training, heifer parks, poultry initiatives, and women-led enterprises will create a resilient, climate-ready livestock-dairy ecosystem capable of ensuring higher farmer income and sustained growth.

3.4 FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT

Fisheries and aquaculture provide food, nutrition, income, and livelihoods to millions of people. Fish is an affordable and rich source of animal protein and plays an important role in reducing hunger and malnutrition. India is the second largest fish producing country in the world and contributes 8 per cent of global fish production. The fisheries sector recorded an average annual growth rate of 6.30 per cent during the last five years. The sector contributed about 1.12 per cent of total national Gross Value Added and 7.26 per cent of Gross Value Added from the agriculture sector, as reported in the Annual Report 2024-25 of the Department of Fisheries. The sector is also a major source of foreign exchange earnings, and India is among the leading seafood exporting countries. India ranks second in the world in aquaculture fish production, after China.

The fisheries sector plays an important role in the State economy. Fisheries accounted for 0.89 per cent of total Gross State Value Added at constant prices in 2024-25 and 0.78 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product. Fisheries and aquaculture contributed 11.62 per cent of Gross State Value Added from agriculture and allied sectors at constant prices in 2024-25. **Appendix 3.4.1** provides details on the contribution of the fisheries sector to Gross State Value Added.

Growth Trends

Kerala, with a 600 km coastline (Circular No.MR-14011/1/2024-TRW(S) dated 29.04.2025 of

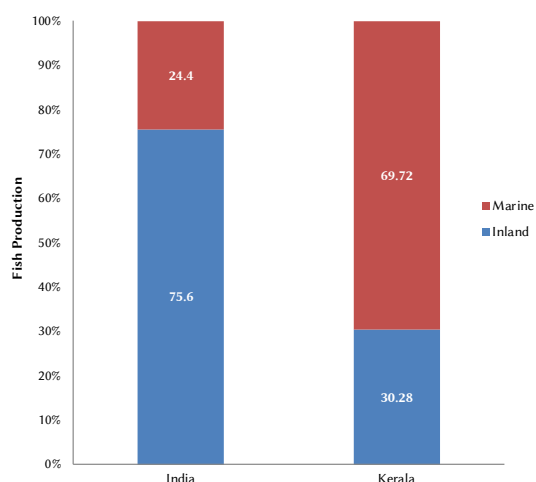
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Transport Research Wing, GoI) and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.18 lakh sq. km, has a robust and significant marine fisheries sector. The State has approximately 13,000 sq. km of territorial waters and fishing activities play a vital role in its economy. It is an active maritime State in India. The fish production in India in the year 2023-24 is estimated at 184.0 lakh MT with a contribution of 139.1 lakh MT from the inland sector and 44.9 lakh MT from the marine sector (Annual Report 2024-25, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI). In 2024-25, Kerala recorded a fish production of 9.28 lakh MT with contribution of 6.47 lakh MT from marine and 2.81 lakh MT from inland sector.

The Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act (KMFRA) was amended, and KMFR Rule was introduced to enable an increase in marine capture. The year 2024-25 has recorded an increase of 11.36 per cent in marine fish production, demonstrating a revival in the sector. As per district wise fish production of Kerala, the highest marine fish production was registered in Ernakulam followed by Kollam, and Kozhikode districts in 2024-25. The above three districts contributed to 67.08 per cent of the total marine fish production. The production of most of the marine fishes like Elasmobranchs, Oil Sardine, *Anchoviella*, other carangids, Saurida & Saurus, Seer fish, and Penaeid prawn have shown an increase in 2024-25. The species-wise marine fish landings in Kerala from 2021-22 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 3.4.2**.

The inland fish production also increased in 2024-25 due to the introduction of diversified and innovative fish farming practices, across the State. The inland fish production in 2024-25 was 2.81 lakh MT which is higher than the previous year (2.51 lakh MT). The Inland fish production recorded highest in Alappuzha District followed by Kottayam and Kollam. The inland fish production in Kerala has increased gradually in the last six years.

The difference in the composition of total fish production in India and Kerala is shown in **Figure 3.4.1** and in **Appendix 3.4.3**. District-wise fish production in Kerala is given in **Appendix 3.4.4**.

Figure 3.4.1 Fish production in India and Kerala – Share of Marine and Inland fishing



Source: Annual Report 2024-25, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, GoI and Department of Fisheries, GoK

Kerala is the third largest seafood exporting State in terms of quantity and second in terms of value of exports. The export of marine products from Kerala has shown an increase from 2015-16 onwards. In 2024-25, 1.80 lakh MT of sea food valued at Rs 6,941.29 crore was exported from Kerala. During the period, the marine exports from India was 16.98 lakh MT valued Rs 62,408.45 crore. Details are provided in **Appendix 3.4.5**.

Inland capture and aquaculture

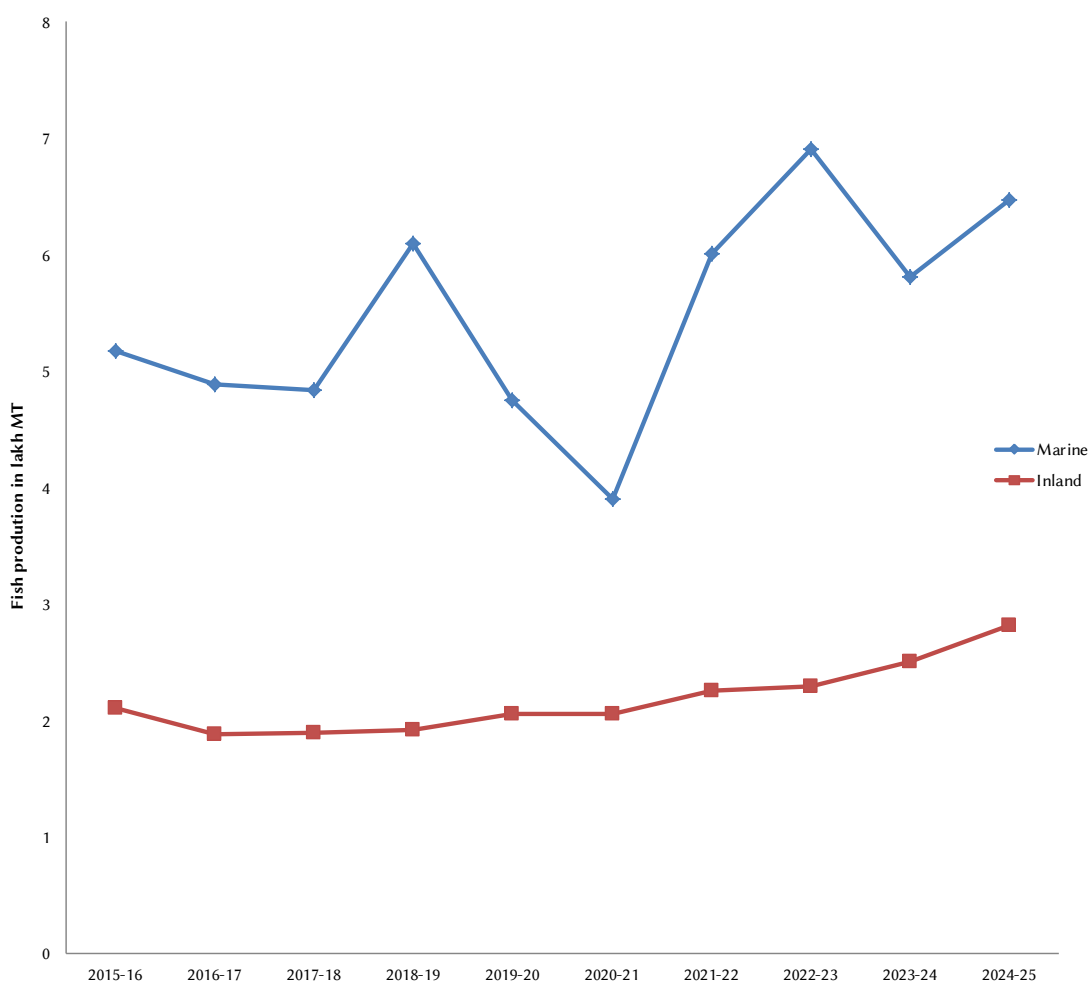
Fisheries and aquaculture play an essential role in ensuring food and nutritional security while

supporting the income and livelihood of millions of people. In the backdrop of declining land and water resources, exploding population and stagnancy in production from capture fisheries sources, the importance of inland capture fisheries and aquaculture has become crucial for meeting the sustainable livelihood approach. The inland water resources supporting about 2.46 lakh fisher folk population provides not only the component of nutritious food but also constitute towards employment generation thereby increasing the standard of living and economic development. The State is blessed with abundant water resources for the development of aquaculture. It has immense potential for developing the infrastructure for increasing inland fish production. The **Figure 3.4.2** shows a steady growth of inland sector from 2019-20 to 2024-25.

The fish species that have high potential in Kerala include murrel, *Etrophus*, cat fish, catla, *Labeo rohita*, edible oyster, *Barbus*, mullets, crab, mrigal, and mussel. The inland fish production in Kerala has increased gradually during the last five years. Species-wise inland fish production in Kerala from 2021-22 to 2024-25 are shown in **Appendix 3.4.6**. The State has made conscious effort in enhancing the inland fish production.

Aquaculture is also a sustainable option to consumers, especially in comparison to other farmed proteins. Seafood is highly resource efficient and has the highest protein retention. Aquaculture is the fastest growing segment of fisheries sector. The overfishing of our oceans and other natural resources is continuously increasing, as humans need alternate sources of seafood. As part of achieving self-sufficiency in fish production, *Janakeeya Matsyakrishi* was implemented in collaboration with local self-governments. In 2024-25, the *Janakeeya Matsyakrishi* project was implemented in 9,556 ha. As part of aquaculture development, scientific fish farming was undertaken in 4,189 ha, 'one paddy one fish farming' in 5,367 ha, and 1,225 units of mussel/oyster farming units. As part of introduction of innovative farming techniques, 673 units of biofloc fish farming system, 2,641 units of fish farming in *padutha* ponds, 120 units of recirculatory aquaculture system, and 1018 cage fish farming units has also been established. The reservoir fisheries development programme was implemented in 12 reservoirs.

Figure 3.4.2 Fish production in Kerala over the past ten years



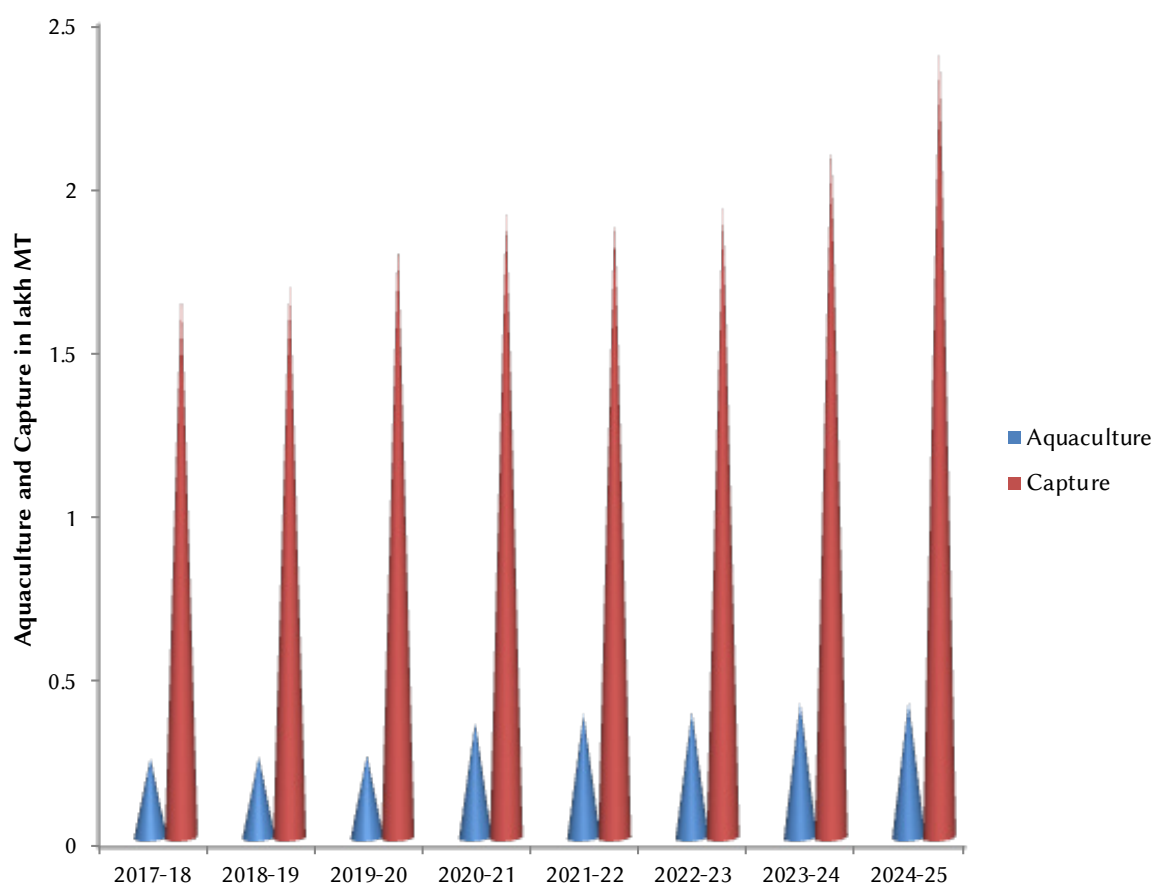
Source: Department of fisheries, GoK

The aquaculture production in the State in 2023-24 and 2024-25 was 0.408 lakh MT and 0.412 lakh MT respectively. The year wise aquaculture and inland capture production is shown in **Figure 3.4.3**.

The Kerala Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Act (KIFA) has been amended in 2021. The KIFA aims to sustainably develop, manage, and conserve the State's inland fisheries. The act also protects the livelihoods and traditional rights of fishers and ensures the availability of nutritious fish. As a part of protecting the fish resources, patrols were conducted in inland areas and action was taken against law violations. Ten Aquatic Animal Health labs have been established in the State. As part of Aquatic Animal Health Survey, 1,161 fish and water samples were collected and tested.

The supply of quality fish seeds is an important factor that influences the growth of any aquaculture sector. The production of marketable fish begins with the stocking of fry or juveniles into a rearing environment that assures optimum and rapid growth to allow harvest in the shortest possible time. The supply of quality fish seed is a key factor for expansion of fish farming. Fish seed demand is high at present and is expected to expand in the near future. As part of achieving self-sufficiency in fish seed production, a total of 17.49 crore fish seeds were produced in 2024-25, out of which 6.7 crore were from hatcheries and the rest were from various indigenous backyard fish seed production units in the State. To enhance fish seed production, 238 new backyard fish seed production units for indigenous fish were established in 2024-25. Support was also provided to 521 units

Figure 3.4.3 Contribution from aquaculture and capture to inland sector (in lakh MT)



Source: Department of Fisheries, GoK

established earlier, and 114 lakh fish fingerlings were produced from these units. The year wise seed production achieved by the Department and the agencies is shown in **Figure 3.4.4**.

The State fish seed centre established at Thevally, Kollam for ensuring the quality of fish seeds is producing and distributing the seeds in the State for undertaking fish farming and stock enhancement programmes. It also provides the facility for registration of fish seed production centres, hatcheries and seed rearing centres. So far 1,243 numbers of hatcheries and farms were registered.

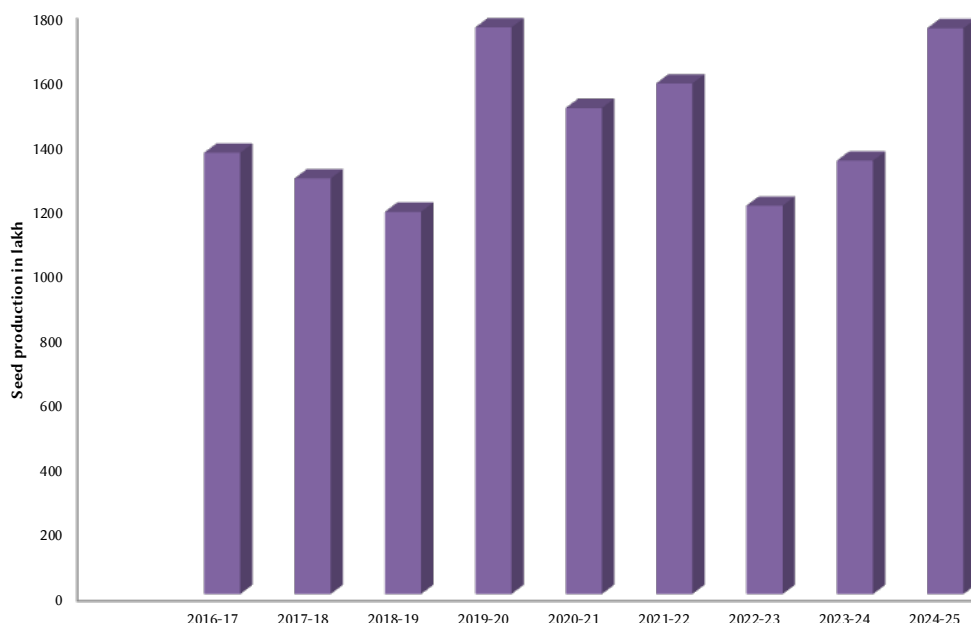
Livelihood and social security

The fisherfolk population is estimated to be around 10.71 lakh which is around three per cent of the total population of Kerala. The total fisherfolk population includes 8.25 lakh belonging to the marine sector and 2.46 lakh belonging to the inland sector. They reside in 222 marine

fishing villages and 113 inland fishing villages of the State. The district wise details of fisherfolk are given in **Appendix 3.4.7**. Active fish workers are those fish workers who are engaged in fishing for their livelihood and are registered with the Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board (KFWFB). The number of active fish workers registered with KFWFB in the State in 2024 was 2.26 lakh. The number of active fish workers registered is highest in Thiruvananthapuram district followed by Alappuzha. In 2024, the number of allied workers in Kerala was 77,431 who are engaged in allied activities related to fisheries and registered with KFWFB. The details of district wise active and allied fish workers is given in **Appendix 3.4.8**.

Government of Kerala implements various schemes to ensure social security and livelihood of fish workers. Apart from the fisheries department, KFWFB and Matsyafed also implement social security and livelihood support schemes. The schemes include those for housing, insurance and

Figure 3.4.4 Seed production from 2016-17 to 2024-25 (in lakh)



Source: Department of Fisheries, GoK

pension apart from those which enable fishworkers to earn livelihood on a continuous basis. In 2024-25, 2.26 lakh fishworkers and 77,431 allied workers benefitted from the Group Accident Insurance Scheme. A total of 1.36 lakh fishworkers and 14,130 allied fishworkers were provided support under the 'Saving cum Relief Scheme'. Details of the schemes implemented by the KFWFB are provided in **Appendix 3.4.9** and **3.4.10** respectively.

In order to provide urgent healthcare while at sea, the Government has commissioned marine ambulances for three zones, namely Vizhinjam in Thiruvananthapuram, Vypin in Ernakulam, and Beypore in Kozhikode. A total of 100 rescue squads were deployed in the 15 harbours of Kerala to rescue the fishers who is in distress at the sea. CCTV cameras were installed in all the important harbours of the State with the aim of protecting fish resources, and to ensure safety of fishermen. 74 lifeguards and 11 rescue boats are engaged in all the 9 coastal districts of Kerala to enforce marine fishing laws and rescue activities in the sea. There are 45,887 registered fishing vessels operating in the marine sector of Kerala, which includes 7 deep-sea vessels, 6,969 motorised vessels, 34,961 non mechanical motorised vessels, and 3,950 non-motorised vessels. In order to assist the fishers

from their loss in fishing accidents at sea, 2,883 fishing vessels have been insured by the Oriental Insurance Company.

To ensure timely dissemination of weather warnings and information on potential fishing zones, three LED display boards are being installed through Keltron at Vizhinjam, Munambam, and Beypore fishing harbours, as well as at the Vizhinjam, Vypin, and Beypore fisheries stations (regional centres). Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme PMMSY the Government is implementing a project worth Rs 15 crore to provide 10 deep-sea fishing boats to groups of 10 fishermen each, with the objective of facilitating the transition of traditional fishers to safe and sustainable mechanized deep-sea fishing.

Matsyafed

Matsyafed is an apex federation of 674 primary level fishworkers development welfare co-operative societies, of which 350 are in marine sector, 200 are in inland sector and 124 are women co-operative societies. Total membership in these societies are 4.35 lakh. The authorized share capital of the Federation is Rs 150 crore. The primary societies are clubbed into 52 clusters for administrative convenience based on geographical area. The objective of Matsyafed is to carry out

activities for promoting production, procurement, processing and marketing of fish and fishery products for the economic, social and cultural development of fishermen community.

Matsyafed has organized Self-Help Groups (SHGs) within the fishing community and has developed the habit of savings. By providing micro finance and interest free loans, Matsyafed has made an impact in the area of micro credit. In 2024-25, Rs 43.38 crore was distributed to 10,358 beneficiaries as micro finance support to SHGs. In 2024-25, 6,546 women fish vendors were assisted with interest free loan for an amount of 12.783 crore. Matsyafed's *Anthipacha* sources fish directly from fisherfolk and transports to spots in and around the Thiruvananthapuram city in temperature controlled van. There are 16 units which deliver fresh and chemical-free fish to the consumers. The sales turnover in the year 2024-25 was Rs 938.80 lakh. They also launched five new value added products and relaunched two existing products in three brand names, *Matsyafed Eats*, *Matsyafed Treats*, and *Matsyafed Fresh*. The sales turnover of value-added products in 2024-25 was Rs 32.6 lakh.

Matsyafed has entered into tie up with public sector oil companies such as Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd to set up of Kerosene Bunks and distribute white kerosene to fishermen. In 2024-25, kerosene subsidies amounting to Rs 14.75 crore were provided to 6,589 beneficiaries. Matsyafed has three Fish Net factories at Ernakulam, Kannur, and Thiruvananthapuram with an installed capacity of 1,200 tonnes per annum. In the financial year 2024-25, the sales of webbings recorded a total quantity of 739.32 tonnes valued at Rs 4,433.04 lakh. The federation has two fish manure plants at Azheekode and Kozhikode with a manufacturing capacity of 10,000 tonnes of fish manure per annum which achieved sales of 1,335 tonnes worth Rs 250.01 lakh.

Matsyafed has three fish farms located at Njarakkal and Malippuram in Ernakulam District and Palaikkari in Kottayam District. Commercial production of pearl spot, milk fish, mullets, prawn, and crab is carried out in these farms. Cage culture of Pearl Spot is also practiced in Njarakkal and Palaikkari farms and the culture of Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) is being done at Palaikkari farm. Eco-friendly aqua tourism

facilities are provided in fish farms at Njarakkal, Malippuram and Palaikkari. There are four prawn hatcheries each with an annual production capacity of 120 million prawn/shrimp seeds situated at Thirumullavaram in Kollam, Kaipamangalam in Thrissur, Veliamcode in Malappuram, and Moplabay in Kannur. The achievement of various programmes implemented by Matsyafed is given in **Appendix 3.4.11**.

The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies

The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) is the first Fisheries University formed in India which started functioning from April 1, 2011. The University caters to the demand for specialist professionals in the fields of fisheries, aquaculture, fish processing, fisheries engineering, ocean studies, fisheries and coastal zone management, climate studies and disaster management, food technology, management and Maritime Law. The University has its headquarters at Panangad, Kochi and has research stations at Puduveye, and Payyanur. KUFOS serves as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. Collaborations with organizations such as the Kerala Startup Mission and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management enhance entrepreneurial networks. KUFOS-Business Incubation Centre, selected to establish Atal Incubation Centre by NITI Aayog, promotes innovation-driven enterprises.

KUFOS presently offers two undergraduate and 27 postgraduate courses in relevant areas, thereby creating a pool of professionals and experts. The University has launched new M.Tech programmes in Food Technology and Geoinformatics. The student strength of the University has increased from about 200 in 2011 to over 1,500 in 2024. The University secured 12B status from the UGC in 2021-22. KUFOS, which was ranked 31st in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2025 under the agricultural and allied sectors, provides equitable and affordable quality education to all, especially its major stakeholder, the fisher community. The University also achieved an 'A' grade in NAAC accreditation in 2025.

KUFOS has built a strong research culture through collaborations with ISRO, INCOIS, ICSSR, Bournemouth and Plymouth Universities (UK), and NOFIMA (Norway). Major projects include productivity modelling of the Arabian Sea, coral

reef health assessment in Lakshadweep, and studies on food security and malnutrition in Kerala. KUFOB has set goals to transform into a premier institution contributing to the well-being of coastal communities and ecosystem. KUFOB actively engages with fisher communities through capacity-building, advisories, and technology transfer. The University publishes *Neeradham*, a Malayalam journal for fisher folk and entrepreneurs, and conducts farmer-centric training programmes. Conservation and restocking projects of KUFOB include the release of endangered fish species such as *Dawkinsia exclamatio*, yellow catfish (*Manjakoora*) and olive barb (*Kuruva*) into rivers and reservoirs.

Kerala Aqua Ventures International Limited (KAVIL)

Kerala Aqua Ventures International Limited (KAVIL) is a Government of Kerala undertaking in the areas of ornamental fisheries with a vision to create a powerful and dynamic interface between ornamental fish farmers and the domestic and international markets. KAVIL has developed convergence in the production, marketing, capacity building and human resources development for the holistic expansion of the ornamental fisheries sector, which has got immense potential for income generation and foreign exchange earnings. KAVIL had given assistance in the form of training, technical and financial support to 534 homestead units in Kerala for the production and rearing of ornamental fish. KAVIL also supports the farmers to sell their fishes in domestic market through wholesale and retail supply chains in different States in India. Financial support is provided for new homestead units, medium scale units and integrated units under PMMSY by the Department of Fisheries. A total of 3.50 lakh fish seeds were produced from 2022 to 2025. KAVIL also placed a strong emphasis on direct market interventions through Buyer-Seller Meets, which emerged as pivotal platforms for promoting transparent and farmer-centric trade. The achievements of the Phase I, II, and III projects focusing on the development of ornamental fisheries demonstrate significant progress in various areas from 2022 to 2025. Over this period, total sales amounted to 182.14 lakh.

Women empowerment

Women play a critical role in every link of the value chain in small-scale fisheries, particularly in processing and marketing of fish and other fishery products. The fisherwomen play an

important role in terms of their involvement in fish related activities such as fish vending, fish drying, prawn peeling, sorting, grading, packing, and net making. The social protection measures which have been instituted by the Government like widow pensions, low interest loans, education grants for the children, and housing have played a very important role in improving the social and economic well-being of fisherwomen. The Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen (SAF), which aims to uplift the socio-economic status of fisherwomen, thereby paving the way for the local level development. To integrate fisherwomen into mainstream economy, SAF has focused on developing their entrepreneurial competencies and establishing several microenterprises to effectively utilize local resources. In the year 2024-25, 856 fisherwomen beneficiaries became entrepreneurs, and 1,656 fisherwomen beneficiaries were trained under different Capacity Building programmes. In addition, 377 activity groups with 1,027 beneficiaries were supported with interest free Working Capital Revolving fund. Support has also been provided for the replacement of old machinery, upgradation of technology and for shifting to more profitable ventures when existing enterprises were loss making. Furthermore, 125 micro enterprises consisting of 328 beneficiaries received a 5 per cent interest subsidy on bank loans availed for enterprise development.

As a part of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) project, 1,052 JLGs covering 5,260 fisherwomen beneficiaries in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Kasaragod districts were given interest free revolving fund of Rs 1 Lakh/JLG up to 7th phase. It has also been helping in branding and marketing of the products from these ventures. In the year 2024-25, SAF units, achieved a total sales volume of Rs 1,810.94 lakh exclusively from the current system of online sales. 732 SAF beneficiaries have participated in various *melas* and exhibitions and attained a total sales volume of Rs 52.48 lakh.

Theeramythri micro enterprise units have achieved a total annual sales turnover of Rs 150.95 crore in 2024-25. The *Theeramaveli* project aims to ensure the sustainability of *Theeramythri* Supermarkets and Community Provision Stores by serving as an outlet for supplyco Maveli products. In 2024-25, the *Theeramaveli* units achieved a total sales volume of Rs 1,493.36 lakh. The SAF conducted monthly sales meets across all districts to promote

Box 3.4.1 Some path breaking achievements of Women's Micro Enterprise in Fisheries

The *Muthu* Activity Group, a pioneering venture formed in 2007 by three fisherwomen from Ernakulam District, began with dry fish production. They joined SAF's *Theeramythri* project in 2010, receiving financial and technical support to build their own shop and upgrade equipment. With SAF's training and technological assistance, the group adopted value addition, attractive packaging, and online sales with home delivery and digital payment options. Their annual turnover reached Rs 1.74 crore in 2024–25, and they now support over 60 fisherwomen families by purchasing fish at fair prices. Their achievements earned them the 'Best Activity Group' award in the *Saphalam* Programme for 2017 and 2022. The *Muthu* Activity Group stands as a model of how collective effort, innovation, and institutional support can transform the livelihoods of fisherwomen and uplift local communities.

Mylanchi Beauty Parlour, owned by the *Mylanchi* Activity Group from Kaipamangalam, was established in 2015 with financial assistance from SAF. The group formed by four fisherwomen, started the venture with a total cost of Rs 1.98 lakh, most of which was provided by SAF as subsidy. SAF also offered various training programmes to equip the members with the necessary beauty care skills. In 2020, the group expanded by opening a studio for women and children, and by 2023, they launched a second branch at Edamuttam, Valappad. SAF has supported the group's sustainability through technology upgrades, interest-free working capital, bank loan interest subvention, and regular mentoring. In the year 2024–25, the unit achieved a total sales volume of Rs 14.2 lakh.

Source: Department of Fisheries, GoK

its products and boost sales of Development of Micro Enterprises (DME) units. A total of 470 sales meets were held, with 2,410 beneficiaries participating through 467 commercial stalls and 45 food stalls, generating total sales of Rs 51.42 lakh.

With the tie up of Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)- Higher Education Department, 'Online course on Digital Media, Marketing and Advertising design' was given to 25 educated young women identified from the fisher community. SAF has conducted project clinics for the performance improvement of units. A total of 610 project clinics were catered under this initiative and 104 units have restarted working after the project clinic. The achievement of various programmes implemented by SAF is given in **Appendix 3.4.12**.

Harbour Engineering Department

A fishing harbour is a vital hub where fishers, traders, and service providers come together, facilitating the smooth flow of fish from production to market. It also plays a key role in promoting responsible and sustainable fisheries. The major components of the fishing harbours are breakwaters, wharf, auction hall, loading area, parking area, approach road and internal roads, compound wall, sanitary facilities, water supply and electrification arrangements. Other amenities such as shop buildings, locker rooms, rest sheds, net mending sheds, workshop buildings are also constructed based on the requirements. The

Harbour Engineering Department is responsible for the construction, development, maintenance, operation, and management of fishing harbours and fish landing centres.

Kerala has 26 fishing harbours. Among these, 23 fishing harbours are operational and the works of 3 harbours are progressing. The location of fishing harbours in Kerala and their status are given in **Appendix 3.4.13**. The total revenue collected from fishing harbours and fish landing centres in 2024–25 was Rs 11.24 crore. Highest revenue collection was from Neendakara Harbour followed by Sakthikulangara Fishing Harbour. Together, Neendakara, Sakthikulangara, Vellayil, Beypore, and Thangassery contributed about 60 per cent of the total revenue collection from fishing harbours and fish landing centres in Kerala. The details of earnings from fishing harbours are given in **Appendix 3.4.14**.

Apart from the construction of new fishing harbours, borrowing of the State Government from NABARD-RIDF were used for works like modernisation of existing fishing harbours, construction of fish landing centres, roads, bridges, locker rooms and walkways. As part of RIDF XXVI, four projects amounting to Rs 57.44 crore were sanctioned for additional facilities in Thangassery and Neendakara fishing harbour, expansion and refurbishment of Neendakara Fishing Harbour (Sakthikulangara side) and

additional berthing facilities at Kayamkulam Fishing Harbour. Among these, the projects for providing additional facilities and maintenance of existing structures in Neendakara Fishing Harbour and additional berthing facilities at Kayamkulam Fishing Harbour have been completed. In RIDF XXVII, four projects amounting to Rs 55.55 crore were sanctioned for providing additional infrastructure facilities in Tanur, Vellayil, Chellanam Fishing Harbours and in Valiyazheekkal Fish Landing Centre. Under RIDF XXVIII, two projects amounting to Rs 50.94 crore was sanctioned for modernisation of Alappad Azheekal, Karunagappally and modernisation of Azhikal Fishing Harbour, Kannur. In RIDF XXIX, two projects amounting to Rs 28.09 crore were sanctioned for Ponnani Fishing Harbour in Malappuram and Development of Chalil Gopalpetta Fish Landing Centre in Kannur. Under RIDF XXX, two projects amounting to Rs 58.30 crore were sanctioned for upgradation and associated infrastructure works of Chettuva Fishing Harbour in Thrissur and Thangassery Fishing Harbour in Kollam.

The Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation

The Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation (KSCADC) has brought tangible improvements in the fisheries sector by creating infrastructure amenities like roads, markets and houses for the fisherfolk. KSCADC designated as Nodal Agency for the implementation of the project “Coastal Prosperity Initiative and Management Programme” with total outlay of Rs.500 crore is supported by NABARD. KSCADC has been empanelled as national consultant for solar projects including Soura Project of Kerala State Electricity Board. To bolster the livelihoods of the fisherfolk community, KSCADC has been actively developing state-of-the-art fish marketing infrastructure, including modern fish markets, cold storage facilities, and processing units. Shore protection works were completed at Manjeswaram, Thalai, Chettuva, and Kollam Thanni. The commercial activities of the company included marketing of various solar dried value-added fish products branded as “Drish Kerala”. The pilot project on Shore protection and Beach landing facility at Poonthura, Thiruvananthapuram, implemented under KIIFB funding (Rs.19.57 crore) has emerged as a path breaking initiative in Kerala’s coastal protection sector and two geotube segments of 100 meters each were successfully laid.

Key Initiatives of the Fisheries sector in 2024-25

- Kerala won the award for the country’s Best Marine State in 2024, and Kollam received the award for the Best Marine District.
- Matsyafed received the Best Exhibitor Award at the India International Trade Fair in 2021, 2023, and 2024.
- Under the reservoir fisheries development programme 39.474 lakh fish seeds were stocked in 12 reservoirs in Pathanamthitta, Idukki, Thrissur, Palakkad, and Kannur districts. The project resulted in a total fish production of 1,937.269 MT.
- As a part of reducing pollution and reduction of carbon emission from fishing crafts, 117 kerosene OBMs (Out Board Motors) in fishing crafts were converted to LPG fuel under Plan scheme 2024-25.
- A total of 439 square mesh codends were distributed to 225 beneficiaries as part of the project conservation and management of marine fisheries.
- The *Theeramaveli* units achieved a total sales volume of Rs 1,493.36 lakh.
- In order to assist fishers in mitigating losses arising from fishing accidents at sea, 2,883 fishing vessels have been insured by the Oriental Insurance Company. In 2024-25, 511 fishing vessels and 5,896 fishers were rescued in 511 rescue operations.
- As part of Adoption Scheme 45 father and motherless fisher’s students were adopted and financial assistance of Rs 19.23 lakh was provided for their graduation completion.
- 175 Medical Camps were organized in association with Health Department and Local Self-Government to promote health care and anti-drug awareness among coastal fishers. In order to save fishers from drug addiction a program called *lahari vimukthi* was implemented in coastal areas with the participation of Excise department.
- As per *Punargeham* project, 738 flats were handed over to the selected beneficiaries in the Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Malappuram districts and the construction work of 788 flats is progressing in Thiruvananthapuram, Alappuzha, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kasaragod districts. So far, 2,625 houses were constructed and handed over to the beneficiaries and 1,271 houses in various stages of construction.

- Under the *Santhwanatheeram* Project, financial assistance was provided through the Kerala Fishermen Welfare Fund Board for the continuation of treatment of fatal diseases. In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 96.74 lakh was utilized for this purpose.
- As part of RIDF XXVI, the projects for providing additional facilities and maintenance of existing structures in Neendakara Fishing Harbour and additional berthing facilities at Kayamkulam Fishing Harbour have been completed.
- 801 insulated ice boxes have been distributed to traditional fishermen.
- KUFOSS, in collaboration with Lo Carbon Solutions, has unveiled India's first microalgae based exterior "liquid tree", a prototype designed for urban air quality management.
- KUFOSS launched a Massive Online Course (MOOC) on "Understanding the Arctic: Climate and Need for Environmental Protection" offered through the SWAYAM-UGC platform. The course focuses on the Arctic's climate, environmental challenges and the global impacts of climate change.

restoration, regulated fishing, and climate-resilient methods will help protect marine biodiversity. A more systematic approach based on a better understanding of defined priorities can guide the sector towards inclusive blue growth. Skill development and entrepreneurship support will create new opportunities. Moreover, collaboration in research and conservation will ensure long-term sustainability.

Way forward

The fisheries sector continues to play a pivotal role in Kerala's primary economy, ensuring livelihood security for over one million fishers and contributing substantially to the State's food and nutritional requirements. In 2024-25, Kerala recorded 6.47 lakh MT of marine fish production, supported by strategic interventions under schemes such as PMMSY, *Janakeeya Matsyakerishi*, and KIIFFB-assisted infrastructure projects. Focused efforts in aquaculture diversification, including cage farming, ornamental fish culture, and brackish water aquaculture, have expanded livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and youth. However, climate change and rising water temperatures remain major challenges, adversely affecting productivity and ecosystem stability. Post-harvest losses continue to be high due to inadequate cold chain and processing facilities.

Strengthening value addition holds immense potential, and establishing a centralized system for procurement, processing, and marketing can significantly enhance the sector's growth prospects. A balanced approach that combines technology, ecological care, and community involvement is essential for sustainable development. At the same time, ecosystem-based practices including habitat

3.5 WATER RESOURCES

Water is central to sustainable development and is essential for socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems, and, indeed, human survival itself. Water also plays a critical role in climate change adaptation by linking society and the environment. Scientific water management is necessary for India's economic growth and ecosystem sustainability. Efficient and appropriate use of water is vital for managing freshwater resources. World Water Day is observed every year on March 22 to raise awareness about the importance of freshwater and its sustainable use. The theme of World Water Day 2025 is "Glacier Preservation". This theme is closely linked to Sustainable Development Goal 6, as climate change is accelerating glacial melt, increasing unpredictability in the water cycle, and intensifying extreme events. Glacial retreat is causing floods, droughts, landslides, sea level rise, and damage

to ecosystems, which threatens the lives and livelihoods of billions of people.

River Basin Planning

Approximately 90 per cent of the rainfall in Kerala takes place during the monsoon season, which lasts from June to August and again from October to November, leading to a dry spell for the rest of the year. River basins, also known as river catchments (the land area between a river's source and its mouth, including all lands that drain into the river), along with coastal and marine systems influenced by catchment discharges, are vital geographical units for the management of wetlands and water resources. Wetlands play a critical role in effective river basin management, and conversely, human activities related to land and water within these river basins can greatly affect the ecological features of the wetlands situated in those regions.

Box 3.5.1 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

The State Government vide G.O(P) No.25/2025/WRD, dated, 26.06.2025 has approved the operational framework for Integrated River Basin Conservation and Management to carry out natural resources (water resources) management and decision-making through holistic integration of inherent diverse interests and different objectives (ecological, social, economic, cultural, political) by a participatory approach across the different sector of the society in the river basins and thereby ensure sustainable long-term development and resilience towards future natural hazards.

The objective of the frame work is to implement and enforce efficient management in the conservation and regulatory practices for water resources in Kerala, in the wake of depleting water resources within the State of Kerala and the repeated occurrences of extreme climatic events, to implement Integrated River basin Management Plan (IRBMP) within the state by developing Integrated State Water plans/master plans for each of its river basins and implementing them in a time bound manner and to protect surface and groundwater and its water quality.

Source: Irrigation Department GoK

The distribution of water resources differs significantly across various regions. The river basins in Kerala exhibit unequal productivity, as the water yield is influenced by factors such as rainfall, the characteristics of the catchment area including terrain, soil type, drainage patterns, and land utilization. The characteristics of the drainage basins, the distribution of rainfall, and the social and ecological roles vary according to the demographics and ecosystems present in the area. To effectively tackle the water management challenges faced by a densely populated state like Kerala, the implementation of an Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) system is essential.

Impact of Climate Change

Water and climate change are fundamentally linked. The impact of climate change has heightened both the frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena, such as floods and droughts. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the risks and damages related to droughts and floods are anticipated to escalate with every degree of global warming.

The actual rainfall received in the State during the South West Monsoon season 2025 (June 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025) was 1752.7 mm as against the normal rainfall of 2018.6 mm, showing a decrease in (-13 per cent) rainfall. Kannur District has recorded the highest rainfall of 2987.9 mm and Thiruvananthapuram recorded the lowest rainfall

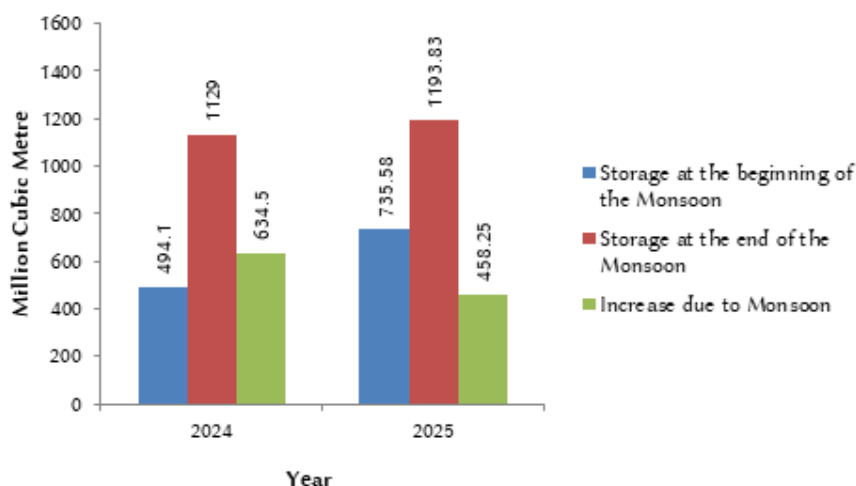
of 849.5 mm. Idukki, Malappuram, Wayanad have recorded deficient rainfall and all other Districts received normal rainfall.

The storage position of dams/reservoirs of the Irrigation Department at the beginning and end of monsoon (June and September) is given in **Figure 3.5.1**. The storage-level at the end of the monsoon is marked at 1,129 million cubic metres and 1,194 million cubic metres in 2024 and 2025 respectively (up to September 01, 2025). The storage level at the beginning of monsoon was 494.09 cubic metres in 2024, whereas it increased by 735.58 cubic metres in 2025 (up to June 01, 2025). Post monsoon, the storage-level was 634.5 million cubic metres in 2024, whereas it decreased by 458.25 million cubic metres in 2025 (up to September 01, 2025). **Appendix 3.5.1** shows the dam storage status (before and after monsoon) for the period 2024 and 2025.

Water body census

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has published the findings of India's First water bodies census, which serves as a detailed database of ponds, tanks, lakes, and reservoirs throughout the nation. This census was carried out during the years 2018-19 and identified over 2.4 million water bodies across all states and Union Territories. In this census, a total of 55,734 water bodies were identified in the State of Kerala, of which majority, specifically 49,725, located in rural regions, while the remaining 6,009 are situated in urban areas. Out of the 55,734 water bodies, data regarding the 'water spread area' was

Figure 3.5.1 Storage Position of Dams/Reservoirs under Irrigation Department, Kerala in 2024 and 2025.



Source: Irrigation Department (IDRB), GoK

provided for 55,725 of them, revealing that 97 per cent of these water bodies have a water spread area of less than 0.5 hectares, and 1.9 per cent possess a water spread area ranging from 0.5 to 1.0 hectares. Water bodies with a water spread area exceeding 50 hectares represent merely 0.1 per cent.

The Second water body census commenced with the reference year 2023-24. Its objective is to collect data on water bodies throughout India, which encompasses ponds, tanks, and reservoirs. These water bodies are essential in sustaining local ecosystems, facilitating groundwater recharge, supporting agriculture, fisheries, and biodiversity, and they also act as a vital source of drinking water for numerous communities. Additionally, the census will evaluate the factors that influence the sustainability of these water resources, including pollution, siltation, and over-extraction. The Regional Training for the 7th Minor Irrigation Census and the 2nd Water Bodies Census was successfully completed in December 2024. Additionally, training sessions at both the State and District levels have been finalized. Currently, the data collection and geo-tagging processes for the census are in progress and it is expected to publish the 2nd Water Body Report on January, 2026.

Irrigation Status in the State

As per the assessment of the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, the extent of irrigation in the State in 2024-25 had slightly varied when compared to the previous year. As reported, the net area irrigated in the State in 2024-25 increased to 4.38 lakh ha as compared to the 2023-24 figure of 4.19 lakh ha, a marginal increase of 0.19 lakh ha. The percentage of net area irrigated to net area sown had risen from 21.28 (2023-24) to 22.28 (2024-25).

Among the various sources of irrigation, the net area irrigated through wells (including bore wells) increased to 1.94 lakh ha in the review period, whereas the benefitted area was 1.83 lakh ha in 2023-24. The extent of net area irrigated through Government canals also showed an increase from 0.77 lakh ha (2023-24) to 0.78 lakh ha (2024-25). Details on the net area irrigated (source-wise and District-wise) are given in **Appendix 3.5.2** and **Appendix 3.5.3**.

In terms of crops, Cloves and Betal leaves were the most benefitted crops through irrigation in the review period. The gross area irrigated under paddy

had significantly decreased to 1.44 lakh ha (2024-25) from 1.60 lakh ha (2023-24). Compared to the previous year, the area irrigated under coconut had remained the same 1.63 lakh ha. However, the area irrigated for vegetables has seen a slight increase to 0.30 lakh hectares in 2024-25, up from 0.29 lakh hectares. Conversely, the area irrigated for bananas has decreased to 0.40 lakh hectares in 2024-25, down from 0.42 lakh hectares in 2023-24. Details on gross area irrigated and crops benefitted are given in **Appendix 3.5.4** and **Appendix 3.5.5**.

Status of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

Agriculture and irrigation are closely interconnected, as irrigation is essential for improving crop yields and securing food supplies. Both Major and Minor irrigation systems are important for maximizing agricultural production, especially in areas that are susceptible to drought or inconsistent rainfall, thus supporting livelihoods and fostering economic development. The implementation progress of Major and Medium irrigation projects are described below:

Idamalayar

The Idamalayar Irrigation Project (IIP) is a diversion scheme located on the right side of the Bhoothathankettu barrage on the Periyar River. Its purpose is to utilize the water from the Periyar River for the irrigation of cultivable lands in the Periyar and Chalakudy basins, which encompass the Aluva and Paravur Taluks of Ernakulam District, as well as the Mukundapuram Taluk of Thrissur District. The total additional area designated for irrigation through the implementation of this project, utilizing the waters of the Periyar and Chalakudy Rivers, is 14,394 hectares. Construction of main canal for a length of 32.28 km, a low level canal (LLC) of 14.86 km and also a link canal of 7.50 km, for linking to the existing Chalakudy Left Bank main canal of CRDS are the main components of this project. Remodelling the existing left and right bank canals of the Chalakkady River Diversion Scheme including construction of additional branches and distributaries. The project commenced in 1981 with an authorized budget of Rs.17.00 crores, and the cumulative spending from the inception of the project until 2025 amounts to Rs.590.93 crores.

The main canal of the Idamalayar Irrigation Project, having a length of 32.28 km was completed for irrigating an ayacut of 999 ha. Low

Level Canal of length 14.86 km (100%) has been completed and achieved an ayacut of 3377 Ha. As per the design of the project, IIP Main canal at ch: 32.28 km splits into low level canal (LLC) and Link Canal which is connect with Left Bank Main Canal (LBMC) of Chalakkudy River Diversion Scheme (CRDS). As per the latest survey through the alignment, the total length of the Link Canal is 7.50 km, out of which 2.04 km has been completed and the balance has to be completed.

Karapuzha

The Karapuzha Medium Irrigation Project, part of the Kabini Scheme, is currently being executed in the Kabini Sub-basin of the Inter State River Cauvery. This project is situated in the Wayanad district. Notably, it marks the first irrigation initiative undertaken in the Kabini basin. The Karappuzha dam, located at Vazhavatta, has been constructed across the Karapuzha Stream with the aim of establishing a reservoir with a storage capacity of 76.50Mm³. This reservoir is intended to irrigate a net ayacut of 5221 hectares (with a Gross Command Area of 5600 hectares) across the Vythiri, Sulthan Bathery, and Mananthavady Taluks within Wayanad District, utilizing an extensive canal system.

The Karapuzha project, originally envisaged as an irrigation project has now transformed into a multi-purpose project with drinking water supply, tourism, power generation and fisheries projects. The main canal systems consists of Left Bank Canal (LBC) & Right Bank Canal system (RBC) LBC has a length of 16.74 km which is proposed to irrigate an area of 3,486 ha and RBC has a length of 8.81 km which is proposed to irrigate an area of 2,114 ha. LBC has three branch canals viz Padinjareveedu Branch Canal, Thondipalli Branch Canal and Kottoor Branch Canal, of which Construction of 8.94 km of canal of Padinjareveedu Branch Canal is completed. RBC has two branch canals namely Karyambady Branch Canal & Kollivil, Branch Canal of which full length of Karyambady Branch Canal viz 8.5 km completed and 2.99 km of Kolliyil Branch canal is completed. Both Branch canals of LBC and RBC has distributaries proposed for a total length 60.15 km of which 2.12 km long Arimunda, distributary has been completed and the investigation works of the following distributaries starting from the right bank canal, are (1) Ponginithodi -3.00 km (2) Arimula 3.20 km (3) Vallipatta- 4.44 km (4) Cheekallur 0.41 km (5) Manivayal 5.27 km are

underway. Water distribution through both the main canal (REMC and LBMC) up to the tail rod was made possible from 2023-24 onwards, as rectification works of major bottlenecks which included canal breach at Ch.4800m of LBMC during Flood 2018 had been completed. The full commissioning of the Karapuzha irrigation project will benefit the local farmers, particularly, the most populated Tribal/Adivasi people of Wayanad District.

The rectification works at Ch:1800m of the Kariambady Branch Canal have been completed in the review period, while the works from C: 710m to 1410m of the Padirijareveedu Branch Canal are nearing completion. The maintenance of both the RBC and LBC, which includes the repair of certain sections of the inspection roads, has been finalized. Water distribution is being conducted through the RBMC and LBMC throughout the season, in accordance with the requests received from the Padasekhara Samithies. The acquisition of 6.12 hectares of land for the reservoir area is currently underway under the supervision of the Revenue Authorities.

Banasurasagar

Banasurasagar Project is envisaged to provide irrigation facilities in Wayanad district. It is located in Karamanthodu basin which is tributary of Panamaram river which in turn is a tributary of Kabani river and ultimately joins with the interstate River Cauvery. The project was initially proposed to irrigate for an ayacut of 2800 ha. Kerala State Electricity Board had agreed to provide 1.7 TMC of water for irrigation purpose, out of annual yield of 6.7 TMC of water in the reservoir. But as per the amendment in the Cauvery Water Tribunal decision, the allocation for Banasurasagar Project is limited to 0.84 TMC.

A significant limitation of the Banasurasagar Irrigation Project was the bottleneck occurring between Ch.1,130m and 1,500m in the Main Canal. The Department has succeeded in overcoming this constraint and 59 per cent works have been completed. A water test has been conducted on the aqueduct section of the Main Canal, extending from Ch. 0m to Ch. 150m. The de-siltation and maintenance activities are currently in progress and are 92 per cent completed. The Kappumkunnu distributary (1235 m), the Pearl distributary (1074 m), and the Venniyode branch canal (2130 m) have been completed. An additional 0.56 hectares

of land is necessary for the completion of the Kappumkunnu distributary and steps are being taken to include 0.47 ha of the beginning portion. The preliminary process of land acquisition, which includes peg marking of 0.06 hectares in the Veettikkamoola distributary and peg marking of 0.35 hectares in the Kuppadithara distributary, has been successfully completed.

Pazhassi

The Pazhassi Irrigation Project, recognized as the inaugural irrigation initiative in Northern Kerala, was conceived for the holistic advancement of the agricultural sector within the Kannur district. Construction commenced in 1961 and reached completion in 1998. In its early years, the irrigation system operated efficiently. The total canal network spans approximately 404 km, comprising a 46 km main canal, 75 km across 6 branch canals (Mahe, Edakkad Azhikkal, Kattampally, Taliparamba, and Morazha), 165 km of distributaries, and 118 km of field channels (field bothies). The project was designed to irrigate a secondary crop area of 11,525 hectares spread across Iritty, Thalassery, Kannur, and Taliparamba taluks in Kannur district.

During the financial year 2024-25, the distribution of water through the canal network commenced on January 6, 2025. By January 21, 2025, water had reached Ch. 42/500 km (Parassinikkadavu) of the main canal. This initiative benefited the agricultural fields at Mampa, Kavumthazhe, Mayyil, Perumachery, Naniyur, Vesala, Thariyeri, and Maniyur, directly irrigating 188.6 hectares and indirectly impacting approximately 800 hectares. Additionally, around 6,000 wells and 200 ponds were replenished.

The distribution of water through the Mahe Branch Canal began on January, 2025, and reached the tail end (Ch.23/025m- Elangode) by February 16, 2025. This distribution was expanded to include field bothies such as Vengad, Kurumbukkal, and Mangattidam, as well as distributaries like Patyam, Vallai, and Mokeri. This initiative facilitated direct irrigation for 300 hectares and indirect irrigation for an additional 500 hectares, along with recharging approximately 1,000 wells. The restored canal system now serves as a permanent solution to drought and drinking water scarcity in the district.

First Major and Medium Irrigation Projects Census

The inaugural Major and Medium Irrigation Projects Census is designed to systematically gather information regarding the operational status and performance of major and medium irrigation projects throughout India. These initiatives are essential for supporting agriculture, supplying water for drinking and industrial purposes, and ensuring water security. However, they have encountered challenges such as deteriorating infrastructure, ineffective water management, and environmental issues. The census will compile comprehensive data on water availability, irrigation capacity, project conditions, and socio-economic effects. Additionally, it will evaluate the challenges faced and the potential for modernization. The information obtained will assist the Government in formulating strategies for enhanced water resource management, increased irrigation efficiency, and the sustainable development of water infrastructure, thereby ensuring improved utilization of water resources and greater agricultural productivity. This census marks a significant step toward addressing water scarcity issues and optimising water use in the country. In this context, a training program at the Zonal level was carried out in December 2025, followed by a State level training program that took place in January 2025 for field officers. Currently, the collection and entry of data for the first MMI Census are underway at the Divisional office level.

Minor Irrigation

Minor irrigation initiatives have significantly enhanced the irrigation capacity within the State. Minor irrigation plays a pivotal role in Kerala's irrigation landscape, owing to its advantages over other forms of irrigation. Schemes with a cultivable command area of up to 2000 hectares are classified as minor irrigation schemes. Within this, schemes serving areas less than 50 hectares fall under Minor Irrigation Class II, while those covering 50 hectares or more are categorized as Minor Irrigation Class I. The significance of Minor Irrigation lies in its shorter gestation period, lower investment requirements, and rapid benefits. The hilly landscape of Kerala renders major irrigation projects costly, thereby providing minor irrigation schemes with a clear edge over Major Irrigation Schemes. The importance given to Minor Irrigation during the 13th Five Year Plan period is being continued in the 14th Plan period. The

implementation progress of some minor irrigation projects are described below;

Pattissery

Pambar river, an east flowing river is a tributary of Cauvery river. The basin area of Pambar scheme in Kerala is 384 km². It is located in Idukki district. Pambar river is flowing upstream of Amaravathy reservoir in Tamilnadu. This is an interstate river. According to the final verdict of Cauvery River Water Tribunal, Kerala is eligible for 30 TMC of water from Cauvery basin. Out of this, 3 TMC is Pambar basin's share. In order to utilize this share effectively, Chengalar, Thalayar, Vattavada & Champakad schemes were proposed in Pambar basin. The State share for Chengalar scheme is 0.80 TMC and the three Dams proposed under this scheme are Pattissery Dam, Kanthalloor Dam and Pullardy Dam.

As per the order of the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal, out of the 0.80 TMC allocated to the Chengalar scheme, 0.08 TMC is usable by the construction of Pattissery Dam. Pattissery Dam and related works are part of the Chengalar Scheme, which has water availability and space for water storage. Pattissery is located in Kantalur village in Devikulam taluk of Idukki district. There was a 5 meter high check dam, which was about 70 years old, and small canals on the left and right banks. The canal also supplied water for agricultural purposes in the areas of Kanthalloor and Keezhanthur. This was not sufficient to carry out full-scale agriculture in the ayacut area. The scheme including Pattissery Dam and related works was conceived as a practical solution to this. The construction of Pattissery Dam, which has a storage capacity of 0.08 cubic meters is able to cater irrigation of 240 hectares of land. The 140-meter-long and 33.2-meter-high dam is consist of a 95.5-meter concrete dam and a 44.5-meter rock fill dam. Additionally there is a 160-meter long saddle dam. Currently, 80.40 per cent of the civil work, 48 per cent of the instrumentation work, and 52 per cent of the mechanical work of Pattissery Dam have been completed.

Surface Water

During the 14th Five-Year Plan of Kerala, there was a significant emphasis on surface water and minor irrigation, which involved reinforcing existing infrastructures such as check dams, tanks, and regulators, as well as advocating for watershed-based planning to align with local land use. The

net area benefitted through MI schemes (surface water) in 2024-25 was 4305.85 ha. Details of physical achievement of MI schemes (surface water) during 2022-23 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 3.5.6**. Details of completed works under different tranches of RIDF are given in **Appendix 3.5.7**. NABARD has sanctioned 1,631 schemes under various tranches including RIDF XXIX. Of these, 1,364 schemes are completed and 17 are in progress. Remaining schemes are dropped due to non-feasibility reasons.

Minor Irrigation Census

The Minor Irrigation Census, which is being carried out by the Government of India, offers comprehensive data on several factors including irrigation sources, Irrigation Potential Created (I.P.C.), Irrigation Potential Utilised (I.P.U.), different energy sources, and equipment used for water lifting.

As per the 6th Census of Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes with reference year 2017-18, published by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, 23.14 million Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes were reported in the country. Out of all MI schemes, 21.93 million (94.8%) are Ground Water (GW) and 1.21 million (5.2%) are Surface Water (SW) scheme. Dug well has highest amount of share in total number of MI schemes followed by shallow Tubewell, medium tubewell and deep tube well. According to the 6th Census of Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes, Kerala has a total of 92,574 MI schemes. This includes 67.5 per cent (62,453) Ground Water (GW) schemes and 32.5 per cent (30,121) Surface Water (SW) schemes. There has been a decrease to the tune of 10.7 per cent with 92,574 schemes in the 6th MI census, when compared to 1,03,657 schemes in the 5th MI census. It is reported that the decline is reflected in GW schemes (24.3 per cent), whereas SW schemes have reported a growth of 42.2 per cent.

Irrigation Potential Created (IPC) and Irrigation Potential Utilized (IPU) from GW schemes has increased in the 6th MI Census. On the other hand, IPC and IPU from SW schemes have declined in the 6th MI Census. This indicates declining dependency of farmers on SW schemes and increasing dependency on GW schemes for meeting their minor irrigation needs.

Data regarding the Irrigation Potential Created (IPC) through Micro Irrigation (MI) structures

indicates a reduction of 26.9 per cent in the State in the 6th MI census when compared to the 5th MI Census. The IPC recorded during the 5th MI Census was 2,48,300 ha, which has fallen to 1,81,611 ha in the 6th MI Census. Similarly, Irrigation Potential Utilised (IPU) has also decreased by 23.4 per cent as per the data reflected in the 6th MI census.

The 7th Minor Irrigation Census, which commenced with the reference year 2023-24, is focused on gathering extensive data regarding India's minor irrigation systems. This census seeks to document information on the quantity, classification, and state of these irrigation structures, in addition to details concerning their water sources, usage, and efficiency. The Regional Training on 7th Minor Irrigation census and 2nd Water Bodies census had been completed on December, 2024. State and District level trainings have also been completed. The data collection and Geo tagging of the census are in progress and it is expected to publish 7th Minor Irrigation Report on January, 2026.

Groundwater Resources

Ground water has increasingly become a crucial natural resource meeting the freshwater needs of various sectors in India. However, the sustainable development and efficient management of this limited resource pose significant challenges. Groundwater is the backbone of India's agriculture and drinking water security. As per the Dynamic Groundwater Resource Assessment Report for the year 2024, the total annual groundwater recharge for the entire country is 446.90 billion cubic meters (BCM) and the annual extractable groundwater resources for the entire country is 406.19 bcm with total natural discharges at 41.05 bcm. Rainfall recharge accounts for about 61 per cent of the annual recharge, and the rest contributed from other sources. The overall stage of Groundwater extraction in the country is 60.47 per cent.

In Kerala, the total annual groundwater recharge has been estimated as 5.67 billion cubic meters and the annual extractable groundwater resource is 5.13 billion cubic meters. The stage of groundwater extraction for the State is 53.78 per cent. As compared to 2023 assessment, Total Annual Ground Water Recharge of the State has increased from 5.53 to 5.67 BCM and annual extractable groundwater resources from 5.01 to 5.13 BCM. The annual ground water extraction has increased

from 2.73 to 2.76bcm. and the stage of ground water extraction has decreased from 54.55 per cent to 53.78 per cent. Out of 152 assessed units in the State, 3 blocks (Chittur and Malampuzha blocks of Palakkad District and Kasaragod block of Kasaragod District) have been categorised as "Critical"; 29 blocks are "Semi-critical" and 120 blocks are in "Safe" category. The number of Semi-critical blocks has slightly decreased from 30 to 29. Varkala block has moved to "Safe" from "Semi-critical" blocks. Details on the total annual groundwater recharge, net annual ground water availability and stages of ground water development in the State are given in **Appendix 3.5.8**.

The State Ground Water Department serves as the nodal agency responsible for the development and management of groundwater within the State, providing demand-driven services to both private individuals and government entities. Groundwater conservation and recharge is a major activity being implemented by the Department to sustain groundwater availability. The physical achievement of groundwater development schemes from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is given in **Appendix 3.5.9**.

To guarantee the quality of groundwater, the Department has commenced efforts to develop a comprehensive groundwater quality plan for the entire state. Department has initiated a project for quality assessment in vulnerable areas across the state using the Mobile Laboratory Service of the Department. For this purpose, 14 blocks were selected from each district where water quality problems has been identified. The first phase of data collection has been completed in the year 2024 and data validation is in progress. The Department has initiated a comprehensive well census aimed at gathering data on groundwater abstraction. A comprehensive mapping of all groundwater abstraction structures was undertaken through NHP III phase. The programme is a pioneering initiative in National level and a flagship project for the State using Kudumbashree units, 93 blocks were selected, and approximately 2.1 million structures have been mapped. Additionally, a mobile application named "NEERARIVU" was created by the Kerala State Remote Sensing Agency for the purpose of conducting a well census. This scientific assessment will aid in precise planning and management of groundwater resources, particularly in the context of climate change. The validated data will be used for

accurate budgeting of water resources of the particular block.

Community Micro Irrigation (CMI) Projects

The objective of the Community Micro Irrigation project is to make water available for the needs of various crops, based on a single water source for a group of farmers using micro-irrigation methods. Through this project, the farming community can achieve better water use efficiency, higher yield, and increased income. A study conducted by the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP) indicates that there is potential for micro-irrigation in 2.7 lakh hectares of land in Kerala. The Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KIIDC) provides necessary technical knowledge to the Irrigation Department for installing automatic control systems and components including filter units for effectively implementing the micro irrigation projects. Given the state's climatic and geographical challenges, there is significant potential for adopting the CMI system. This will help to increase agricultural production and improve water quality in the state. Therefore, CMI projects should be the primary focus in Kerala's irrigation facility development plans going forward. KIIDC has already implemented fourteen Community Micro Irrigation projects across various districts like Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta, Idukki, and Kozhikode, ensuring water availability in 1986.45 acres. Six of these projects are currently completed. Under KIIDC, a Community Micro Irrigation projects at Karadippara in Palakkad district was successfully completed across 117 acres and 5 Community Micro Irrigation projects under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative. Such as Moongilmada, Valiyeri, Navithankulam, and Kunnamkattupathi which are in the rain shadow regions of Palakkad district and Athichal Mundankolly in the Wayanad district. KIIDC has also been entrusted with implementing the K.M. Mani Community Micro Irrigation projects under the Plan Fund Minor Irrigation Class 1 Harithakeralam. An administrative sanction of Rs 33.44 crore has been made available for this. These projects are currently under progress that will benefit 748.45 acres of irrigated land. In addition to the above, micro-irrigation is being implemented in 177 acres as part of the check dams being constructed in Chinnar (120 acres) and Seminarypadi (57 acres) in the Idukki district with KIIFB funding. Furthermore,

micro-irrigation is being implemented in 6219 acres as part of the ongoing project Extension of Moolathara Right Bank Canal in Chittur, a rain shadow region in the Palakkad district.

Flood Management

The Department acknowledges the growing threat of flooding in urban regions as a result of swift urbanisation and climate change. To address flood mitigation, efforts include the construction of flood bunds, improvements to drainage systems, and the establishment of small-scale reservoirs to control surplus rainwater. In cities such as Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, targeted strategies will be executed to foster a resilient urban environment that can endure extreme weather conditions while reducing interruptions to everyday life.

With the support of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, the Irrigation Department has initiated several flood-related projects, including post-flood repairs and maintenance, improving resilience to climate change and natural disasters, preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 'Room for River', and launching the Kerala Water Resources Information System. In light of climate change, the most significant challenge is forecasting hydrologic extremes that result in floods, droughts, salinity intrusion, and inundation caused by rising sea levels. Therefore, the development of forecasting and flood early warning systems is of paramount importance.

Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS)

The Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) serves as a comprehensive mechanism for providing prompt alerts to enhance disaster readiness. River basins that are susceptible to flooding and potential damage, including Periyar, Manimala, Chalakudy, Pamba, and Achenkovil, have been selected for the preliminary establishment of the Flood Early Warning System. Among these, the flood early warning systems in Periyar and Chalakudy were effectively established as part of the National Hydrology Project. The forecast data and bulletins are currently being distributed to the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and the Inter State Water Cell. As a component of the flood early warning system, currently, 4 Automatic Rain Gauges and 5 Automatic Water Level Recorders have been

installed, with data being transmitted to the IDRBS server.

In a distinct effort, the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) has been working on a flood forecasting and early warning system for the Meenachil River, which is part of their Centre of Excellence focused on water-induced disasters.

The Mission Directorate under Kerala's Water Resources Department serves as a prime body for managing World Bank financed Resilient Kerala Development Program (RKDP-2) and other externally funded projects like Asian Development Bank (ADB). Under DLI 7 of the Resilient Kerala Program, the state has achieved major milestones in integrated river basin management for the Pamba Basin. The IRBMP (Integrated River Basin Management Plan) for Pamba was finalized with support from Institute for Climate Change Studies, Kottayam and approved by Government in May 2025. Alongside, 30 interventions were identified, of which 25 have already completed. DPRs for four critical interventions have been submitted to the World Bank. A comprehensive water audit for the basin was initiated in 2024-25 and it was decided to cover both surface water modelling and groundwater analysis and expected to complete by June, 2026.

The Shoreline Management Plan of DLI-10, the focus is on addressing Kerala's serious coastal erosion problem through the preparation of a long term Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and pilot investments in erosion protection work. Hotspot identification was completed in the year 2024 and 30 priority erosion sites across nine coastal districts were finalized, covering 30 km for which schemes have been included in the current Annual Plan.

Flood Control in Kuttanad

The Manimala, Pampa, and Achankovil rivers, which flow into Kuttanad, became silted following the floods of 2018. The flooding in Kuttanad can be mitigated to some degree by removing the obstacles and encroachments in the primary channel, as well as by safeguarding both banks of the primary channel, thus averting the overflow of water near Padasekharams and adjacent dry land. The two major projects, namely the protective works on the left and right banks of the Pampa River and the leading channel extending from Veeyapuram to Kurichikal towards Thottappally

Pozhi, which traverses Veeyapuram, Cheruthana, and Karuvatta Panchayat, as well as the protective measures for the left and right banks of the Pampa River (leading channel to the Thottappally Spillway) from Kurichikkal to the Thottappally Spillway and downstream to the Pozhi mouth in Purakkad Gramapanchayat within the Ambalappuzha LAC, are currently in progress. Upon the completion of these initiatives, the impact of flooding in the Kuttanad region will be mitigated to a certain extent.

Under the Kuttanad package, administrative sanction has been granted for 34 projects with a budget outlay of 22.23 crore. All projects are currently underway. These projects include the protection of outer bunds, the construction of culverts, desilting, and the enhancement of infrastructure facilities in various padasekharams. By reinforcing the outer bunds of padasekharams, it is possible to protect approximately 4800 hectares of agricultural land from flooding. Physical achievements include the creation of bunds and the erection of a retaining wall that spans 3235 meters in length, in addition to the successful installation of one culvert.

As flood control measures, various infrastructural development works such as strengthening of outer bunds, construction of motor *thara* (platform), motor shed, pile culvert, box culvert, and desilting of *vachalibodu* (common drain) through the paddy fields are executed for the development of *padasekharams* in Kuttanad, Upper Kuttanad, and Onattukara regions. In 2024-25, 34 works were undertaken, of which all works are in progress. The works involve outer bund protection, Construction of culvert, desilting and improving the infrastructure facilities of various Padasekharams.

Coastal Protection

Kerala, with a coastline extending 590 km starting from Kollamkode in Thiruvananthapuram to Thalappady in Kasargod covering 9 districts, necessitates effective coastal management strategies that are informed by scientific research and tailored design for each individual location. The National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR) was entrusted to undertake site-specific studies for the identified 10 hotspots – Shanghumugham, Kollamkode, Alappad, Ottamassery, Chellanam, Kodungallur, Ponnani, Kappad, Thalassery, and Valiyaparamba.

The coastal protection project at Chellanam was launched as a pilot initiative during the first phase, utilizing a hybrid protection system that includes groynes and a seawall constructed with tetrapods. The first phase of the project was completed on January, 2025. The sea wall and groynes were constructed using hexagonal tetrapods weighing 2 tons, 3.5 tons and 5 tons along with granite stones. The first Phase of the project encompassed the development of a 6.64 km sea wall, a walkway, and six groynes measuring 660 meters in the Bazar region. The first phase of Chellanam project provides coastal protection for 7.3 km. As part of the effort to protect the Chellanam coastal region, including Kannamaly, a 358.00 crore estimate for the second phase of the Chellanam project has been submitted to the government for approval. The second phase includes a 6.1-kilometer sea wall, a walkway for the Kannamaly area, and the raising of the groynes in the Bazaar area. Once the project receives government approval, the second phase will proceed with the financial assistance of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). The Chellanam Coastal Protection Project is expected to prevent damage to the homes of local residents directly benefiting approximately 500 families and indirectly benefiting over 2,000 families.

The department prioritizes the maintenance and improvement of current coastal protection structures. Upcoming initiatives involve evaluating the structural integrity of sea walls and groynes, followed by essential repairs and upgrades to enhance their resilience against climate change effects. The department intends to allocate adequate financial resources to guarantee that these structures continue to be effective in combating erosion and flooding, thus safeguarding coastal communities and infrastructure.

Way forward

Irrigation and flood control in Kerala reveals a critical need for a holistic and integrated approach to water resource management. The state faces the dual challenge of ensuring efficient water use for agriculture through various irrigation schemes while mitigating the increasing risks of severe, climate-change-induced floods.

The extreme weather patterns could severely disrupt the river ecosystems and their functions. To address these challenges, sustainable water resource management must be prioritised, with

a focus on the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). Further, the exceptional biodiversity in the State needs to be conserved while implementing any water management practice.

Managing irrigation and flood control in Kerala is a complex adaptive challenge that demands a holistic and integrated strategy. This must be complemented by the widespread adoption of minor and micro-irrigation schemes, which enhance water-use efficiency at the local level and empower decentralized water governance. The ultimate success of these structural and on-farm measures is intrinsically linked to robust IWRM frameworks that enforce scientific land-use planning and watershed management. Crucially, the integration of advanced weather forecasting and early warning systems provides the indispensable operational intelligence required for effective flood management in an era of climate volatility. In final summation, a resilient and water-secure future for Kerala depends on a comprehensive policy framework that integrates traditional and modern irrigation methods, leverages real-time weather data for flood mitigation, enforces strict environmental regulations, and coordinates all water-related activities at the river basin level. This paradigm shift, moving from a crisis management mode to proactive risk reduction and sustainable development, is the only viable path forward.

3.6 FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE

Forests cover nearly one-third of the earth's land surface and are essential for sustaining life. They support more than half of all terrestrial species and supply about 75 per cent of the world's freshwater. Forests help maintain ecological balance by providing habitats for wildlife, regulating water cycles, and acting as major carbon sinks that absorb around 2.6 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. Forests also contribute to national economies through timber, medicinal plants, and other non timber products. About 1.6 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods, according to the United Nations Global Forest Goals Report 2021. Deforestation and land degradation threaten these ecosystem services and reduce productivity in nearly 23 per cent of global land areas. The United Nations Environment Programme highlights that limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C requires stopping deforestation, improving forest management, and expanding reforestation. The State of the World's Forests 2022 report of the World Bank identifies three key pathways for forest protection. These include restoring degraded land and promoting agro-forestry, ensuring sustainable use of forests, and developing green value chains. Together, these measures can improve rural livelihoods, meet global material needs, and address environmental challenges.

Forest cover

According to the India State of Forest Report 2023 (ISFR) by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), India's total green cover stands at 827,357 sq km, accounting for 25.17 per cent of the country's geographical area. The forest cover is 715,343 sq

km, representing 21.76 per cent, while the tree cover is 112,014 sq km (3.41 per cent) of the land area. Since 2021, the green cover has increased by 1,445 sq km. The National Forest Policy of 1988 aims to increase forest and tree cover to, 33 per cent of India's land area, highlighting the on-going need for forest conservation and sustainable management practices.

The recorded forest area of Kerala is 11,536.25 sq km, accounting for approximately 29.68 per cent of the state's total geographical area of 38,863 sq km. The **Table 3.6.1** shows the type of forest in Kerala.

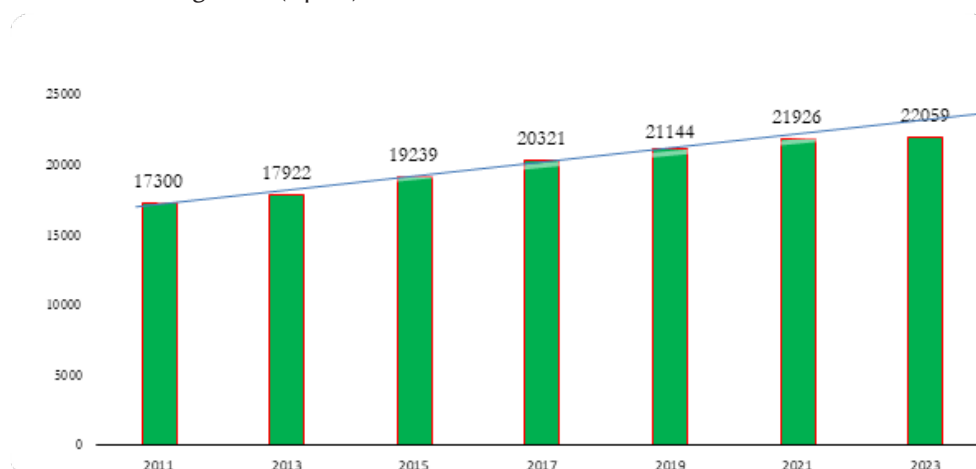
Table: 3.6.1 Types of Forests in Kerala (area sq km)

Sl. no.	Forest Type	Area (sq km)
1	Tropical Wet Evergreen & Semi Evergreen	3877.440
2	Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests	3615.980
3	Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests	391.360
4	Montane Sub Tropical Temperate shoals	386.420
5	Plantations	1457.460
6	Grass lands	501.090
7	Others	1306.501
Total		11536.251

Sources: KFD, GoK

However, the actual forest area, including areas outside reserved forests and individual trees outside forests, is much larger. According to the

Figure 3.6.1 Forest Cover growth (sq km) in Kerala- 2011 to 2023



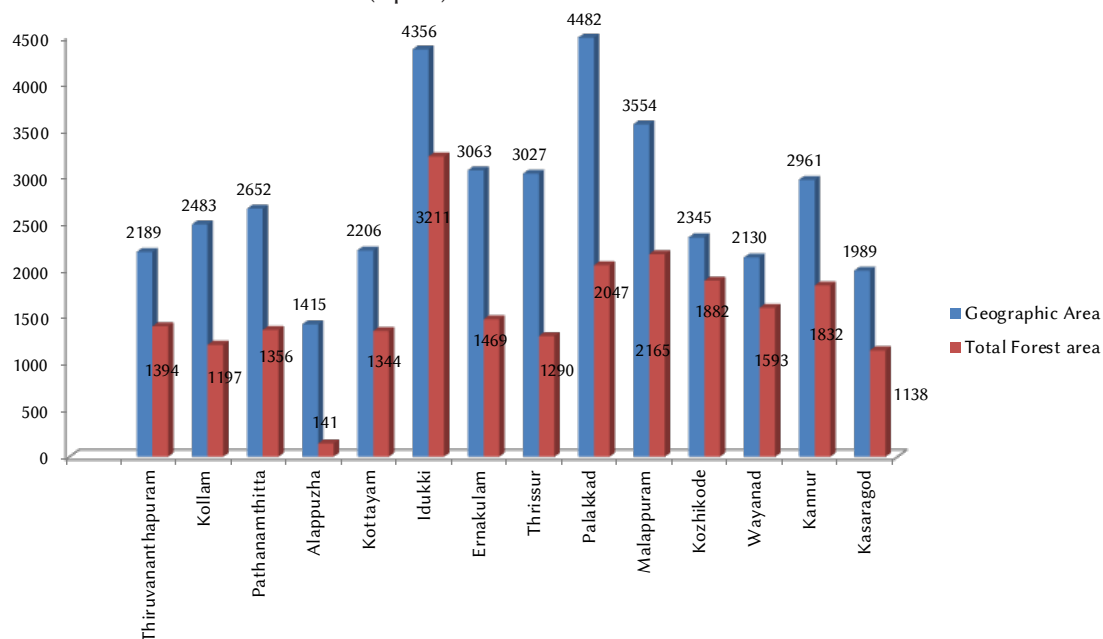
Source: Forest and Wildlife Department, GoK

2023 assessment by the Forest Survey of India, the total forest cover, including plantations, is 22,059 sq km, representing 56.78 per cent of the state's geographical area. This shows a 0.28 per cent increase in forest cover compared to the previous assessment. Of this, very dense forests cover 2,041sq km (9.25 per cent of total forest cover), moderately dense forests cover 9,322 sq km (42.26 per cent), and open forests account for 10,696 sq km (48.49 per cent). Compared to the 2021 assessment, the forest cover has increased marginally by 133.42 sq km. The **Figure 3.6.1** shows the growth of forest in Kerala.

Among the districts in the state, Idukki has the highest forest cover, with 3,211 sq km, followed by Malappuram (2,165 sq km) and Palakkad (2,047 sq km). When forest area is considered as a percentage of the total geographical area, Kozhikode district ranks first with 80.26 per cent forest cover, followed by Wayanad (74.8 per cent) and Idukki (73.71 per cent). **Figure: 3.6.2** shows district-wise forest cover. Details are in **Appendix 3.6.1**.

Amid rising water scarcity and climate change, forests are increasingly crucial for reducing

Figure 3.6.2 District-wise Forest Cover (sq km)



Source: India State of Forest Report (ISFR)-2023

ecological and economic vulnerabilities. The 14th Five-Year Plan highlights forest management to deliver public benefits, focusing on water security, biodiversity conservation, local livelihoods, and social objectives. In 2024–25, priorities included enhancing water security, mitigating human-animal conflicts, protecting the lives and livelihoods of forest-dependent communities, and maintaining forests as a natural buffer against climate change.

Major initiatives in 2024-25

Management of natural forests

Kerala’s natural forests play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance and contribute significantly to the State’s culture, environment, and economy. Effective management of these forests involves surveying and demarcating boundaries, preventing encroachments and illegal activities, controlling forest fires, conserving soil and moisture, and protecting unique habitats. The State also strengthens Rapid Response Teams (RRT) and Elephant Driving Teams to support forest-dependent communities. Key programmes focus on protecting forests from encroachment, poaching, and tree felling; mitigating biotic interference and fire risks, safeguarding riverbanks, rehabilitating degraded areas, conserving fragile ecosystems and promoting participatory forest management, including active involvement of tribal communities.

In 2024-25, the Forest Department undertook several major activities, including forest protection, safeguarding special ecosystems, preventing illicit ganja cultivation, and protecting sandalwood areas. As part of boundary consolidation efforts to prevent encroachment, 463 permanent cairns were constructed, and 567.58 km of fire lines were created and maintained for fire protection. These measures were implemented through Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS) and Eco-Development Committees (EDC).

To effectively address issues such as organised encroachment and smuggling, one unit of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) has been established at Nilambur in the northern region and another at Konni in the southern region. The maintenance of forest roads remains a key component of forest protection. The Forest Department is maintaining approximately 5,189.35 km of roads in 2024-25. **Table 3.6.2** provides details of the lengths of roads maintained by the Forest Department.

Table: 3.6.2 Length of Road maintained by Forest Department (in km)

Sl no	Item	Length (km)	
		2023-24 (Final)	2024-25 (Prov)
1	Cement Concrete	132.083	151.0371
2	Black Topped	591.773	597.9485
3	Earthen Road	3579.527	3674.061
4	Metalled	779.895	766.303
Total		5083.278	5189.3496

Source: KFD, GoK

Community participation in forest management is actively promoted through 427 Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS) and 213 Eco-Development Committees (EDC), fostering sustainable forest conservation and local involvement.

Improving the Productivity of Plantations

The department is actively engaged in establishing new plantations to boost future income. In 2024 -25, a total of 825.10 hectares were newly planted under various schemes, and scientific management practices were adopted. Forest plantation management has been streamlined to prioritize high-productivity areas, ensuring intensive interventions to improve soil conditions and maximize yields. Species-wise details of the area under forest plantations are provided in **Appendix 3.6.2**.

Management of human-wildlife interface

Human-wildlife conflict refers to interactions between humans and wild animals that result in harmful consequences for either party, including wildlife destroying crops, attacking livestock, causing injury or death to people, or damaging property. These conflicts are often driven by factors such as habitat destruction, the expansion of human settlements into wildlife habitats, agricultural growth, and the exploitation of natural resources. In Kerala, human-wildlife conflict has long been an issue, but its severity has increased significantly in recent years due to habitat fragmentation, the encroachment of settlements into wildlife corridors, climate change, infrastructure development, and shifts in cropping patterns in forest fringe areas. Elephants are the primary wild animals responsible for the greatest damage to lives and crops of people living in the fringe areas of Kerala’s forests. Other animals such as tigers, leopards, monkeys, wild pigs, and

peacocks also pose significant threats to these communities. The primary victims are farmers, tribal communities, and others whose lives are closely tied to the land and forests, making this a critical ecological and social challenge for the state. In 2024, the Government of Kerala officially declared human-wildlife conflict as a “State-Specific Disaster”

To mitigate human-wildlife conflicts in the State, nine new Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) were established in 2024-25 across various regions. With this addition, the total number of permanent RRTs in the state has risen to 28. In areas experiencing higher instances of human-wildlife conflict, satellite RRTs have also been deployed as needed.

Physical barriers were also installed in several conflict hotspots, including 64.33 km of solar-powered fencing, 121.11 km of solar hanging fences, 4.320 km of elephant proof trenches and 0.031 km of elephant proof walls.

Divisional Forest Emergency Operation Centres (DFEOCs) have been established in all forest divisions of the state to compile information on human-wildlife conflicts and to coordinate mitigation efforts effectively with the disaster management authority and other relevant department.

Additionally, compensation claims related to human casualties, injuries, and damage to crops and properties were addressed, with 8,533 claims settled and a total of Rs 20.81 crore disbursed to the affected individuals. Details are given in **Table 3.6.3**. In 2024-25, 33 people died due to human-wildlife conflicts, and 34 died from snakebites outside forests. Human deaths under human wildlife conflicts are given in **Table 3.6.4**.

Launched in 2019 under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative and Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), Navakiranam is a flagship government project aimed at voluntarily relocating non-tribal settlements from forest areas to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, reduce disaster risks, and improve access to essential services. During 2024-25, under the KIIFB and Rebuild Kerala Development Programme (RKDP) schemes, 913 families benefited from the voluntary relocation program. A total of Rs 126.675 crore was spent on relocations and the eligible families surrendered

Table 3.6.3 Details of adverse incidents of human-wildlife interface reported and compensation paid in 2024-25

Incidents	Total Incidents (in no.)	Compensation paid (in Rs lakh)
Human Death	67	797.00
Human Injured	1705	578.34
Loss of Livestock	466	166.67
Crop Damage and Property Loss	6295	538.56
Total	8533	2080.57

Source: Forest and Wildlife Department, GoK

Table 3.6.4 Human death under Human-wild conflicts -2024-25

Animal caused death	No. of deaths
Elephant	19
Wild pig	11
Tiger	1
Gaur	1
Others	1
Total	33
Snakebites outside forests	34

Source: Forest and Wildlife Department, GoK

174.5343 hectares of land to the Kerala Forest Department (KFD).

In November 2024, Mission Solar Fencing was launched as an intensive campaign to restore 1,148 km of non-functional fences with public participation, securing local community support to make them fully operational.

Mission Food, Fodder & Water, launched in 2024-25, aims to ensure the availability of food and drinking water for wildlife within forests to protect biodiversity and reduce conflicts. It involves mapping check dams, ponds, wetlands, and other water sources, assessing their maintenance needs, desilting check dams and ponds, and removing invasive plants from water sources and surrounding areas. Under this mission, a total of 5,06,487 seed balls were dispersed to promote vegetation growth. Weed clearance was carried out over an area of 620.722 hectares, while

restoration efforts targeted 263.15 hectares of open areas, 572.72 hectares of wetlands, and 1,704.85 hectares of grasslands. In terms of water resource management, 111 natural ponds were maintained, and 55 artificial ponds were constructed, with 112 artificial ponds also undergoing maintenance. Infrastructure for water conservation included the construction of 2 concrete check dams, 21 stone check dams, 15 earthen check dams, and 646 brushwood check dams, alongside the maintenance of 113 concrete check dams and 226 waterholes.

Since the launch of the SARPA app (Snake Awareness, Rescue and Protection App), snakebite deaths in Kerala have dropped by over half, with 19,304 snakes and other small wild animals rescued and safely released in 2024–25.

In 2024-25, firebreaks extending over 1,408 km were established along interstate forest borders and roads as a key preventive measure to curb the spread of forest fires and to strengthen environmental and wildlife protection efforts.

The Forest Department, with the support of Jana Jagratha Samithis (JJS), Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSSs), and Eco Development Committees (EDCs), in collaboration with Local Self-Governments (LSGs) and line departments, manages conflict-related issues in the fringe zones, and currently, Jana Jagratha Samithis are functioning in 280 Local Self Government Institutions where human-wildlife conflicts are more commonly experienced.

Forest Revenue

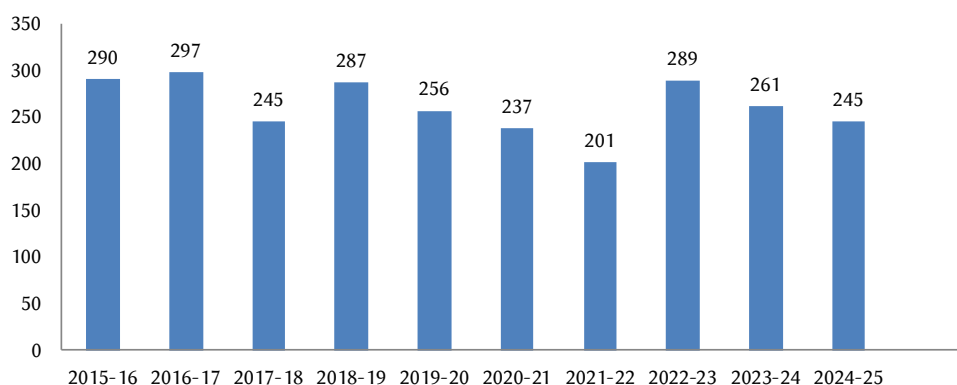
The Forest Department makes a significant contribution to the State's non-tax revenue. In 2024-25, the department generated Rs 244.79 crore through the sale of timber and other forest products. The majority of this revenue came from timber sales, which amounted to Rs 223.98 crores, accounting for 91.5 per cent of the total forest revenue. During this year, the production of sandalwood declined by 38,586.55 kg, while the production of teak increased by 264.042 cubic meters compared to the previous year. The production of major forest product in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are given in Appendix 3.6.3. The forest revenue over the past decade is shown in the **Figure 3.6.3**.

Trends in revenue from timber and other forest products during 2022-23 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 3.6.4**. In 2022-23, the net revenue from forest products was Rs 288.62 crore. This decreased to Rs 261.04 crore in 2023-24. However, in 2024-25, the net revenue declined to Rs 244.79 crore, primarily due to a decrease in timber revenue.

Figure 3.6.4 shows the trend in total forest revenue and timber revenue between 2019-20 and 2024-25. Both total forest revenue and timber revenue experienced a declining trend from 2019-20 to 2024-25, but surged up in 2022-23, before falling slightly in 2023-24.

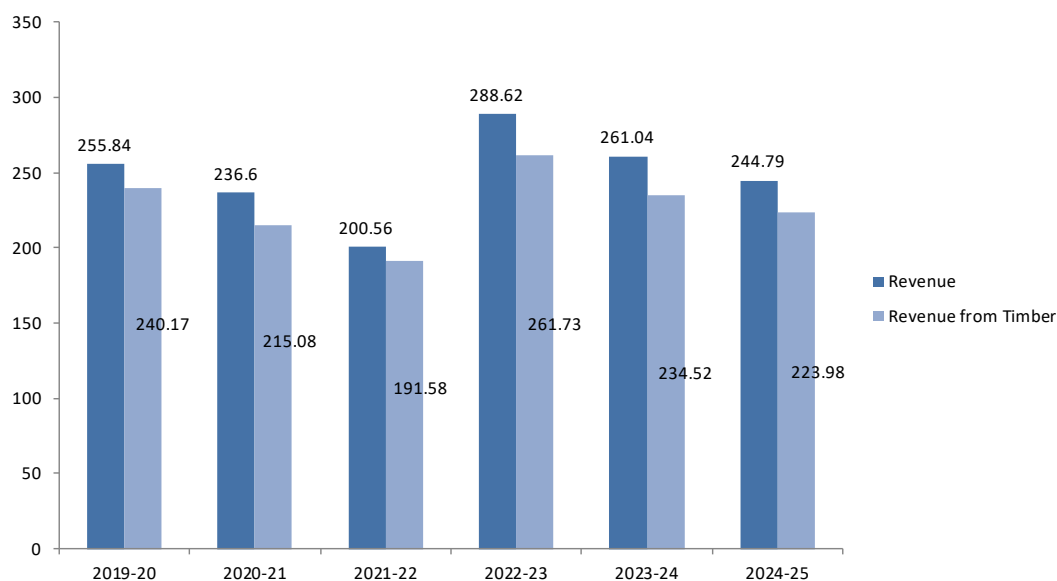
The share of forestry and logging in total

Figure 3.6.3 Forest revenue over the past decade (Rs in crore)



Source: KFD, GoK

Figure 3.6.4 Trends in forest revenue and revenue from timber 2019-20 to 2024-25 (Rs in crore)



Source: KFD, GoK

GSVA at base prices was 0.77 per cent in 2024-25, whereas it was 0.83 per cent in 2023-24. Similarly, the share of primary sector in GSVA which was 8.40 per cent in 2023-24 has declined to 8.06 per cent in 2024-25. Contribution of forestry sector in GSVA is shown in **Appendix 3.6.5**.

Biodiversity conservation and management of protected areas

Kerala's forests form part of one of the world's 32 recognized global biodiversity hotspots and are safeguarded through a well-structured network of conservation areas. The Wildlife Wing of the Forest Department, established in 1985, plays a pivotal role in conserving and managing these protected regions, as well as other ecologically significant areas beyond them. Currently, the Wildlife Wing oversees 3,360.327 sq km of forest under its protected area network, comprising national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and a community reserve. Kerala is home to six national parks, 18 wildlife sanctuaries, two tiger reserves, and one community reserve-together encompassing nearly 29.14 per cent of the State's forest area.

The State's conservation framework is organized into three Wildlife Circles and 11 Wildlife Divisions to ensure effective management. Key habitat improvement initiatives include the development of water sources, eradication of

invasive species, maintenance and creation of trekking paths, enhancement of communication facilities, and implementation of fire protection measures. Details of Kerala's wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, community reserves, and biosphere reserves are provided in **Appendix 3.6.6**.

In 2024-25, the key initiatives under the Project Elephant Scheme focused on strengthening protection measures and enhancing elephant habitats, acquiring crucial elephant corridors, establishing and maintaining anti-poaching camps, and clearing protective pathways. In addition to regular habitat improvement and wildlife management activities, the main activities proposed in Tiger Reserves would include special eco-development programs and tiger monitoring initiatives, among others.

In 2024-25, 32 eligible families were voluntarily relocated from the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, with compensation amounting to Rs 472.50 lakh.

Sustainable Ecotourism

The Kerala Forest Department has been providing ecotourism services for the past 26 years and currently manages 80 ecotourism centres. These centres offer a variety of packages, including trekking, accommodation, sightseeing, boating, and cycling. The Ecotourism Centres are managed by Forest Development Agencies through VSS/

EDCs and serve as a major source of indirect employment for local communities.

Ecotourism activities not only generate numerous employment opportunities for forest-dependent communities in Kerala but also provide income that supports rural development. Currently, a total of 2,172 people from forest-dependent communities are engaged in various ecotourism centres, including 505 tribal men, 226 tribal women, 734 non-tribal men, and 707 non-tribal women. During the year 2024-25, the project generated approximately 415,551 labor days, with a total income of Rs 73.47 crores from ecotourism activities.

Social Forestry and urban forestry

To address the decline in public green spaces, the Forest Department launched the NagaraVanam (Urban Forests) Project, aimed at developing demonstrative multi-canopy green patches in urban and semi-urban areas through high-density planting of indigenous trees, shrubs, herbs, and climbers. Implemented in collaboration with LSGIs, residential associations, business establishments, and local organizations, a total of five NagaraVanams were successfully established across the State during 2024-25.

Under the “Mission Forestry Clubs” program, the Forest Department of Kerala has launched *VidhyaVanam* -miniature educational forests within school and college campuses- to promote environmental awareness. In 2024-25, 14 VidhyaVanam were established across various educational institutions.

In 2024-25, 81 new forestry clubs were established in schools to raise children’s awareness about forest conservation, provide opportunities to connect with nature, and nurture environmentally conscious future citizens.

The Forest Department, in collaboration with the Local Self Government Department, launched the ‘Vrikshasamridhi’ program to increase tree cover outside forests, under which 12.56 lakh seedlings were raised and distributed to the public and institutions, and the Social Forestry Wing established five ‘Nagara Vanam’ plots to create green patches in urban areas. In 2024-25, four Kuttivanams (small forests in each panchayat of the State) were established.

In 2024-25, Rs 7.54 lakh was disbursed under the scheme for incentivization of private forestry to encourage farmers to cultivate trees and promote timber production on private lands. In 2024-25, financial assistance was sanctioned for the protection and conservation of 68 sacred groves across the State. In 2024-25, the MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) programme, aimed at conserving and restoring mangrove ecosystems along India’s coastlines and enhancing their natural benefits such as carbon sequestration and coastal protection, incurred an expenditure of Rs 36.89 lakh.

In 2024-25, a total of 12.56 lakh seedlings were planted under the Vriksha Samridhi scheme, with the Forest Department providing only technical support for raising and planting activities.

In 2024-25, 7.37 lakh seedlings were planted and distributed in connection with World Environment Day, Vanamahotsavam, and various institutional planting programmes.

Two Biodiversity Parks- one at Varkala S.S. College in Thiruvananthapuram, and the other at S.K.V. H.S. /S.S. in Kurichithanam- were set up in 2024-25. During the same year, one Butterfly Park was established at K.R. Narayan Lower Primary School, Kurichithanam, Kottayam.

As part of turtle conservation 11,682 turtle eggs were collected and protected in hatcheries for hatching in 2024-25.

In accordance with the Eco-restoration Policy of 2021, 4,795.18 hectares of degraded forest area was successfully restored during 2024-25.

Home gardens

The total area of tree cover outside forests is estimated at approximately 14,394 sq km, accounting for 37.04 per cent of the State’s geographical area. According to forest department data, home gardens and rubber plantations play a major role in wood production, collectively contributing 82 per cent of the State’s wood supply 35.3 per cent from home gardens and 46.6 per cent from rubber estates-while forests contribute only 1.6 per cent. Despite this significant contribution, the full potential of these resources remains largely untapped. To boost wood production in home gardens,

the Forest Department carries out programmes in collaboration with Local Self-Governments, with technical support from various relevant institutions.

Recognition of Forest Rights Act

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognizes the rights of forest-dwellings of the Scheduled Tribes, empowering them with the responsibility and authority to sustainably use, conserve, and maintain the ecological balance within their communities through both individual and community rights. In Kerala, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department serves as the nodal agency for implementing the Act, with the Revenue and Forest Departments providing necessary support. During 2024-25, a total of 29,199 individual titles (Record of Rights) were issued covering 38,754.98 acres, 282 community rights were recognized, and 542 development rights were granted covering 188.29 hectares.

Livelihood of forest-dependent communities

The Forest Department, in collaboration with other agencies, is implementing programs to improve the livelihoods of forest-dwelling tribal communities by creating employment opportunities in forestry, supporting non-timber forest products (NTFPs), developing alternative livelihoods, and enhancing essential services like education and healthcare. In Kerala, NTFPs collected by tribal communities are sold under the brand name “Vanasree”, which supports improved livelihoods for forest-dependent people. Currently, 74 Vanasree units, including 2 mobile units, operate across the state. Through this scheme, the Forest Department generates approximately 1.5 lakh labour days annually for around 2,100 forest-dependent individuals. In the year 2024-25, the total sales from Vanasree units amounted to Rs 841.00 lakhs.

The National Forest Policy of 1988 promotes collaborative forest management with forest-dependent communities, especially tribal populations. In 1998, Participatory Forest Management (PFM) was introduced, creating local institutions: Vana Samrakshana Samithis (VSS) in territorial forest areas and Eco-development Committees (EDC) in wildlife areas. Each VSS and EDC includes 200-300 forest-dependent families. VSSs and EDCs operate under Forest Development Agencies (FDAs), which are federations at the forest division level that

support these communities through various PFM programs. Currently, there are 427 VSSs and 213 EDCs across the state, organized under 36 FDAs. Many government schemes from both the Government of India and the Government of Kerala are implemented through these FDAs.

The Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVK), an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (GoI), promote marketing and value addition of Minor Forest Products (MFPs) to enhance tribal livelihoods. In the state, 31 VDVKS under 20 FDAs market 64 products, supporting forest-dependent communities' income generation.

The Green India Mission focuses on tackling climate change in forests by improving forest health, conserving species, and increasing tree cover. It helps communities meet their needs for fuel, fodder, and income while providing sustainable livelihood options. The program aims to reduce forest degradation, improve forest quality, and support the well-being of people who depend on forests. For 2024-25, the MoEF&CC has approved an Annual Plan Operation (APO) of Rs 5471.95 lakh for implementation during 2025-26, with SFDA allocated Rs 1641.00 lakh as the central share and Rs 1193.99 lakh as the state share under the APO.

The District Permanent Nurseries are established with the objective of producing high-quality seedlings by following standard silvicultural practices. They also focus on raising seedlings of important, rare, and endangered species, while promoting awareness about various tree species and their ecological significance. Currently, eight District Permanent Nurseries are operational across Kerala, located in Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Palakkad, Wayanad, Kozhikode, and Kasaragod districts.

As part of human resources development, 978 officials in various cadres were imparted training. During 2024-25, 14 applicants were selected for the Vanamitra Award across the state. As part of soil and water conservation efforts, 76 check dams and 133 other water sources were renovated in 2024-25.

NABARD assistance

With the financial assistance of NABARD, substantial progress has been achieved in the development of forest infrastructure. A total

of 11 Integrated Forest Check posts, 17 Forest Station Complexes, 5 Range Offices, 6 Rapid Response Team (RRT) and VET, 6 Flying Squad Range Offices, and 12 Staff Barracks have been constructed and completed.

Forest fire management in Kerala

Forest fire management, a vital part of Kerala's overall forest management strategy, has achieved remarkable success in reducing fire impacts bringing down the average affected area from about 2,024 hectares in 2015-16 to just around 363 hectares in the 2024-25 season. This achievement comes despite growing challenges from global warming, forest fragmentation, and comprehensive reporting through the FSI Fire Alert System. **Table 3.6.5** shows the extent of forest areas burnt in Kerala over the last ten years.

Table: 3.6.5 Extents of forest burnt in Kerala (in ha)

Year	No. of fire incidences	Extent (ha)
2015-16	564	2024
2016-17	737	2994
2017-18	330	1279
2018-19	583	1789
2019-20	382	716.64
2020-21	166	448
2021-22	123	448
2022-23	457	901
2023-24	374	568
2024-25	209	363.548

Source: KFD, GoK

All Kerala elephant population estimation: The Parambikulam Tiger Reserve, in collaboration with the Periyar Foundation, coordinated a State-Level Elephant Population Estimation in May 2024. The report revealed a total elephant population of 1,793 (ranging from 1,790 to 1,795) across Kerala, with an overall density of 0.19 elephants per km². Elephant Reserve-wise population estimates indicate that the populations in Periyar and Nilambur Elephant Reserves remain almost stable, whereas Wayanad and Anamudi Elephant Reserves have experienced noticeable reductions of 29 per cent and 12 per cent respective.

Snehahastham Programme: The project aimed to deliver direct health services to 100 tribal villages across the state. In the first phase, approximately 12 medical camps were conducted, reaching 296 tribal villages and providing treatment to 2,695 people.

Transition from exotic plantations to natural forest

The data indicate a clear declining trend in exotic plant species from 2023-24 to 2024-25. Most species, including Eucalyptus, Acacia Mangium, Grevillea Robusta, Casuarina, and Wattle, showed notable reductions in their recorded areas, with Casuarina experiencing the steepest decline of over 70 per cent. Only Balsa and Pine remained stable, while Acacia auriculiformis and Rubber recorded minor decreases. Overall, the total area under exotic species declined by approximately 8.5 per cent, suggesting a gradual shift away from their cultivation. This trend may reflect changing forestry policies, ecological restoration initiatives,

Table: 3.6.6 Trends in the area under forest plantations of relevant exotic species(in ha)

Sl.no	Species	2023-24	2024-25
1	Teak (hardwood)	55994.301	57121.8764
2	Eucalyptus	6989.07	6554.651
3	Acacia Mangium	2767.557	2228.495
4	Acacia auriculiformis	7042.424	7019.346
5	Gravelia Robusta	948.68	611.240
6	Casuarina	118.87	32.630
7	Wattle	2123.13	1792.810
8	Rubber	42.10	42.000
9	Balsa	21.04	21.040
10	Pine	546.40	546.400

Source: KFD, Gok

or a growing preference for native species such as Teak, which showed a slight increase during the same period. **Table: 3.6.6** presents the trends in the area under forest plantations for the relevant exotic species.

The State has notified approximately 14,184.23138 ha as Ecologically Fragile Land (EFL), of which about 772.3072 ha has been denotified through various redressal mechanisms under the EFL Act. Under the Act's grievance redressal provisions-Sections 10, 10A, and 19(3) (b) a total of 1,175 applications were received under Section 10A (with 1,103 settled) and 314 applications under Section 19(3)(b) (with 289 disposed), while the remaining cases are under various stages of processing.

The Plan expenditure under the forestry sector for 2024-25 was Rs 184.75 crore, representing 79.43 per cent of the total plan outlay. Outlay and

expenditure details of the sector from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are shown in **Appendix 3.6.7**.

KERALA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KFDC)

Founded on January 24, 1975, as a joint initiative of the Government of India and the State Government, the Kerala Forest Development Corporation (KFDC) develops man-made forests, rehabilitates degraded lands, and promotes ecotourism to support sustainable forest management and meet domestic and industrial resource needs.

In 2024-25, KFDC achieved its highest-ever ecotourism turnover of Rs 9.39 crore (excluding taxes), making it a major source of revenue. **Table: 3.6.7** shows the major revenue sources of KFDC. Revenue grew sharply from 2021-22 to 2024-25, driven mainly by wood crops and fast-growing ecotourism, showing strong diversification.

Box 3.6.1 Special Initiatives

i) Tree Banking

The tree banking scheme involves planting trees on privately owned land to offset carbon emissions, promote environmental sustainability, and increase the local supply of timber. Implemented through a multi-pronged approach, the scheme enables the state to work toward long-term carbon neutrality, achieve self-sufficiency in timber production by encouraging farmers to engage in tree cultivation, and provide additional income and revenue to the farmers. The tree species included in the scheme are Sandal, Teak, Mahogany, Anjili, Plavu, Kumbil, Karimaruthu, Thambakam, Venthekku, and Veetty.

(ii) Human- wildlife conflict mitigation- Ten Strategic Mission

The state has launched a comprehensive set of missions to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and promote coexistence.

- Mission Food, Fodder, and Water seeks to reduce wildlife migration toward human settlements by ensuring adequate resources within forests, removing invasive plants, and promoting indigenous fruit-bearing trees with support from NGOs and local communities.
- Mission Real-Time Monitoring focuses on preventing conflicts by continuously tracking elephant passages and wildlife routes across all forest divisions, enabling proactive preventive measures.
- Mission Primary Response Teams will establish a Volunteer Response Force to provide immediate intervention at conflict sites before Rapid Response Teams arrive.
- Mission Tribal Knowledge, in collaboration with the Kerala Forest Research Institute and the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, aims to document and disseminate traditional tribal strategies for mitigating conflicts through seminars across the state.
- Mission Bonnet Macaque and Mission Wild Pig address species-specific challenges, including controlling indigenous monkeys and providing technical support to panchayats affected by wild pig encroachments.
- Mission Sarpa intensifies the production and distribution of anti-venom to eliminate snakebite fatalities, while Mission Knowledge, in partnership with KFRI, TBGRI, and the Wildlife Institute of India, studies behavioral changes in wildlife due to climate change and other factors contributing to conflicts.
- Mission Solar Fencing focuses on restoring non-operational solar fences along forest fringes, and Mission Public Sensitization conducts awareness campaigns tailored to the unique characteristics of each locality to educate the public on human-wildlife coexistence.

Source: KFD, GoK

Table: 3.6.7 Major revenue sources (Rs in lakhs)

Revenue /year	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25 (Provisional)
Wood crop	630.46	2022.87	1755.44	1865.80
Cash crop	281.4	208.16	308.62	551.50
Eco-tourism	224.56	678.83	844.02	938.65
Other sales	158.13	143.36	171.62	207.44
Other income	27.16	13.86	107.69	36.15
Total	1321.71	3067.08	3187.39	3599.54

Source: Kerala Forest

During 2024-25, the reconstruction and renovation of the old and dilapidated labour lanes in the Mananthavady Division were successfully completed, resulting in the development of 10 labour lanes (4 units each) to accommodate 40 families. In the same period, 27.07 hectares were replanted with various native species, and 48 hectares of forest land in Munnar were eco-restored by removing Wattle trees. Employment generation included 5,062 man-days through fire protection works (by engaging local people near forest areas) and a total of 1, 87,200 man-days for estate workers, including eco-tourism activities. During 2024–25, the KFDC Marayoor Sandal Oil Factory distilled 27.87 kg of sandalwood oil, out of which 15.49 kg was sold through retail sales.

The 14th Five-Year Plan emphasizes developing comprehensive action plans for watersheds, forest, and agro-ecosystems, highlighting the need to conserve biodiversity and protect wildlife by minimizing human activities within forests, restoring essential habitats, and maintaining wildlife corridors. Addressing human-wildlife conflict requires an integrated approach that combines habitat conservation, community participation, and innovative solutions to promote peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife. In this context, Kerala's forests and wildlife are of immense ecological importance, supporting rich biodiversity and providing vital ecosystem services such as pollination, seed dispersal, and carbon sequestration, which help combat climate change. Promoting sustainable forest management and effective wildlife conservation in Kerala is essential not only for preserving its natural heritage but also for contributing to global environmental stability and ensuring these invaluable ecosystems endure for future generation.

3.7 ENVIRONMENT

Climate change poses serious risks to the environment and human well-being and affects health, livelihoods, food security, and water availability. Global warming is mainly driven by fossil fuel use, deforestation, and industrial activity. Limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C is necessary to avoid severe impacts. Protecting ecosystems and reducing efficiency gaps are among the most effective responses, as highlighted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the World Bank. Coordinated global action is therefore essential to ensure a sustainable future.

India faces significant climate challenges in this global context. Environmental protection is emphasised in the Constitution, but pollution, deforestation, and waste management problems continue to threaten health, biodiversity, and natural resources. Kerala is vulnerable to the effects of global warming because of population growth, urbanisation, and industrialisation, despite its rich forests, wetlands, mangroves, and marine ecosystems. The State faces increasing risks from floods, landslides, and sea level rise and must prioritise climate resilience. About 80 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in Kerala originate from the energy sector. Emissions can be reduced through renewable energy adoption, improved energy efficiency, better infrastructure, and promotion of electric vehicles. These measures need to be integrated into development planning to protect the environment and support sustainable growth.

Climate Change

Kerala's climate challenges stem from its unique geography, rapid urbanization, land-use changes,

developmental activities, and dense population. In recent years, these factors have contributed to frequent extreme weather events, including heavy rains, floods, landslides, and droughts. To address these growing challenges, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC), which coordinates all climate change initiatives in the state, developed Kerala's first State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) with support from various stakeholders. The plan was endorsed by the Government of India in 2014.

Following the revised Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) guidelines, the Climate Change Cell (CCC) updated the SAPCC, and the revised version was approved by the State Government in January 2023. This updated SAPCC now serves as the central framework for climate action in Kerala, aligning the state's efforts with national and international climate goals. The plan focuses on building resilience and addressing climate vulnerabilities across key sectors such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, health, water resources, forests, and biodiversity. It outlines both adaptation and mitigation strategies for the period 2023-2030.

To support all the initiatives, the Climate Change Knowledge Resource Platform (CCKRP) an interactive, centralized hub developed by the DoECC provides policymakers, practitioners, and civil society with unified access to climate data, information, and tools. This platform enhances informed decision-making and fosters a deeper understanding of future climate trends and risks in Kerala.

Major initiatives/achievements in 2024-25

The State Climate Change Cell (SCCC), under the Department of Environment and Climate Change, prepared the revised State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC 2.0) in 2022, which was approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Serving as the state's main climate action framework, SAPCC 2.0 ensures coordination among departments and strengthens national and international linkages. It implements projects to enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerabilities in sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, health, water resources, forests, and biodiversity. The SCCC monitors the progress of these projects, having completed reviews for agriculture and animal husbandry, with assessments of other sectors on-going.

The Climate Change Cell (CCC) has completed the state's Green House Gas (GHG) Inventory, published a comprehensive report with an accompanying web portal, and is currently finalizing a draft Carbon Neutral Pathway aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Two new projects were approved in 2024–2025 under the Environmental Research and Development Scheme: “Ecological Resilience Indicators for Coastal Ecosystems along the Kerala Coast” and “Bio-derived Antibacterial Polymeric Nano fibre for Water Decontamination.” During this period, 4 studies were completed namely:

- Micro plastic Pollution: source characterization, transport modelling and assessment of impact on fish population in Kadambayar river and Vembanad backwater region,
- Novel, cost-effective and eco-friendly Cellulose Nano fiber (CNF)- based polyelectrolyte microfiltration filter for small scale waste water purification
- Sustainable green composites based on waste and natural resources
- Assessment, mapping and preparation of database on spatial distribution, status and baseline features of granite and other crystalline rock quarries in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Pathanamthitta, Malappuram, Thrissur, Palakkad, and Kozhikkode districts

Bhoomithrasena Clubs statewide engaged in various activities to commemorate environmentally significant days. In 2024–25, four new Paristhiti

Poshini Fellowships have been awarded, with seven ongoing fellowships currently in progress. Additionally, a total of 19 students received the Vidyaposhini Fellowship during the same period.

In the Climate Resilient Farming initiative, four projects were successfully completed, making a significant contribution to the conservation and advancement of climate-resilient agricultural practices in Kerala. Under the Climate Change scheme, two Ujjwal Postdoctoral Fellowships were awarded. The following studies were completed under this scheme during the reporting period.

- Climate Change, Floods and Rural Farming Communities in Kuttanad: A Shift from Disaster Management towards Disaster Preparedness
- Exploration of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in the sacred rivers of Achankovil, Pamba and associated reservoirs with special reference to climate change and anthropogenic influences.

The State Wetland Authority of Kerala (SWAK):

As part of the State's wetland notification process, the 40 identified wetlands were divided into two phases of 20 each. Brief documents for the first phase wetlands were prepared and district-level consultations with Local Self-Governments (LSGs) were held. LSG Secretaries received two-stage training in February 2024 on the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, including implementation guidelines and dispute resolution via the SWAK–KSREC web portal.

The draft Integrated Management Plans for the Vembanad-Kol Wetland Complex and Sasthamkotta Ramsar Site were revised under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) guidelines. The Ashtamudi alternative coir retting project with FERI Trust successfully purified coir pulp, recovered lignin, and developed in-situ waste treatment and recycling methods.

Catchment conservation efforts for the three Ramsar wetlands are progressing successfully under the Soil Survey and Soil Conservation Department. A total of 648 Wetland Mitras (registered citizen volunteers) are engaged across the state's three Ramsar wetlands.

The annual water bird census project, conducted

across the three Ramsar sites and entrusted to Kerala Agricultural University, has been successfully completed. Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) is conducting continuous operational and routine water quality monitoring at Ashtamudi, Sasthamkotta, and Vembanad-Kol under the Wetland Inventory Assessment and Monitoring System (WIAMS) project, following the latest approved Management Action Plans.

SWAK, in collaboration with the Kerala Houseboat Owners Association (KHBOA), Alappuzha, has successfully completed the Houseboat Upgradation Project, converting diesel engines to hybrid engines in the Vembanad-Kol Wetland Complex under the approved Management Action Plan (MAP).

The project on sustainable clam farming and enhanced livelihoods in the Vembanad-Kol Wetland Complex, undertaken by Community Environmental Resource Centre – Asoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (CERC-ATREE), has been successfully completed. A major accomplishment of this initiative is the collection and recycling of plastic waste from the estuary bed, coupled with significant improvements in local livelihoods.

The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) received approximately 436 applications in the year 2024–25, out of which environmental clearance was granted to 296.

Climate change is accelerating, with far-reaching impacts on ecosystems, economies, and communities worldwide, and Kerala is no exception. The state faces serious threats to its environment, economy, and way of life, including rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, floods, and coastal erosion. Urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adopt sustainable adaptation strategies is essential to mitigate these effects, build resilience, and safeguard Kerala's rich natural heritage for future generations.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity, the variety of life on earth, is essential for maintaining ecosystem balance and supporting human well-being. For a state like Kerala, with its rich endemism and ecological sensitivity, conserving biodiversity is not just an environmental priority but a foundation for sustainable development. The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) is working to integrate biodiversity into all key sectors like agriculture, water, health, climate, nutrition, and livelihoods

Box 3.7.1 Special Initiatives

(1) Waste management audit by Bhoomithrasena Clubs

In collaboration with the Malinya Muktham Navakeralam Campaign and the Suchitwa Mission, the DoECC implemented a program in which Bhoomithrasena Clubs conducted audits of 121 waste management facilities including Material Collection Facilities (MCFs), Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), and Resource Recovery Facilities (RRFs) across 106 Local Self Governments (LSGs) between December 2024 and January 2025. The initiative evaluated non-biodegradable waste management in Kerala's Local Self Governments (LSGs) while engaging youth in environmental action. Audits examined infrastructure, efficiency, and gaps, and student participation fostered behavioural change advancing Kerala's vision of a garbage-free state.

(2) Coastal Zone Management Plans (CZMPs)

Kerala's Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) 2019, approved by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in October 2024, covers all ten coastal districts of the state-Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur, and Kasaragod. Prepared in accordance with the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2019, the plan incorporates its relaxed provisions to permit greater development in coastal areas, including construction on the seaward side of the High Tide Line. Aimed at balancing coastal development with ecosystem conservation, the CZMP also faces calls for stronger recognition and protection of traditional fishing rights and the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Source: DoECC, GoK

so that conservation becomes a central pillar of growth rather than a separate goal. Healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving waterscapes are vital not only for nature but also for the survival and stability of human life.

Guided by global frameworks such as the IPBES Nexus Assessment, the Planetary Boundaries model, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), the state emphasizes the interconnectedness of biodiversity with climate, water, health, and nutrition systems. Through participatory governance, inclusive policies, and people-centric action, the Board envisions a future where Kerala leads as India’s most biodiversity-friendly state by 2035. The

revised Kerala Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-SBSAP) 2025-2035 embodies this vision, aiming to embed biodiversity at the heart of development planning for a sustainable and resilient future.

By combining Kerala’s rich biodiversity and its well-established system of decentralized governance, the state developed a more inclusive, resilient, and community-driven approach to biodiversity conservation-guided by the principle that both government and society must work together to protect the environment. The **Table 3.7.1** shows the biodiversity statistics of India and Kerala.

Table: 3.7.1 Biodiversity Statistics

INDIA	
Species Diversity	
Flora	India is home to over 47,000 plant species, including more than 20,000 flowering plants, which account for 6% of the world’s total. About 33% of these species are endemic, and over 1,800 are currently classified as endangered.
Fauna	India hosts 1,04,561 faunal species, including:
	Soil species 22404
	Freshwater species 9436
	Mangrove-associated species 5023
Faunal Endemism	Over 28,900 species are endemic, accounting for 28% of the total recorded fauna.
Threatened Species	Nearly 10% of India’s wild flora and fauna are classified as threatened, with several species facing imminent extinction.
Ecosystem Diversity	
• Forests, wetlands, grasslands, deserts, coastal zones, and marine habitats. • Four global biodiversity hotspots: Western Ghats, Himalayas, North-East India, and the Nicobar Islands.	
Protected area coverage	
National Parks	106
Wildlife Sanctuaries	564
Conservation Reserves	99
Biosphere reserve	18
Ramsar Wetlands (as of 2025)	80
KERALA	
Faunal species	In 2024, Kerala emerged as India’s leading biodiversity discovery hotspot, with 101 newly documented faunal species including 80 species new to the world and 21 species new to India.
Threatened Flora	Over 300 tree species have been identified as threatened in the latest Red Data Book revision.
Ecosystem Coverage	Tropical rainforests, sacred groves (kavus), wetlands, mangroves, agroeco-systems, and coastal-marine habitats.

Nutraceutical & Pharmaceutical Diversity	
Group / Title	Total Species
Medicinal Plants	520
Agro biodiversity (Rice landraces)	71
Agro biodiversity (Spices)	68
Agro biodiversity (Tubers)	47
Agro biodiversity (Banana varieties)	126
Coconut varieties	33
Agro biodiversity (minor fruits)	16
Cultivated agro biodiversity (others)	88
Terrestrial Faunal & Floral Diversity	
Trees of Kerala	164
Invasive species of Kerala	82
Mushrooms of Kerala	112
Birds of Kerala	547
Mammals of Kerala	118
Snakes of Kerala	112
Amphibians of Kerala	134
Butterflies of Kerala	328
Aquatic & Marine Diversity	
Freshwater Fishes of Kerala	213
Gastropods in Kerala	108
Marine Biodiversity in Kerala	830
Mangroves & Coastal Flora	72

Source: KSBB, GoK

Major initiatives/achievements in 2024-25

The state has improved biodiversity governance by training BMCs to update People's Biodiversity Registers, conserving rare plants through nurseries, restoring habitats, declaring new Biodiversity Heritage Sites, documenting inland and coastal species, and working with communities and ICAR-CMFRI on projects like removing ghost nets to protect marine ecosystems.

1. Bio-diversity Conservation: In the year 2024-25, significant progress was made across multiple biodiversity and ecosystem conservation initiatives, including the restoration of three sacred groves through two dedicated projects with Rs 5 lakh in funding. Efforts in red-listed species conservation safeguarded 84 species through 11 projects implemented by 11 institutes, supported by Rs 27 lakh. Nine

biodiversity parks were established to enhance ecological preservation. Marine Participatory Biodiversity Records (MPBRs) advanced through six projects across three districts and six BMCs with Rs 6 lakh support, though no publications were released this year. Riparian plant multiplication initiatives, involving five institutes, cultivated 25 species and produced 2.5 lakh saplings with Rs 48 lakh funding. Inland fish breeding projects by two agencies focused on ten species, supported by Rs 40 lakh. Pond ecosystem restoration was carried out by 13 BMCs across 13 districts with an investment of Rs 114.82 lakh. Additionally, three institutions contributed to agro-biodiversity documentation with Rs 5.85 lakh funding.

2. Research/Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Mechanisms: Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

can play a crucial role in conserving biological resources, promoting their sustainable use, and contributing to the economic development of local communities.

- The Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) has established Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in all 1,200 local bodies, including 941 Grama Panchayats, 152 Block Panchayats, 14 District Panchayats, 87 Municipalities, and 6 Municipal Corporations. A total of 1,034 People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) have been prepared, ensuring comprehensive coverage across the state.
- In the reporting period, 40 PBRs were updated, and the digitalization of PBRs is underway in all BMCs.
- 358 BMC meetings were conducted across various local bodies to monitor biodiversity conservation initiatives and integrate biodiversity action plans into the local development planning process.
- In 2024–25, a total of six training programs were conducted, and 28 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) were selected for the preparation of Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (LBSAPs). Out of these, 23 LBSAPs have been successfully prepared. Additionally, an amount of Rs 120 lakh was disbursed to support biodiversity related activities across 74 BMCs.
- Seven Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS) declarations have been initiated, of which one has been formally declared.
- 18 projects focusing on wild edible plant varieties have been implemented with a total investment of Rs 76.83 lakh.
- The restoration of Vellayani Lake is being carried out with an allocation of Rs 50 lakh.
- Four projects have been undertaken for the management of invasive *Nymphaea* species, with a total outlay of Rs 26.62 lakh.
- Initial steps to implement ABS mechanisms were taken by collecting 5% of the proceeds from sandalwood auctions conducted by the Forest Department, marking an important move toward fair and equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits.

3. Biodiversity Awareness and Education: In 2024–25, a total of 600 institutions actively participated in the SBC Engagement initiative, involving around 3,000 students in biodiversity-related activities. Through the Student

Biodiversity Clubs, 2,123 institutions engaged 63,690 students, promoting awareness and collective action for biodiversity conservation across the state. To strengthen the capacity of these clubs, six online training courses were conducted, with participation from 800 clubs.

The Wild Edible Leafy Garden Project was implemented by 21 clubs, which received a total financial support of Rs 2.1 lakh to establish and maintain gardens showcasing native edible plant species. Additionally, 31 clubs were provided Rs 1.6 lakh in direct financial assistance to further their biodiversity initiatives.

Under the Biodiversity Doctoral Fellowship program, 12 fellows from 12 institutions were awarded fellowships totalling Rs 24 lakh, supporting advanced biodiversity research. The Biodiversity Internship Program benefited 30 interns from 10 institutions, with a total support of Rs 1.00 lakh, offering them valuable hands-on experience in biodiversity conservation.

To foster innovation and recognize excellence, seven awards amounting to Rs 1.3 lakh were presented under the Youth Ideation Challenge, encouraging creative biodiversity solutions among young minds. Furthermore, 11 Biodiversity Conservation Awards, with a total prize value of Rs 6lakhs, were conferred to acknowledge outstanding contributions to biodiversity protection and sustainable management.

The *Kavinu Kavalayi* campaign was carried out across all 14 districts, involving BMCs and biodiversity clubs in documenting sacred groves, managing invasive species, and removing plastic waste—reviving cultural landscapes through community participation.

In conclusion, addressing the impacts of climate change on Kerala's biodiversity requires a collective and sustained effort that integrates science, policy, and community action. Protecting and restoring ecosystems, promoting climate-resilient livelihoods, and fostering environmental awareness are essential to safeguarding the state's rich natural heritage. By embracing sustainable practices and strengthening conservation initiatives, Kerala can build ecological resilience, ensuring that its unique flora, fauna, and ecosystems continue to thrive for generations to come.

(1) Kerala Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (KTKDL)

This initiative seeks to digitally archive Kerala's rich traditional ecological knowledge encompassing community-held practices in biodiversity, healthcare, and agriculture to prevent bio-piracy and promote fair benefit-sharing. By establishing a comprehensive digital repository, the Kerala Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (KTKDL) will serve as a vital resource for research, policy formulation, and intellectual property protection, while empowering local communities to safeguard and assert their rights over indigenous knowledge systems.

(2) She Bio Initiative in collaboration with Kudumbasree

As part of its commitment to inclusive and biodiversity-based livelihoods, the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) has launched the She-Bio Initiative, a pioneering programme designed to empower women-led enterprises by linking biodiversity conservation with sustainable income generation. Implemented in collaboration with Kudumbashree, Kerala's flagship poverty eradication and women empowerment mission, She-Bio promotes local enterprises rooted in traditional ecological knowledge, focusing on the cultivation and value addition of medicinal plants, processing of non-timber forest produce, and production of bio-resource-based wellness products. The initiative builds the capacity of women's collectives to manage local biodiversity sustainably while improving their livelihoods, integrating these efforts with Local Biodiversity Funds (LBFs) and aligning them with the Kerala State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (K-SBSAP) to create a replicable model for decentralized, gender-responsive conservation. Pilot projects in biodiversity-rich regions such as Wayanad, Idukki, and the coastal herbal belts have shown encouraging results, with Kudumbashree units actively involved in nursery development, herbal garden maintenance, and community-based Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) facilitation. By combining conservation, livelihood, and empowerment, She-Bio not only strengthens local economies but also positions women as key custodians of Kerala's rich biological heritage.

(3) People's Marine Biodiversity Registers (PMBRs)

As part of Rule 20(15) of the Kerala State Biodiversity Rules, 2008, the Kerala State Biodiversity Board (KSBB) is leading an important effort to create People's Marine Biodiversity Registers (PMBRs) in all nine coastal districts. These registers record the wide variety of life found in Kerala's coastal and marine areas—such as different species, habitats, and ecosystems—along with the traditional knowledge of coastal communities. They also capture local conservation practices and cultural ties to the sea. By doing so, PMBRs become valuable tools for local planning and for adapting to climate challenges like sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, and changes in marine life. This initiative helps Kerala use community wisdom to build stronger, more sustainable, and biodiversity-friendly coastal development plans.

Source: KSBB, GoK

Pollution Control

The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the statutory authority for pollution prevention and control in the state, is mandated to safeguard air, water, and the environment in accordance with Central Government Acts and Rules. The Board monitors ambient air and water quality across Kerala using both manual and digital systems. Its annual plan schemes focus on infrastructure development, environmental monitoring and management, public awareness programs, and capacity building.

Major initiatives/achievements in 2024-25

In 2024–25, the Kerala State Pollution Control

Board issued 25,490 consents to establish and operate industries/establishments, with specific conditions to ensure adequate pollution control measures and compliance with the prescribed emission and effluent standards under the Rules.

The KSPCB monitors water quality at 353 stations across the State. Of these, 217 are part of the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) and 136 are covered under the State Water Quality Monitoring Programme (SWMP). Monitoring is conducted monthly, with heavy metals and pesticides tested twice a year. This ongoing initiative ensures continuous assessment and protection of the State's water resources. Station types and number of stations are shown in

the following **Table: 3.7.2**.

Table: 3.7.2 Station types and number of stations

Station type	No. of stations
River	205
Canal	3
Coastal water	16
Estuarine lake	29
Fresh water lake	19
Groundwater	33
Marine Outfall	3
Pond	7
Reservoir	16
Tributary	17
Rivulet	5
Total number of water quality monitoring stations	353

Source: KSPCB, GoK

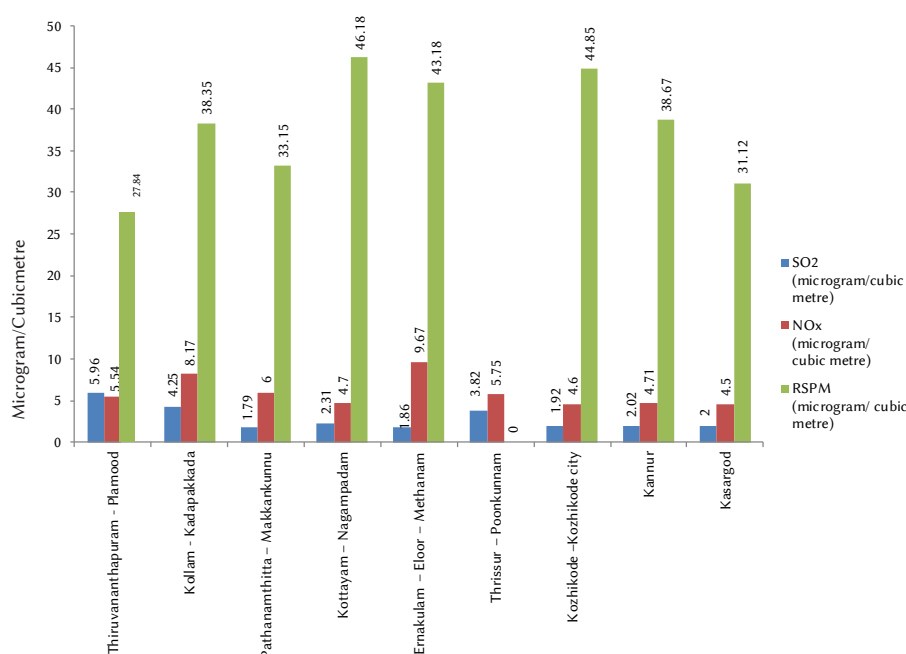
The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) monitors ambient air quality through 40 manual stations across the state 34 under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) and 6 under the State Air Quality

Monitoring Programme (SAMP). In addition, the Board operates nine Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS): three in Ernakulam, two in Thiruvananthapuram, and one each in Kollam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, and Kannur. These stations measure major air pollutants, including sulphur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), ammonia (NH₃), and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x, NO, NO₂), along with key meteorological parameters such as temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, and rainfall.

The average values of air pollutants at major monitoring stations in residential areas, in sensitive areas and industrial areas of Kerala in 2024 are shown in **Figures 3.7.1, 3.7.2** and **3.7.3** respectively.

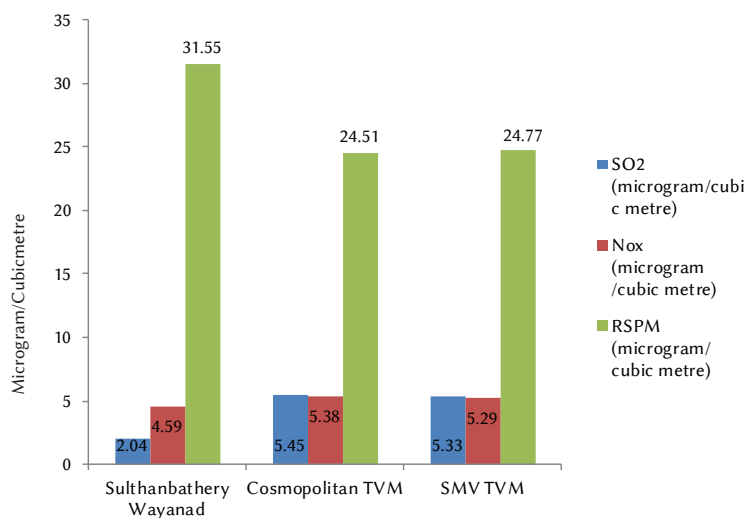
During the Sabarimala pilgrimage season, regular surveillance is carried out through camp offices at Sannidhanam, Pamba and Erumeli, including inspections and environmental monitoring, daily sampling of river water, sewage, and drinking water, monitoring of incinerators and STPs, and conducting awareness programmes to ensure environmental safety and public health.

Figure 3.7.1 Annual average values of air pollutants at major monitoring stations in residential areas of Kerala, 2024



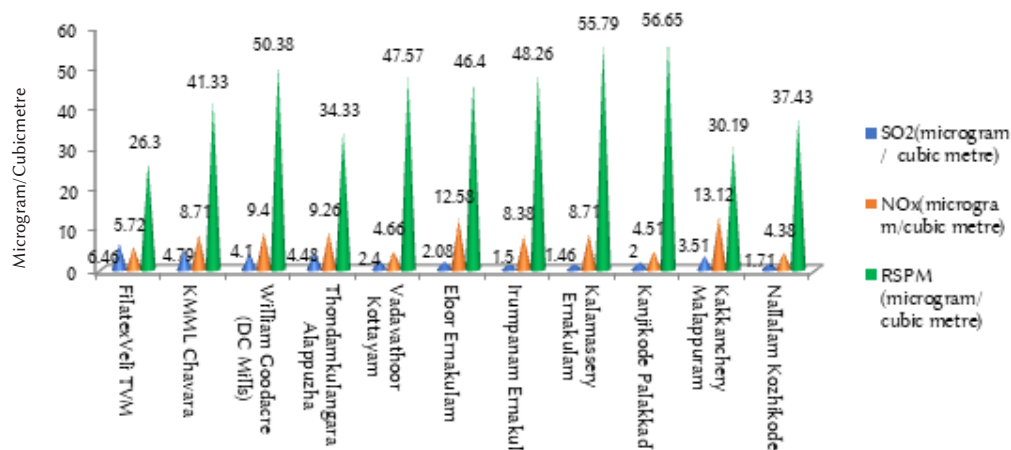
Source: Kerala State Pollution Control Board, 2025

Figure 3.7.2 Annual average values of air pollutants at 3 major monitoring stations in Sensitive areas of Kerala 2024



Source: Kerala State Pollution Control Board, 2025

Figure 3.7.3 Annual Average Values of air pollutants at 11 monitoring stations in Industrial areas of Kerala 2024



Source: Kerala State Pollution Control Board, 2025

All services of the KSPCB are offered online and can be conveniently accessed by the public through its consent management portal, Phoenix, a centralized digital platform.

Waste Management

Kerala is actively implementing the Plastic Waste Management Rules through several initiatives. Haritha Karma Sena is collecting dry waste in 93 urban local bodies and 941 Grama Panchayats.

The state has 36 registered plastic recycling units under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Non-recyclable plastics are shredded at Resource Recovery Facilities (RRFs) and used for road construction by the PWD and local bodies. In 2024–25, Clean Kerala Company Limited (CKCL) produced 5,541 MT of shredded plastics, which were supplied to PWD, LSGIs, cement plants, and recycling units, helping construct 652.77 km of polymerized roads. For waste management,

1,233 Material Collection Facilities (MCFs) and 136 RRFs with bailing and shredding machines have been set up.

The state has also focused on remediating legacy waste dump sites. Out of 44 identified sites, biomining has been completed in 18, processing 2.46 lakh tonnes of waste. Work is ongoing at 12 sites (3.94 lakh tonnes), while 14 more sites (1.63 lakh tonnes) have initiated the process. The soil recovered is reused for landfilling. At Brahmapuram, biomining is in progress, while in Kureepuzha, Kollam, the process has been fully completed with 92,874 tonnes of legacy waste successfully treated.

A total of 10,210 inspections were conducted at healthcare facilities across the State for biomedical waste management. Currently, eight local bodies collect sanitary napkins, and nine collect diapers, disposing of them at Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facilities (CBWTFs). Additionally, four local bodies Varkala, Palakkad, Thrissur, and Kochi

operate their own incinerators for the disposal of sanitary waste. The KSPCB has initiated the process of preparing an Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) for shoreline clean-up in the state of Kerala.

In response to the recent shipwreck incident involving the vessel MSC Elsa 3 off the Kerala coast, the KSPCB initiated immediate measures to assess the potential environmental impacts. As part of the preliminary action, shoreline surveillance and pollution monitoring activities were undertaken by the KSPCB.

The KSPCB held awareness programmes across districts on World Environment Day 2025 with the theme “End Plastic Pollution Globally”.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in Waste Management

EPR holds producers, importers, and brand owners accountable for collecting, recycling, or

Table: 3.7.3 Registration status

Sl.no	Items	Registrations so far	
1	Plastic Waste Management	Producers registered	132
		Importers registered	217
		Brand-owners registered	35
		Plastic Waste Processors registered	36
		Total	420
2	E-waste Management	Recyclers registered	1
		Total	1
3	Battery Waste Management	Producers registered	38
		Recyclers registered	1
		Total	39
4	Waste Tyre Management	Producers registered	4
		Recyclers registered	10
		Total	14
5	Used oil management	Necessary steps have been taken, and all stakeholders have been informed to proceed with the registration.	

Source: Kerala State Pollution Control Board, GoK

safely disposing of the waste from their products, thereby improving accountability and trace ability within waste management systems. The EPR registration details are provided in **Table 3.7.3**.

Water quality enhancement- initiatives

The Akkulam Veli Sanitation Survey, conducted through SEUF in coordination with WAPCOS,

KIIFB, and other stakeholder departments, resulted in the preparation of an action plan for the rejuvenation of the drains flowing into Akkulam Veli — namely Amazhanjen Thodu, Pattom Thodu, and Ulloor Thodu.

A Pilot Sanitation Survey was also carried out in the drains leading to Ashtamudi including

Box 3.7.3 Special Initiatives

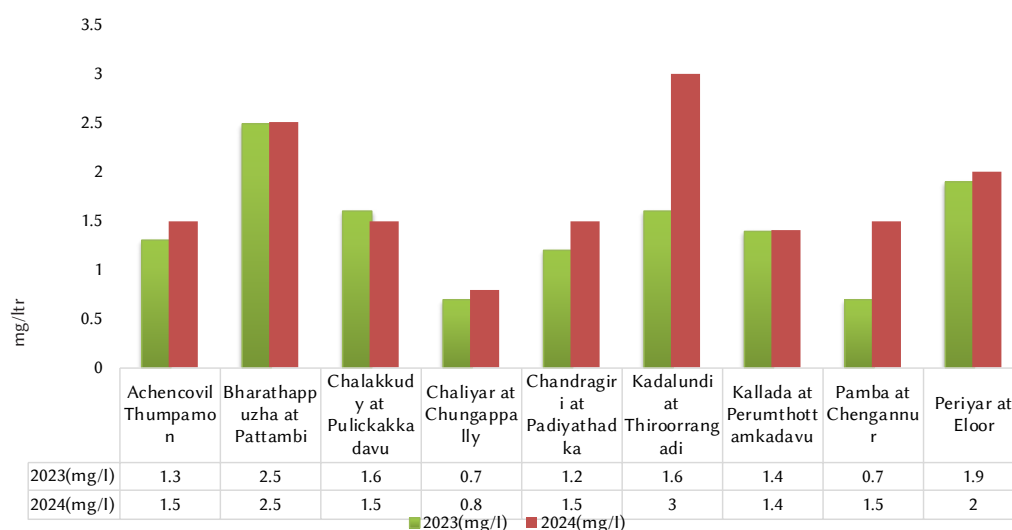
KSPCB has developed a GPS-based online vehicle tracking system to monitor the interstate movement of commercial goods vehicles carrying waste. The system is accessible through the portal etracks.kerala.gov.in and via mobile applications—Transporter App and Enforcement Authority App.

The objective is to ensure complete monitoring of the waste management process, from the waste generator to the transporter, and finally to the receiver (disposal point). This is achieved through GPS devices installed in transporting vehicles, with built-in violation detection and alert mechanisms.

For effective implementation, assistance from neighbouring State PCBs and the Motor Vehicles Department is essential. Kerala PCB has already sought cooperation from Tamil Nadu (TNPCB), Kerala State PCB (KSPCB), Andhra Pradesh SPCB, and Telangana SPCB for registering Producers/Waste Processors (PWPs) and vehicles transporting waste from Kerala. In this context, the intervention of CPCB is also requested to strengthen coordination and enforcement.

Source: Kerala State Pollution Control Board, GoK

Figure 3.7.4 BOD levels at selected river stations in 2023 and 2024



Source: Kerala State Pollution Control Board, 2025

Manichithodu, TS Canal, and Kollam Canal with active participation from engineering college students

An assessment of potential pollution sources in the lower catchment of the Periyar River is being carried out by the Centre for Disaster Studies, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. The preliminary phase of the project, a satellite survey, has been completed.

Figure 3.7.4 depicts Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels at selected river stations in Kerala. BOD is a crucial tool in monitoring and managing water quality, helping to ensure the protection of aquatic ecosystems and human health. Compared to 2023, BOD levels were high in Kadalundi, Bharathappuzha, Periyar in 2024.

Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission

The Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission, constituted in 2023, seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote cleaner technologies, strengthen resilience through effective adaptation measures to safeguard human settlements, infrastructure, and livelihoods, foster skills and reskilling for green jobs, provide climate adaptation financing, integrate climate and disaster risk considerations into development, and restore vital ecosystem services.

To support climate adaptation, a three-part Climate Change Dialogue Series was announced for 2024–25. The first dialogue was held on 28 October 2024 at the Alappuzha Coir Corporation Convention Centre, focusing on Vembanad Lake restoration in collaboration with the Alappuzha Collectorate. The aim was to prepare a climate-based restoration plan for the Vembanad Lake. The second and third dialogues were held with Mathrubhumi Daily on 6th and 7th February 2025. The outcomes of these dialogues will guide strategies to reduce climate risks and plan adaptation measures for vulnerable areas identified in the vulnerability assessment.

The International Conference on Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CARE 25) was held from 24 to 25 March 2025, in collaboration with Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), with the aim of reducing carbon emissions and establishing a unified operational

and financial framework for implementing carbon accounting and carbon grading in the state.

In conclusion, the initiatives and recommendations outlined in Kerala's 14th Five-Year Plan reflect a comprehensive and forward-looking approach to environmental and biodiversity management. Under this plan, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC) has effectively coordinated and implemented major initiatives such as the State Action Plan on Climate Change, the expansion of Bhoo Mithra Sena Clubs (BMCs), and the formulation of the draft Carbon Neutral Pathway. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board has further advanced environmental governance through enhanced monitoring systems, upgradation of laboratories to NABL standards, establishment of real-time monitoring stations, and improved waste management practices, ensuring accurate, data-driven decision-making and sustainable resource utilization. At the same time, the strengthening of Biodiversity Management Committees, promotion of habitat conservation, and increased public awareness underscore the State's enduring commitment to protecting its natural heritage. Collectively, these efforts foster community participation, livelihood enhancement, and long-term ecological resilience, positioning Kerala as a leader in integrated and sustainable environmental management.

HARITHA KERALAM MISSION

The Haritha Keralam Mission is one among the four major development initiatives spearheaded by the Government of Kerala. It was launched in 2016 and is dedicated to implementing the Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi II. The mission envisages the promotion of eco-friendly and sustainable growth across various sectors, including agriculture, water conservation, waste management, environmental preservation, and climate-resilient disaster management. The Mission's guiding motto, "Water, Cleanliness and Yield," clearly summarises its primary focus areas, in line with the overarching goal of sustainable development.

The Mission has three core sub-missions: (i) sanitation and waste management, (ii) water conservation, and (iii) agricultural development. It emphasises mobilising community involvement through coordination, convergence of various departments and agencies, and Local Self

Government Institutions (LSGIs), as well as integrating State and Union government schemes. Haritha Keralam Mission's activities are executed under the leadership of LSGIs. It serves as a coordination mechanism linking various departments and agencies with LSGIs. Major initiatives of the Haritha Keralam Mission include a campaign to clean up and rejuvenate rivers, streams and rivulets in the state, namely the "*Tni Njan Ozhukatte*" (*Let me flow now*) campaign, the Carbon Neutral project, the *Pachathuruthu* (*green islets*) afforestation programme, and watershed development. The Mission also undertakes water budgeting along with water quality testing facilities. Other notable projects include Green Campus and Green Legal Literacy, both of which contribute to Kerala's long-term sustainability agenda. Initiatives such as the Green Law awareness campaign have also enhanced public awareness and participation.

Sanitation and Waste Management

The Mission has taken significant steps in promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly waste management practices. As a result, the majority of the LSGIs in the State have attained the 'Suchitwa Padavi' status. The Haritha Karma Sena Self-Help Groups (SHGs) have played a pivotal role in collecting and segregating waste. Notably, initiatives such as the Green Law Awareness Campaign have raised public awareness on eco-friendly practices.

In its ongoing waste management efforts, the Mission, in collaboration with LSGIs, is systematically working to convert schools, colleges and office complexes across all districts in Kerala into model green institutions. The Malinya Muktham Navakeralam campaign has created momentum toward the ambitious goal of making Kerala garbage-and litter-free by streamlining waste segregation and collection. A significant infrastructure network has been established across the state. As of October 31st, 2025, a total of 1,350 Material Collection Facilities (MCFs) is operational across the state. Additionally, there are 20,051 Mini MCFs currently operational. There are 205 operational Resource Recovery Facilities (RRF). A total of 37,765 Haritha Karma Senas have been deployed in 1,034 LSGIs for doorstep collection of non-organic waste. Haritha Karmasena efficiently manages door-to-door waste collection services from households and institutions.

During the reporting period (2024-25) 1,029 LSGIs,

covering 19,356 wards, attained Green Status, indicating substantial improvements in waste management systems at the local level. Moreover, 59,942 institutions and 2,97,483 Ayalkoottangal (Neighbour Hood Groups) were certified as green, demonstrating strong community participation. The initiative also made considerable inroads in the education sector, with 14,483 schools and 1,434 colleges achieving Green Status. Additionally, 3,271 markets and public spaces were brought under the green certification framework, underscoring the State's comprehensive and multi-sectoral approach to sustainable waste management.

Under the Green Tourism initiative led by the Haritha Kerala Mission in coordination with LSGIs, 419 tourist destinations were identified for conversion into model green tourism sites, of which 355 have already been declared green. The programme integrates ecological management with local economic development by improving tourist infrastructure, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and promoting community participation.

Agriculture Development

The Haritha Keralam Mission, under the leadership of the Department of Agriculture and in collaboration with LSGIs, implemented a set of initiatives to promote agricultural development in the State. These include promoting agriculture on fallow lands, assisting LSGIs in designating Haritha Samriddhi wards, encouraging activities such as paddy farming and dry land rice cultivation, fostering organic vegetable production, promoting vegetable cultivation on school grounds and institutional premises, and advancing integrated farming practices.

Under the Agriculture Sub-Mission, significant progress has been made in agro-environmental restoration initiatives. The *Tharishu Rabitha Gramam* (fallow-free village) project, aimed at cultivating a suitable crop on all cultivable land, including fallow land, has been initiated in 164 grama panchayats. The project is taking place on an area of 18,375 acres. So far, 14 panchayats have already been declared as *Tharishu Rabitha gramam*. The *Haritha Samriddhi Ward* initiative, which promotes household-level vegetable cultivation, has been implemented in 2,422 wards as of September 2025, and 1,875 wards have achieved Haritha Samriddhi status. The *Devaharitam* project, targeting cultivation on religious premises, is active

at 126 sites, bringing 119 acres into productive use. Additionally, institutional farming has been expanded to 62 industrial establishments, covering a total of 140 acres, reflecting broader sectoral engagement in sustainable agricultural practices.

Pachathuruth project

Pachathuruth, the project to make ‘green islets’ across the State, is an innovative venture by the Haritha Keralam Mission and has been widely appreciated. The project aims to conserve and protect natural forest specimens by planting unique trees and indigenous plants at specified densities and diversities in identified patches of land in public places and the premises of public institutions. This programme has attracted public attention and support as a practical intervention to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

The conservation of existing *kavus* (sacred groves) and mangrove areas is also integrated into the programme, with provisions for eco-friendly pathways and bio-fencing. The maintenance and conservation of these sites is entrusted to local communities, whose participation in maintenance and conservation activities remains a key strength of the initiative.

Between June 2019 and September 2025, a total of 4,107 *pachathuruths* were established across the State, covering 1,291.76 acres. During 2024–25 alone, 711 sites have been established, covering a total of 317.84 acres. In 2025-26, from April to September 2025, an additional 446 *pachathuruths* were established, bringing 117.69 acres under ecological restoration.

Soil and Water Conservation

In recent years, the Haritha Keralam Mission has implemented various water conservation initiatives, including extensive river revitalisation projects across Kerala and systematic restoration and replenishment of wells and ponds. These water conservation efforts have had a marked positive impact on the agricultural sector. Key activities of the Mission in this realm include monitoring water levels in various water bodies by installing water-level gauges and establishing water quality testing laboratories to assess water standards.

Environmental restoration efforts undertaken by the Haritha Keralam Mission, in collaboration with local communities, have enabled the revival of long-abandoned agricultural lands. A notable

example is the Kattamudi Kunchipettikudi paddy field located in the forest area of Adimali Grama Panchayat in Idukki district, which was brought back under paddy cultivation after a gap of nearly four decades.

Under the Soil and Water Conservation Sub-Mission, substantial progress was made during 2024–25, continuing the momentum achieved in previous years. During 2024-25, 12,604.15 km of streams were rejuvenated, alongside the rejuvenation of 779 ponds and the construction of 927 new ponds. During the reporting period, 1,491 wells were recharged, and 2,507 new wells were constructed. Structural interventions comprised 284 permanent bunds and 18,109 temporary bunds.

In the financial year 2025-26, up to September 2025, an additional 10,677.08 km of streams and 374 ponds were rejuvenated, and 336 ponds were constructed. Further, 668 wells were recharged, and 945 wells were constructed. Bund construction during this period included 114 permanent bunds and 8,492 temporary bunds.

Water Quality Testing Labs

To ensure the purity of drinking water, water quality testing laboratories are being set up in the higher secondary schools of all LSGIs. There are now 335 laboratories testing water quality across the state. These facilities analysed 34,343 water samples during 2024–25. In 2025-26, as of September 2025, 11,219 samples were tested.

Water Budget

The Haritha Keralam Mission is pioneering the formulation of water budgets for LSGIs. The primary objective of the water budget is to ensure water security for local communities. This initiative is based on scientifically estimated regional water availability and demand data. Subsequently, it develops potential interventions by mobilising the masses on a large scale through participatory campaigns and by coordinating the LSGIs, relevant departments, and agencies, integrating Union and State government schemes.

Preparation of water budgets has been completed in 604 Local Self Governments (LSGs) to date. In 2024–25, 233 LSGs prepared their water budgets, and in 2025-26 (up to September), 165 LSGs completed the exercise. Work is currently underway in 102 more LSGs. The Mission

ultimately aims to achieve full coverage by implementing water budgeting across all LSGs in the State.

Quarry Recharging Project

The project is aimed at utilising water from the abandoned quarries. This project has been operationalised in Kareepra Gram Panchayat in Kollam district. Using solar-powered pumps, water from quarries is channelled to nearby streams. Based on its success, the Government has prioritised scaling up this model across the 286 abandoned quarries identified statewide, with the Haritha Keralam Mission shortlisting 25 sites for immediate implementation.

Other major initiatives

1. Net Zero Carbon Efforts

Under the Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi, the Haritha Keralam Mission spearheads the “Net Zero Carbon Keralam” campaign to make Kerala carbon-neutral by 2050. This initiative focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and achieving a carbon balance. Various departments and agencies such as ANERT, World Research Institute (WRI), and GIDA are involved in Net Zero Carbon Efforts. To realise the Net Zero Carbon Kerala project through community engagement, various energy conservation projects are planned in collaboration with the Energy Management Centre.

The Net Zero Carbon Keralam Janangalilood (Net Zero Carbon Keralam through the people) campaign is currently progressing in 150 panchayats and two municipalities. The activities of this campaign include the *Angan Jyoti* scheme, which aims to bring energy self-sufficiency and enhance energy efficiency in Anganwadis. Additionally, the campaign involves conducting energy audits in homes and government institutions, providing technical support for electric vehicles purchased, and offering training programmes for students, teachers, and volunteers. *Angan Jyoti* is set to be implemented in 2,211 Anganwadis across 85 different LSGs. These selected Anganwadis will receive electric induction cookers, related cookware, LED bulbs, BLDC fans, and electric vehicle charging systems from the Energy Management Center (EMC),

Additionally, carbon emission surveys have been

conducted in 54 institutions across 14 districts using the Digital University’s mobile app. At present, 11 institutions have achieved carbon-negative status. The Net Zero Carbon Keralam Janangalilood campaign is the first of its kind in the country, aiming to achieve the set goal of a net-zero carbon status by 2050.

2. Safeguarding the Western Ghats

As the second phase of the *Ini Jan Ozhukatte* campaign, the Haritha Kerala Mission has launched the ‘Surakshithamakaam Paschima Ghatam’ (Let us safeguard the Western Ghats) campaign, with the aim of reducing the risk of soil erosion and landslides in the Western Ghats region by revitalising the watercourses. The initial phase involves the scientific mapping of watersheds, a process known as “Mapathon”. Mapathon activities have been completed in 230 Grama Panchayats, covering the entire target. The second phase of activities to reduce landslides has been initiated in 158 Panchayats covering nine districts.

3. Green Tourism

In a major initiative that would transform Kerala’s tourism landscape, the Mission undertook the implementation of green protocols, specifically a code of conduct, which has become essential in popular tourist destinations. Accordingly, tourist centres and access routes must adhere to the green code of conduct. In collaboration with the Haritha Keralam Mission and relevant LSGs, efforts are underway to transform selected tourist destinations in Kerala into model green tourism destinations, focusing on environmental sustainability.

Through diverse and innovative projects, activities, and campaigns carried out under these three sub-missions, Haritha Keralam Mission has been able to bring about positive and sustainable changes in agriculture and allied sectors, sanitation and waste management, and water conservation. It has successfully raised public awareness of the need to conserve our environment and natural resources through pragmatic methods, involving the participation of the people in collaboration with local self-governments, as well as other development departments and institutions. More importantly, the mission has been able to harness the activities of various agencies working in these sectors, setting a model of integrated development efforts for achieving greater goals.

3.8 FOOD SECURITY AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The main objective of the Sustainable Development Goal 2—Zero Hunger is to eliminate hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition by 2030. It aims to ensure all people, especially the poor and vulnerable, have access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round. Hunger affected 673 million people worldwide in 2024, a decrease of about 15 million from the previous year and 22 million compared to 2022. Around 2.3 billion people in the world (28.0 per cent) were moderately or severely food insecure in 2024. In almost every region of the world, food insecurity is more severe in rural areas than in urban areas and affects more women than men.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2024, globally 23.2 per cent and 6.6 per cent of the children are facing the problems of child stunting and child wasting, respectively. Globally 30.7 per cent of the women aged 15 to 49 faces the problems of anaemia. 6.7 per cent (323 million people) in Asia are facing the problem of prevalence of undernourishment.

The 2025 Global Hunger Index (GHI) report ranks 123 countries based on their hunger levels. India ranks 102nd out of 123 countries in the 2025 Global Hunger Index, with a score of 25.8, classified as “serious. This ranking indicates that India still faces significant hunger and malnutrition challenges. Some key indices that determine India’s ranking are Child Wasting Rate (18.7 per cent), Child Stunting Rate (32.9 per cent), Prevalence of

Undernourishment (12.0 per cent), and Under-Five Mortality Rate (2.8 per cent).

In India the Public Distribution System was started as a system to manage the supply of food grain in open market and distribute the food grains to the weaker section of the society at affordable prices. In pursuance of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 by the Government of India, the Public Distribution System formally came into existence on July 1, 1965. In 1997, the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) was introduced in order to provide food grains to the poorest sections of the society. TDPS coverage was estimated on the basis of two categories BPL and APL. In India TDPS is operating as per the provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013. It aims to ensure food and nutritional security in a human life cycle approach by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices for people to live a life with dignity. The Public Distribution System in India is the joint responsibility of the Union Government and the State Governments. The Union Government, through the Food Corporation of India (FCI), procures, stores, transports, and allocates food grains to the State Governments. The State Governments identify eligible families, issue ration cards, operate a chain of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) owned by private vendors, allocate food grains, manage, supervise, and operationalise the PDS system within their territory.

The Public Distribution System in the State

Kerala has one of the most effective and best-run public distribution systems in India and has marked pioneering achievements in implementing the Universal Rationing System. Prior to 1997, the year of introduction of Targeted Public Distribution system, Kerala was the only State in India that had an almost universal coverage of Public Distribution System. The origins of the public distribution of food grains in Kerala can be traced back to the period of the Second World War. Later, the State government introduced its own system of distribution of rice at subsidy rates to the lower-income groups in 1957. The State introduced the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in 1997, based on policy changes made by the Government of India. The Department of Food and Civil Supplies discharges the important responsibilities of ensuring the availability of essential commodities through the network of PDS outlets, enforcing market discipline, promoting consumer awareness, and protecting their interests. The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (Supply Co) takes charge of transferring the food grains from Food Corporation of India godowns and Custom Milled Rice (CMR) mills and delivering them to FPS. They also own and manage intermediary godowns for food grains across the State.

The coverage of PDS under NFSA was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data of 2011-12. Corresponding to the all-India coverage of 75 per cent and 50 per cent in the rural and urban areas, the coverage in Kerala is limited to 52.63 per cent in rural area and 39.50 per cent in urban area. Accordingly, 1,54,80,040 people are eligible for the PDS in Kerala.

It is worth noting that Kerala went beyond the restrictive coverage of the NFSA, which was a departure from the use of Below Poverty Line and Above Poverty Line classification and universal coverage. Kerala introduced “priority” and “non-priority” ration cards to ensure extended coverage under the PDS.

Kerala has implemented various food security programs to ensure access to nutritious food, particularly for vulnerable populations. These include 1) Public Distribution System (PDS); subsidised food grains, sugar, and kerosene, 2)

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY): highly subsidised food grains for the poorest households, 3) Annapurna Scheme: free food grains for senior citizens (65+ years), 4) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY): additional free food grains during COVID-19 pandemic, and 5) National Food Security Act (NFSA): legal entitlement to subsidised food grains.

Distribution of Ration Cards

The State Government is responsible for identifying households eligible for food subsidies under the TPDS. Eligible households are issued ration cards, which serve as official documents to access essential commodities from Fair Price Shops under the TPDS.

In accordance with the provisions of the National Food Security Act (NFSA), eligible households are categorised into two:

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) (Yellow Card): This category is designed for the poorest of the poor, aiming to provide food security to the most vulnerable sections of society.

Priority Households (PHH) (Pink Card): This group includes other eligible households that do not fall under the AAY category.

In addition to these NFSA-mandated categories, the State also recognises two types of ration cards: Non-Priority Subsidy (NPS) (Blue Card): Households that are not covered under NFSA but are eligible for certain subsidies.

Non-Priority Non-Subsidy (NPNS) (White Card): Households that are neither eligible under NFSA nor entitled to subsidies but are issued ration cards.

Non Priority Institution (NPI) (Brown Card): This group includes Institutions such as destitute homes are eligible for 2 Kg of rice at the rate of rupees 10.90/kg. As of March 31, 2025, the State has a total of 94,92,479 valid ration cards.

The Government of Kerala took professional measures to identify eligible households, including the use of a highly effective “mark based” system. Families without a stable income are identified as Antyodaya families and issued AAY cards. There are 5.92 lakh AAY cards in the State as of March, 2025. Each AAY cardholder family is eligible for 30 kg of rice and 5 kg of wheat and 1 kg of sugar per month. Previously, the Government of India supplied food grains to State at a subsidised rate of Rs 3 per kg for rice and Rs 2 per kg for wheat. The State Government further subsidised these costs, providing the food grains free of cost

Table 3.8.1. Entitlement of food grains to card holders in kerala

Card Type	Card Colour	Item Entitlement	Issue Price
AAY	Yellow	Rice (30 kg per card)	Free of Cost
		Wheat (2 kg per card)	
		Atta (3 kg per card)	Rs 7.00 per packet
		Sugar (1 kg per card)	Rs 27.00 per kg
		Rice (4 kg per member)	Free of Cost
PHH	Pink	Wheat (1 kg per member)	
		Atta (Maximum 4 Kg per card (except for single, double & triple member card) after reducing the same amount from the total entitled qty of Wheat to the card)	Rs 9.00 per packet
NPS	Blue	Rice (2 kg per member)	Rs 4.00 per kg
		Special Rice (5 kg per card)	Rs 10.90 per kg
NPNS	White	Rice (10 kg per card)	Rs 10.90 per kg
NPI	Brown	Rice (2 kg per card)	Rs 10.90 per kg

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

to beneficiaries. Since 2023, the Government of India has been supplying food grains free of cost to AAY card holders.

Families identified as priority households, but not covered under the AAY scheme, are issued PHH cards. There are 36.31 lakh PHH cards in the State. Each PHH cardholder family is eligible for 5 kg of food grains per month.

The Government of India supply rice at an amount of Rs 8.30 per kg for non-priority cardholders (NPS and NPNS). However, the Government of Kerala provides rice to NPS cardholders at a subsidised rate of Rs 4 per kg. Entitlement of

food grains to card holders in kerala is given in **Table 3.8.1.**

Distribution of ration card to the people come under the category of extreme poor: In line with State's poverty eradication initiatives, ration cards were issued to families identified as extreme -poor by Local Self Government Department. Out of 7316 identified families, 5132 were issued new ration card of which 3940 were classified under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY category).

In addition to the four cards, the Department also issues Non-Priority Institution (NPI) cards for institutions such as destitute homes, and

Table 3.8.2 Category-wise card holders in Kerala as on March, 2025

SI No	Scheme/Item	Number of card holders	per cent
1	ANNAPOORNA	44	0.0005
2	AAY	592233	6.24
3	PHH	3631769	38.26
4	NPS	2230867	23.50
5	NPNS	3008702	31.70
6	NPI	28864	0.30
TOTAL		9492479	100.00

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

Table 3.8.3. Subsidy spent by Government of Kerala for various categories of card holder Rs.in lakhs

SI No	Category	Grains Distribution in MT		Subsidy amount spent by Government of Kerala (Rs in lakh)	
		2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
1	Antyodaya Anna yojana (AAY)	219770.02	241204.58	-	-
2	Priority (PHH)	723107.92	752918.04	-	-
3	Non-priority (NP)	399530.4	375025.37	9846.05	11140.48
Total		1342408.34	1369147.99	9846.05	11140.48

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

28864 NPI cards have been distributed to welfare institutions as on 31st march 2025. There were 11 and 2430 new ration cards issued to transgenders and street dwellers respectively in 2024-25. Priority cards, both AAY and PHH cards together constitute 44.5 per cent of the total cards in the State. The category-wise number and share of cardholders in Kerala, as on March, 2025 is detailed in **Table 3.8.2**.

Distribution of food grains through PDS Supplies

Under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 the licensed Fair Price Shops (FPSs) distribute grains and other essential commodities to the ration card holders in accordance with the Targeted Public Distribution System. As on October 2025, there are 13858 Fair Price Shops in the State. The total food grain distribution through PDS in the State in 2024-25 is 13,69,148 MT, including 241204.58 MT of grains to AAY card holders, 752918.04 MT of grains to PHH card holders, 37025.376 MT to non-priority card holders. An amount of Rs 11140.48 lakh was spent on non-priority card holders as subsidy in 2024-25. The category-wise card holders and subsidy amount spent by the Government of Kerala for the distribution of food grains are given in **Table 3.8.3** and further details are in **Appendix 3.8.1**.

The Annapoorna scheme provides 10 kg of food grains per month, free of cost, to destitute individuals above the age of 65 years who lack sufficient means of subsistence. There are 44 card holders under Annapoorna scheme.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families are entitled to get sugar at subsidised rate and kerosene at non-subsidised rate through PDS. The State Government is incurring the differential cost and the implementation cost for the supply from the Government of India.

In addition to the supply of grains, the Government of India has permitted converting a specified amount of wheat supply to atta for the Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders and distributing through FPS since 2006. This was extended to AAY and PHH cards in 2020. The details of the distribution of rice, wheat, kerosene and sugar through the PDS in the State from 2015-16 to August, 2025 is given in **Appendix 3.8.2**.

The allocation of food grains is highest in Thiruvananthapuram and lowest in Pathanamthitta. The State average off-take of food grains from FPS is 100.23 per cent, varying between 95 and 104 per cent across districts. The opening balances are also accounted for in the off-take figures. The District-wise distribution of food grains under the AAY scheme is given in **Appendix 3.8.3** and **Appendix 3.8.4**. The District-wise food grain distribution under PDS among PHH in Kerala is given in **Appendix 3.8.5** and **Appendix 3.8.6**.

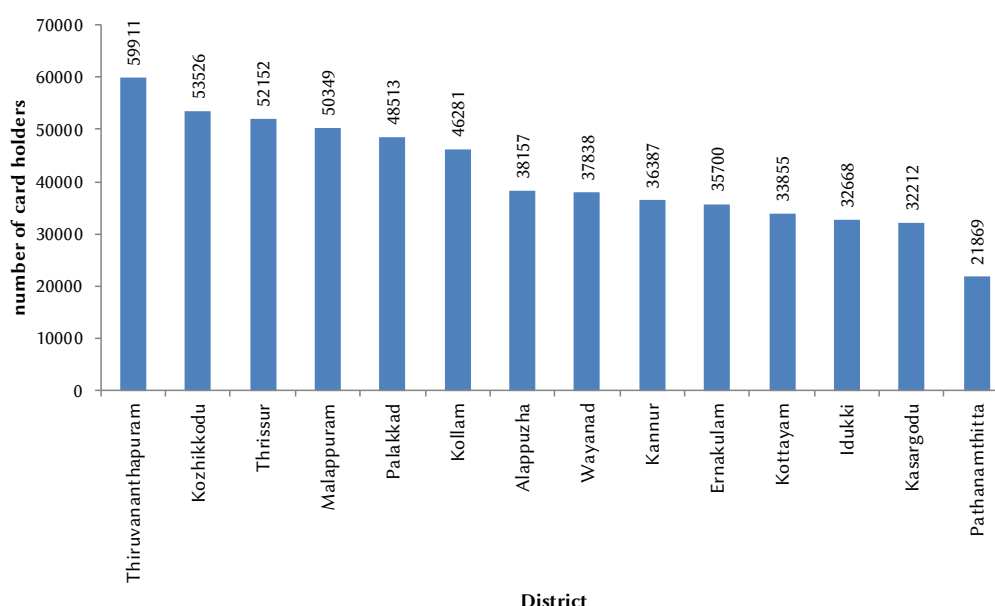
The Government of Kerala distributed Onam food kits through Fair Price Shops to AAY card holders in 2024. 1207 Onam food kits and free rations for 1260 families were distributed to the land slide affected area of Wayanad district in 2024-25.

Figure 3.8.1 shows the District-wise distribution of Onam food kits among AAY cardholders in 2025. Onam food kits with 13 essential items including pulses, tea, curry powders, salt, cashew nut, ghee, semiya payasam mix, edible oil have been distributed to AAY card holders. The details of the District-wise distribution of Onam food kits in 2025 are given in **Appendix 3.8.7**.

Price Stabilisation and State Intervention in the Retail Market

The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation, also known as Supplyco, has been effectively involved

Figure 3.8.1. District wise distribution of Onam Food Kits among AAY beneficiaries in 2025, in numbers



Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

in stabilising the price of essential commodities. Supplyco sells 13 essential items including pulses, grains, rice, atta, and sugar, which are sold at a price that is 30 per cent lower than in the open market. Supplyco is engaged in the retailing of more than 6,000 fast-moving consumer goods items at an average price that is 20 per cent lower than in the open market. Supplyco markets its own branded products under the name “Sabari” which includes curry powder, coconut oil, tea, and coffee. It also operates 87 medical stores and 5 wholesale divisions, offering medicines at an average discount of 15 per cent. Additionally, Supplyco organises special fairs during festival seasons to cater to increased consumer demand. It is also a dealer of petroleum products, including kerosene, petrol, diesel, and LPG, through 13 petrol bunks, 3 LPG outlets, and 1 kerosene depot. Supplyco owns 793 maveli stores, 549 supermarkets, 87 medical stores etc.

During the Onam 2025 season, the Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (Supplyco) executed one of its most impactful market intervention operations in recent years. Faced with severe shortages and steep price hikes in essential commodities, particularly coconut oil, which had crossed Rs 500 per litre in the open market, Supply Co effectively intervened market through distribution of its own brand Sabari coconut oil at significantly reduced prices ranging from Rs

329 to Rs 457 per litre. Onam Gift Kit and Gift card was introduced during Onam season. Details of the operational outlets of Supply Co are given in **Appendix 3.8.8**.

Success Trails of Public Distribution System in Kerala

Process Upgradation and Improvements in Service Delivery: The State Government succeeded in modernising and digitising service delivery of PDS, including the renovation and automation of ration shops in a unified pattern, the implementation of the E-Ration Card Project, the issuance of ATM-sized ration cards, and the introduction of the One Nation One Ration Card for easy accessibility of ration from anywhere. E-PoS machines, 14335 in number, were installed in all fair price shops in the State and enforcement mechanisms have been strengthened to ensure the supply of food grains in the right quantity. The entitlement to rations for each card in each month is communicated to them through SMS.

Mobile Ration Shop/Any time anywhere ration shop: Mobile ration shop is a scheme initiated to deliver ration items to the tribal families living in isolated tribal areas directly to their residences. Hence, the tribals living in isolated areas can avoid the hassle of traveling for kilometres through difficult roads to reach the ration shops to buy ration and ensure that they get their rightful

ration share and thereby protecting them from exploitation and intermediaries. “Mobile ration shops” operates in 10 districts covering 21 taluks and serves 142 tribal settlements through 64 mobile ration outlets in the State as of 2025.

FPS mobile app has been introduced in the State, which is the first of its kind in the country and makes all inspections speedy and transparent in nature. The inspection information of each shop is available to the superior officer in real time. Through this, immediate action can be taken by the higher officials against those who illegally store food grains, hoard, or sell in the market.

Milestones in Implementation of NFSA

The NFSA Act 2013 entitles 75 per cent of rural and 50 per cent of urban populations to receive subsidised food grains. As per the norm the coverage in Kerala is limited to 52.6 per cent in rural area and 39.5 per cent in urban area. But the Government of Kerala has achieved universal coverage for ration supply, even for families beyond the scope of National Food Security Act (NFSA). In pursuance of the National Food Security Act 2013, Government of Kerala decided to implement NFSA in the State with effect from November 1, 2016 and Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (Supplyco) is entrusted with the task of door step delivery of PDS articles. Keeping in line with the NFSA, the Government of Kerala took measures to identify eligible households. As mandated in the NFSA, “priority” and “non-priority” ration cards have replaced the BPL and APL cards respectively. A State-wise ranking of the beneficiaries was also conducted.

Ration is being delivered at the doorsteps of remote tribal hamlets, and places of natural calamities. The eldest women in the household is designated as the head for the ration purpose. Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children (6 to 14 years) are entitled to special nutritional assistance. There is also an efficient grievance redressal mechanism in the State and the State Food Commission, as per the provisions of the Act. The NFSA was effectively implemented in the State by setting up end-to-end computerisation, a grievance redressal portal, supply chain management from the Food Corporation of India to the authorised ration dealers level, GPS tracking of vehicles carrying food grains, CCTV installation for efficient and transparent service delivery, quality infrastructure and connectivity,

social auditing of Fair Price Shops, Information, Education and Communication activities, and setting up intermediary godowns. In line with other government departments, the Civil Supplies department also shifted to the e-Office file system, which expedites file movement and helps in speedy settlement of cases.

The NFSA Act 2013 envisages the Fair Price Shops as the final public interface unit of the public distribution chain. The transparency and social benefit of the entire system depends on the quality of their service. Therefore, the act advocates for far-reaching progressive reforms in the existing Public Distribution System by giving preference to public institutions or public bodies such as Panchayats in opening FPSs by self-help groups and co-operatives, especially those run by women and women collectives.

Hunger Free Kerala Scheme: Hunger Free Kerala is a scheme introduced in the period of the 13th Five Year Plan to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 of Zero Hunger. The main objective of the scheme is to eliminate hunger from our State. As part of the hunger-free Kerala scheme, Subhiksha Hotels were introduced which provide affordable meals at Rs 30 per meal. Other food items are also sold at subsidised rates in these hotels. Government of Kerala allot 600 kg of rice @ of Rs. 10.90 per kg per month for a hotel as subsidy for the scheme. 47 Subhiksha hotels are currently functioning in the State. Government of Kerala intends to start Subhiksha hotels in more places. More than 3.5 lakh people benefit from Subhiksha hotels every month.

K-Store: In order to strengthen Public Distribution System and to provide more public utility services through Fair Price Shops, Government has implemented the project K-store. It was started on 14th May 2023. As on August 2025 there are 2142 K- stores are functioning in the State.

It provide diversified services such as CSC services, Sabari products of Supply Co, Milma products, Chottu gas 5 kg of Indian oil corporation and daily consumable goods manufactured processed by small scale industrial units (MSME).

Project OPPAM - Ration articles are delivered to the doorsteps of families with bedridden patients and old age members with the unpaid voluntary help of auto rickshaw drivers. The auto rickshaw drivers will deliver their ration items to

their homes free of charge before the 10th of every month. The Oppam project was started in Thrissur on February 13, 2023 has implemented in all the districts of the State. Oppam project was expanded as a state wide programme to ensure door step delivery of ration commodities to elderly, bedridden and destitute families who are unable to visit ration shops. Currently, 682 beneficiaries are receiving ration items at their homes under the Oppom Project. District -wise details of beneficiaries of Oppom Project is given in **Table 3.8.4**.

Table 3.8.4 District-wise details of beneficiaries of Oppom Project.

SI No	District	No. of families
1	Thiruvananthapuram	12
2	Kollam	90
3	Pathanamthitta	4
4	Alappuzha	7
5	Kottayam	1
6	Idukki	21
7	Ernakulam	16
8	Trissur	379
9	Palakkad	54
10	Malappuram	48
11	Kozhikkode	5
12	Wayanad	14
13	Kannur	15
14	Kasaragod	16
Total		682

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

Redressal Commissions One State-level Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission and 14 District level Consumer Redressal Commission are functioning meticulously to ensure speedy, low-cost redressal of consumer grievances as envisaged under the Consumer Protection Act.

Smart PDS is a scheme aims to sustain technology driven reforms introduced through end-to-end computerisation in the Public Distribution System (PDS) across all State/UTs. It enhance the existing IMPDS System, introduce new reforms in the functioning of the PDS in the future and strengthen national portability under the One

Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) System. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government of India and Government of Kerala regarding the implementation of the Smart PDS project was signed in May 2024.

Thelima Project is conducted from 15th November to 15th December of every year to give the opportunity to the ration card holders to correct the mistakes made while making the data entry by RCMS in connection with the renewal of the ration card. The complaints include details of unauthorized holders of priority cards, objections regarding the quality of food grains, the conduct of licensees/salesmen, and comments and suggestions regarding the management of ration depots. Public opinion is also taken to make ration distribution more efficient as a consumer. 1039 applications were received under Thelima project in 2024.

Operation Yellow is a screening program, to find out the ineligible in the priority category and transfer the cards to the general category with the help of the public and to include the eligible families in the priority category. As per the NFSA 2013, 1,54,80,040 people are eligible for the priority card in Kerala. To ensure that the beneficiaries are properly identified, the government called for a voluntary surrender of priority cards from ineligible people. As part of Operation Yellow, the public is given an opportunity to call the department's 24x7 mobile number (9188527301) and toll-free number (1967) to report the details of ineligible priority card holders. Complaints received in this way are conveyed to the District/Taluk/City Rationing Officers concerned. Within 48 hours of receipt of complaints, steps are being taken to collect fines from those holding priority cards ineligibly and transfer these as the general category cards. Complaints are received directly at Taluk Supply Offices/City Rationing Offices are also considered.

Sujalam Project - "Hilly Aqua Drinking Water" is a product of KIIDC, Kerala Water Resource Department. Hilly Aqua Drinking water bottles are available with 500 ml, one litre, and 20 litres. The distribution of Hilly Aqua Drinking water through Fair Price Shops is known as the Sujalam project. The cost of one litre bottle is Rs 10. The Sujalam project was extended to other district except Kozhikkode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod. Through the implementation of the

Sujalam Project, sales revenue of Rs.1,10,05,180 was generated in 2025. The details of sales revenue from Sujalam project is given in **Table 3.8.5**.

Table 3.8.5 Sales revenue (Rs) from Sujalam project in 2025.

Sl No	District	Sales revenue
1	Thiruvananthapuram	6267372
2	Kollam	288780
3	Pathanamthitta	291899
4	Alappuzha	182764
5	Kottayam	490319
6	Idukki	2113810
7	Ernakulam	1060884
8	Trissur	148112
9	Palakkad	126240
10	Malappuram	35000
Total		11005180

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

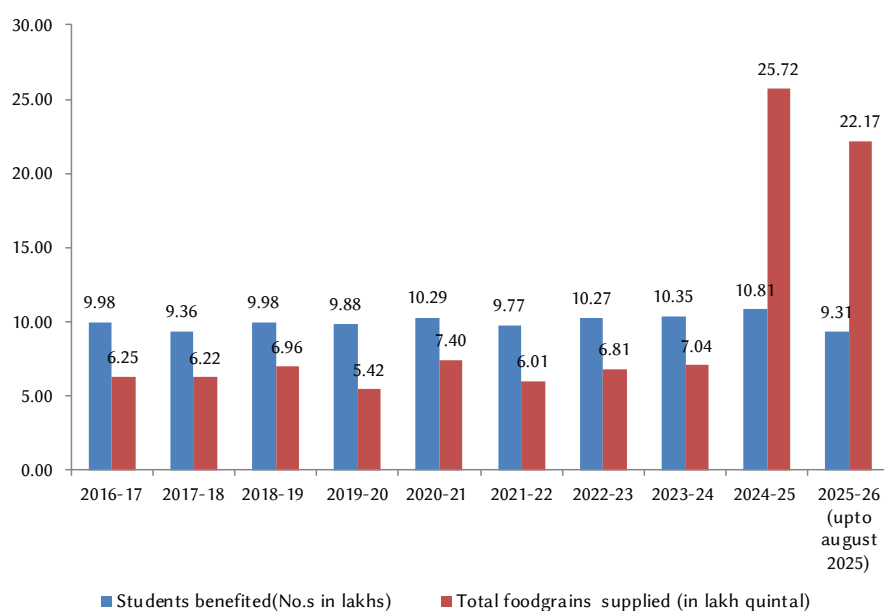
PM Poshan (Mid-Day Meal Programme) – Kerala is a pioneer having launched the Mid-day Meal Scheme in 1984 well before it was introduced by the Central Government. The Mid-day Meal programme in schools has been implemented in the State as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 1995. Supply Co is entrusted with the responsibility

of providing commodities to the Mid-Day Meal programme in the State. In 2024-25, the FCI supplied 25.72 lakh quintals of rice, benefiting 10.81 lakh students, as against 7.04 lakh quintals of rice and 10.35 lakh students in 2023-24. In 2025-26 (as of August 2025), 22.17 lakh quintals of rice were supplied to 12,327 schools. The details of the supply of food grains for the Mid-Day Meal Programme from 2016-17 to 2025-26 (as on 31.8.2025) are given in **Appendix 3.8.9**. The details of food grains supplied and the students benefited from Mid-day Meal Programme is detailed in **Figure 3.8.2**.

Centre for Price Research Kerala was established by Government of Kerala in 2022. The main objective of the Centre is to monitor the fluctuation in the prices of 13 essential commodities in the State of Kerala and at the source of production. Its key functions include: Monitoring prices at the state level to ensure effective oversight of essential commodities, Assisting the government in formulating policies to regulate and control prices, Providing recommendations to the government and relevant agencies to establish rules and measures for controlling market prices, thereby safeguarding consumers' rights.

The Weekly Price Analysis Report has been published since January 2023 onwards, incorporating the wholesale and retail prices

Figure 3.8.2 Mid-day Meal Programme 2016-17 to 2025-26



Source: Supply Co, Government of Kerala

of 15 essential commodities across more than 70 markets in the state. These prices are being collected from the market by the data entry operators and analysed by the Centre. The report consists of price variation analysis, weekly forecasts of commodities, and a comparative price trend analysis.

Price Monitoring Cell: The Price Monitoring Cell was constituted by the Union Government for monitoring the fluctuation in the prices of essential commodities. It was set up in the Civil Supplies Department in 2017. The activities of the cell include monitoring retail and wholesale prices and spot and future prices of twenty-two essential commodities on a daily basis.

Council for Food Research and Development (CFRD): The Council for Food Research and Development (CFRD) was formed in 2005 with its headquarters at Konni to uphold the uniqueness of Kerala food items and to ensure the quality of these food items to compete in the international market. The Food Quality Monitoring Laboratory (FQML), Food Processing Training Centre (FPTC) and College of Indigeneous Food Technology (CFT-K) have been established and steps are being taken to set up a cold storage /Dehydration Unit for Fruits and Vegetables, schools of Food Business Management.

Paddy procurement – Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (Supply Co.) is the implementing agency for paddy procurement, processing, and distribution on behalf of the State. Supply Co procures paddy from registered farmers and the price is transferred to their bank accounts. The agency then converts the paddy into rice, which is distributed through the State's PDS. The paddy procured within the State is deducted from State's share of food grain stock given from Food Corporation of India to the PDS in the State.

The procurement price of paddy, declared by the State Government, includes the Minimum Support Price (MSP) set by the Central Government based on recommendations from the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, along with an additional State Incentive Bonus (SIB) provided by the State Government.

The department procures paddy from the registered farmers. The Central Government transfers the MSP amount only after paddy is distributed as rice through the PDS. To protect

the farmers from this delay, the department issues Paddy Receipt Sheets (PRS) to the farmers at the time of procurement, which can be used to avail loans from banks. The State government repays this loan with interests when the Government of India provides the MSP amount.

The Government of Kerala is in the process of updating the paddy procurement system, by transitioning to a two-tier cooperative model and specific financial allocations to ensure farmers receive their payments immediately.

Supply Co has signed contracts with 57 Modern Rice Mills to procure paddy. The procurement rate is Rs 28.20 per kg in 2024-25, of which Rs 23.00 is the MSP and Rs 5.20 is State Incentive Bonus. Supply Co procured 5.93 lakh MT of paddy in 2024-25 and 3.00 lakh MT of paddy in 2025-26 up to July 2025 and its cost was settled through consortium Loan and PRS loan scheme. An amount of 1667.39 crore was settled through PRS loan by the Supply Co in 2024-25 for the Paddy procurement. As on 06.11.2025, the procurement rate of paddy is enhanced to Rs 30.00 per kg of which Rs 23.69 is the MSP and Rs 6.31 is the State incentive bonus.

Assistance to State Agencies for Intra-state Movement and handling of food grains, and FPS Dealer's Margin under National Food Security Act 2013.

As per the National Food Security Act, 2013, the Government of Kerala, receives food grains from FCI godowns and paddy processing mills and stores them in NFSA intermediary godowns. These food grains are delivered to the Fair Price Shops and distributed to eligible beneficiaries.

The Central Government provides 50 per cent of the financial assistance for the intra-State movement and handling of food grains and FPS dealer's margin under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The Central Government provides only for the expense of priority card holders.

The cost of distributing one quintal of food grains to priority card holders fixed by the Central Government is Rs 65. Fifty per cent of this cost, Rs 32.50, is funded by the Central Government. However, the average cost of distributing one quintal of food grains at door-to-doorstep delivery

Table 3.8.6 Transportation handling costs of door step delivery of food grains in 2024-25. Rs in crore

Year	Amount spent by the State Government	Central Assistance	Total amount expended in the State
2024-25	223.6	32.08	255.68

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

Table 3.8.7 Commission for ration shop dealers in 2024-25 Rs in crore

Year	Amount spent by the State Government	Central Assistance	Total amount expended in the State
2024-25	260.8	52.81	313.6

Source: Civil Supplies Department, Government of Kerala

is Rs 185 in Kerala. This includes vehicle rental, loading and unloading charges, godown rent, employee salaries, and other related expenses. It includes the expense of distribution of food grains to priority and non-priority card holders. The remaining amount of Rs 152.50 is funded by the State Government. The State government spends a monthly average of Rs 21 crore through Supply Co. for the monthly doorstep delivery of food grains to FPSs. The details of transportation handling costs of door step delivery of food grains in 2024-25 is given in **Table 3.8.6**.

Food grains are distributed to the beneficiaries through the authorised ration shop dealers. The commission amount for ration shop dealers is calculated according to the quantity of food grains distributed through each ration shop.

The Central Government provides 50 per cent of the FPS Dealer's Margin. The cost of distributing one quintal of food grains fixed by the Central Government is Rs 107 (FPS Dealer's basic Margin of Rs 90 and FPS Dealer's Additional Margin of Rs 17). The Central Government provides only for the expense of priority card holders.

However, the average cost of distributing one quintal of food grains for the doorstep delivery is Rs 320 in Kerala. It includes the expense of distribution of food grains to priority and non-priority card holders. The Central Government provides Rs 53.50. The remaining Rs 266.50 is funded by the State Government. The Government of Kerala spends around Rs 34 crore per month for the ration shop dealers as commission. The details of commission for ration shop dealers for the year 2024-25 is given in **Table 3.8.7**.

Modernisation of Supplyco: As part of modernisation 12 Supermarkets and 3 Maveli stores outlets are upgraded in 2024-25. For conducting physical analysis of food grains, food testing laboratory facility is available in the State. Construction of two godowns, one each at Thiruvananthapuram (Valiyathura) and Kollam (near the railway station) has been completed.

Way forward

Food is the most important of all basic needs of a human being. Production demand gap of the food grains in the State is major concern. Since a significant segment of the population depend on the Public Distribution System, an effective food grain delivery mechanism through market intervention is essential. Technical advanced with professional management is the need of the hour to strengthen Public Distribution System in Kerala.

CHAPTER

04

MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MANUFACTURING SECTOR

4.1 KERALA'S INDUSTRIALISATION

The present Government of Kerala has achieved significant progress in revitalising and transforming the State's industrial sector. The growth of a large number of MSMEs and modern industries, expansion of industrial infrastructure, higher value addition, improved performance of public sector undertakings, increased major investments, and modernisation of traditional industries reflect this progress. Proactive government intervention has changed the earlier perception of Kerala as an unfriendly destination for industrial investment. The industrial sector in the State is now marked by positive business sentiment, high investor confidence, and strong entrepreneurial activity. Kerala has adopted strategies based on a clear understanding of its industrial environment to utilise its strengths and realise its potential.

The secondary sector includes manufacturing, electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services, and construction. The share of the secondary sector in India's total Gross Value Added at basic prices in 2011–12 was about 28.6 per cent in 2024–25, according to provisional estimates of national income by the Central Statistics Office. The growth rate of the secondary sector declined from 11.4 per cent in 2023–24 to 6.1 per cent in 2024–25.

The secondary or industrial sector holds a prominent position in Kerala economy, accounting for 28.5 per cent of GSVA (at constant prices) in 2024-25 (QE). Construction and Manufacturing contribute about 14.1 per cent and 13.0 per cent respectively in the total GSVA of the state in 2024-

25 (QE). Over the 4 year period from 2021-22 to 2024-25, the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) of Manufacturing (in constant prices) has increased from Rs 61,948 crore to Rs 79,204 crore. This shows a real growth of about 28 per cent over the period. Annual growth rate of Manufacturing increased from 3.10 per cent in 22-23 to 15.33 per cent in 2023-24(P). However, it was 7.53 per cent in 2024-25 (QE). This has to be viewed in the context of a general decrease in the share of secondary and primary sectors in almost all economies world over. Kerala's emphasis on 'Enterprise led development' has meant significant increase in trade and service activities which are reflected in the tertiary sector and not in the secondary sector. As a result, the current system of capturing value added does not portray a true picture of Kerala's achievements in this regard. As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24, about 9.9 per cent of total workers of the State were engaged in the manufacturing activities.

Stable Policy support, streamlined regulatory environment, co-ordinated efforts for investment facilitation and industrial promotion, specialised programmes for MSMEs, implementation of master plan and turnaround strategy for PSUs, expansion of industrial infrastructure through the industrial parks, enhanced credit support (through schemes, KSIDC, KFC, and commercial banks), efficient governance mechanism, and participative nature of programme implementation are significant factors that have contributed to the new growth story in Kerala. The micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) are the key drivers

of economic growth in Kerala. The Government of Kerala had launched ‘Year of Enterprises 1.0’ in 2022-23 to boost MSMEs development. Subsequently, ‘Year of Enterprises 2.0’ (2023-24) and ‘Year of Enterprises 3.0’ (2024-25, 2025-26) have been rolled out. While the initial emphasis was on starting new units, subsequent years have also focused on sustainability and scaling up of units. Under the campaign more than 3.5 lakh units have been established in Kerala up to March 2025. It has led to investment of more than Rs 22,600 crore and created employment opportunities for around 7.5 lakh people.

The success of the State Government lies in designing policies and implementing schemes that address the general requirements like capital assistance, interest subsidy, rent waiver, support for acquiring land, infrastructure development, entrepreneurial development, marketing assistance, technology support, insurance support and capacity building. The Government has also designed unique interventions addressing the specific requirements of the State. Kerala launched “Mission 1,000,” for scaling up 1000 MSMEs into ventures with an average turnover of Rs. 100 crores in four years. The Kerala Brand (Made in Kerala) programme was started to create a strong and attractive image of Kerala’s products and services in the global market. The One Local Body One Product (OLOP) is another innovative scheme, under which 456 local bodies have identified unique products for specialisation. MSME Clinics have been constituted in all 14 District Industries Centers to aid the MSMEs in licensing, marketing, financing, exporting, banking, GST, and technology. Emergence of Private Industrial Estates is a new development in manufacturing sector in Kerala under which developer permit has been issued to 38 Private Industrial Estates. Approval is issued to develop 10 campus industrial parks. The Samrambhaka Sabha is an initiative of Government to actively involve the local bodies in development of industries in the State. The Samrambhaka Sabha has been successfully conducted in all 1,034 local bodies, bringing together entrepreneurs, officials, and stakeholders for knowledge sharing and growth. The Government has also appointed around 1,200 Enterprise Development Executives to support the entrepreneurship drive at the grass root level.

A Revival in Manufacturing in Kerala

Manufacturing plays a significant role in industrial

development in Kerala. As per the Annual Survey of Industries India 2023-24, Kerala’s share in employment in factory sector in India is 1.82 per cent, while Kerala’s share in total output in factory sector is 1.72 per cent. Traditional industries, including coir, cashew and handloom share a significant part of Kerala’s manufacturing workforce. Resource based industries including food products and beverages (including cashew processing), beedi manufacturing, and textiles (which include coir processing and handlooms) accounted for significant share of workers in Kerala’s factory sector. A comparison of the factory sector in India and Kerala, based on major types of industries for 2023-24 is provided in **Table 4.1.1**.

Over the years, the size of employment in traditional industries in Kerala has been declining whereas that in modern industries is growing. Sectors providing significant employment include food and beverages, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastic products, and non-metallic mineral products. The top output generating industries include food and beverages, refined petroleum products, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and rubber and plastic products.

New Opportunities in Modern Industries

The emergence of few modern industries in the State is another positive development in Kerala’s industrial landscape. Industries in electronics, medical devices and supplies are some of them. The number of workers engaged in the manufacturing of electronic components in Kerala rose from 2930 in 2012-13 to 7500 in 2019-20 and 9465 in 2023-24. Workers engaged in the manufacture of medical and dental instruments and supplies increased from 1023 in 2012-13 to 5863 in 2019-20 and 8019 in 2023-24. Details regarding employment in some major industries are provided in **Table 4.1.2**.

Large demand within the State for medicines and healthcare products means that pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, life sciences, and medical-equipment manufacturing industries have great growth potential in Kerala. The large numbers of hospitals, doctors and nurses in Kerala are factors conducive for these industries.

The IT and electronic sectors and software and hardware production are witnessing growing integration at the global level. The IT sector itself

Table 4.1.1 Comparison of the factory sector in India and Kerala, based on major types of industries, 2023-24

Industries	Kerala's total factory sector		Shares in Kerala's total factory sector		India's total factory sector		Shares in India's factory sector	
	Employment (No's)	Total Output (Rs. Lakh)	Employment (%)	Total Output (%)	Employment (No's)	Total Output (Rs. Lakh)	Employment (%)	Total Output (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Food Products and beverages (10, 11)	105410	5926791	29.45	22.43	2381004	218503639	12.15	14.26
Tobacco products (12)	7753	5689	2.17	0.02	409362	5589357	2.09	0.36
Textiles (13)	19624	446424	5.48	1.69	1714017	56081792	8.75	3.66
Garments (14)	10606	121092	2.96	0.46	1338856	22067563	6.83	1.44
Footwear (15)	8521	200525	2.38	0.76	430409	7363062	2.20	0.48
Wood and wood products (16)	14437	593246	4.03	2.25	121874	5184354	0.62	0.34
Paper and paper products (17)	4481	104712	1.25	0.40	376574	22993576	1.92	1.50
Printing and reproduction of recorded media (18)	5747	194199	1.61	0.74	153560	5000924	0.78	0.33
Refined petroleum products (19)	3731	11032232	1.04	41.76	172438	186757666	0.88	12.18
Chemical products and pharmaceuticals (20, 21)	38856	1974665	10.86	7.47	2094843	175822085	10.69	11.47
Rubber and plastics products (22)	26455	1314437	7.39	4.98	1036328	55554171	5.29	3.62
Other non-metallic mineral products (23)	22745	604620	6.35	2.29	1139897	52451179	5.82	3.42
Basic metals (24)	8021	817873	2.24	3.10	1522861	222144598	7.77	14.49
Fabricated metal products (25)	5930	246577	1.66	0.93	831695	38348301	4.25	2.50
Electronic, computer and optical Products (26)	12164	332174	3.40	1.26	467693	52393750	2.39	3.42
Electrical Equipment (27)	5077	153904	1.42	0.58	852747	65676879	4.35	4.28
Machinery and equipment (28)	5634	192398	1.57	0.73	1252506	76789578	6.39	5.01
Motor vehicles (29)	928	18229	0.26	0.07	1373580	129597915	7.01	8.46
Other transport equipment (ships and boats (30)	7394	432905	2.07	1.64	413999	33102351	2.11	2.16
Furniture, jewellery, medical and dental instruments, toys (31, 32)	13519	557587	3.78	2.11	736297	38589774	3.76	2.52
Repair and installation of machinery and equipment (33)	803	13672	0.22	0.05	36654	1417131	0.19	0.09
Waste Collection, treatment and disposal activities; materials recovery (38)	252	10479	0.07	0.04	33627	1910188	0.17	0.12
Publishing activities (58)	2437	70253	0.68	0.27	23558	848134	0.12	0.06

Others	27389	1054213	7.65	3.99	674752	58528642	3.44	3.82
All Industries	357911	26418898	100	100	19589131	1532716609	100	100

Note: Figures in brackets refer to the divisions (in two digits) to which each of these industries belong according to National Industrial Classification (NIC)-2008

Source: Annual Survey of Industries India 2023-24, MOSPI, GoI

Table 4.1.2 Employment in selected major industries, Kerala and India, 2023-24

Industries	Kerala	India	Kerala's share in India (%)
Rubber products (221)	16142	270699	5.96
Refined petroleum products (192)	3366	145168	2.32
Chemical products (201, 202)	30336	1053981	2.88
Manufacture of electronic components (261)	9465	144812	6.54
Pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products (210)	8520	954148	0.89
Footwear (152)	8465	300474	2.82
Garments (141)	9809	898734	1.09
Plastic products (222)	10313	765628	1.35
Printing and services related to printing (181)	5747	152473	3.77
Ships and boats (301)	6194	16012	38.68
Electric motors, transformers and generators (271)	3961	299335	1.32
Medical and dental instruments and supplies (325)	8019	110254	7.27
Furniture (310)	2423	128458	1.89

Source : Annual Survey of Industries India 2023-24, MOSPI, GoI

Note: Figures in brackets refer to the divisions (in three digits) to which each of these industries belong according to National Industrial Classification (NIC)-2008

going through fundamental changes and the state has to be prepared in this direction. Kerala can make inroads by diversifying into hardware manufacturing. There exists the potential to build a large electronics hardware manufacturing sector. The State should build on the unique advantages of the IT sector in the State and also make good use of the skill sets of its professionally qualified workforce.

Turnaround in Performance of Public Sector Units
One of the unique features of Kerala's industrial landscape is the presence of large number of State and Central public sector units and strong State Government support to State PSUs. The State PSUs are engaged in diverse areas of manufacturing, including chemicals, engineering and electronics. PSUs like Travancore Cochin Chemicals (TCC) and Keltron have been pioneers in the country in their respective fields of production (caustic soda and electronics

respectively). The State Government is actively pursuing steps to improve the performance of PSUs. A major highlight of the improved performance of Kerala's manufacturing sector since 2016-17 has been the turnaround in the performance of some of these PSUs, engaged mainly in the production of chemicals and electrical machinery.

There are 51 Public Sector Units, including eight cooperative spinning mills under the Department of Industries and Commerce, spread across nine sectors. The PSUs under the Industries Department reported a combined turnover of Rs 5,135.89 crore and net loss of Rs 306.24 crore in 2024-25. The turnover has increased 15.14 per cent compared to the previous year. The number of profit-making PSUs (Net profit) in Kerala has increased from 12 in 2023-24 to 14 in 2024-25. The number of PSUs making operating profit has increased from 18 in 2023-24 to 22 in 2024-25.

The Government is working towards improving this performance.

Industrial Promotion and Investment Facilitation Activities

Government of Kerala has come up with a number of regulatory changes and innovative schemes to facilitate industrial investment and ensure ease of doing business. This has simplified and made it easier for investors to start a business. The state has brought out the new Kerala Industrial and Commercial Policy in 2023. It has also launched a framework for hi-tech manufacturing in the State as part of the government's new industrial policy. The Kerala Logistics Policy and ESG Policy are also notified.

The State Business Reforms Action Plan (SBRAP) aims to streamline government-to-business service delivery. SBRAP has been in effect since 2016, following guidelines from the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. This initiative serves as the foundation for ranking states and union territories on their Ease of doing Business (EoDB) performance. SBRAP 2024 included 434 reforms. Working closely with 22 departments and agencies, the state achieved 99.1 per cent reform implementation, marking a significant improvement from the previous cycle. The State was recognised as 'Fast Mover' in SBRAP 2024 assessment and felicitated in the 'Udyog Samagam' event. The state achieved 'Top Achiever' status for 4 reform areas, namely - Business Entry, Labour Regulation Enablers, Obtaining Utility Permits, and Sector Specific reforms - Healthcare.

The single-window system called K-SWIFT (Kerala Single Window Interface for Fast and Transparent Clearance), integration of K-SWIFT with the National Single Window System (NSWS), the Kerala Centralized Inspection System (K-CIS), elimination of unreasonable business compliances, decriminalization of clauses under some Acts, the Kerala Repealing and Saving Act (2022), the Kerala Investment Promotion and Facilitation Act (2018), the Kerala Micro Small Medium Enterprises Facilitation Act (2019), The Kerala Micro Small Medium Enterprises Facilitation (Amendment) Act (2021); and the 'Kerala Industrial Single Window Clearance Boards and Industrial Township Area Development (Amendment) Act (2022) (Grievance redressal mechanism) are some significant changes

which have facilitated the growth of manufacturing in Kerala.

Modernising the traditional sector

Traditional industries all over the world are facing challenges. However, the Government of Kerala has taken the policy decision of supporting these industries to sustain the workers and ensure generation of value. Continued Government support has ensured employment and income to large number of workers dependent on these industries. Apart from funds to ensure continuous operations of such units, the Government is also taking steps to modernise the traditional industries in the State, (including coir, cashew, handloom, handicrafts; and the Khadi and village industries). Modernisation of traditional industries includes (but is not limited to) mechanisation of production processes in these industries. Such modernisation is undertaken while retaining the existing workers in these industries. Kerala's traditional industries are encouraged to diversify into new products and evolve effective marketing and distribution strategies. Steps are taken to develop greater synergy among the traditional, and the food and agro-based industries, feeding on each other to create a globally recognised niche for the State in these sectors.

One unique feature of recent development in Kerala's industrial sector has been the democratic nature of planning and implementation of schemes; and distribution of benefits. The gains have encouraged the State Government to initiate steps to consolidate the momentum that the industrial sector has gained in recent years. The industrial landscape in Kerala can be expected to make significant achievements in the near future.

4.2 MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Manufacturing Sector in India

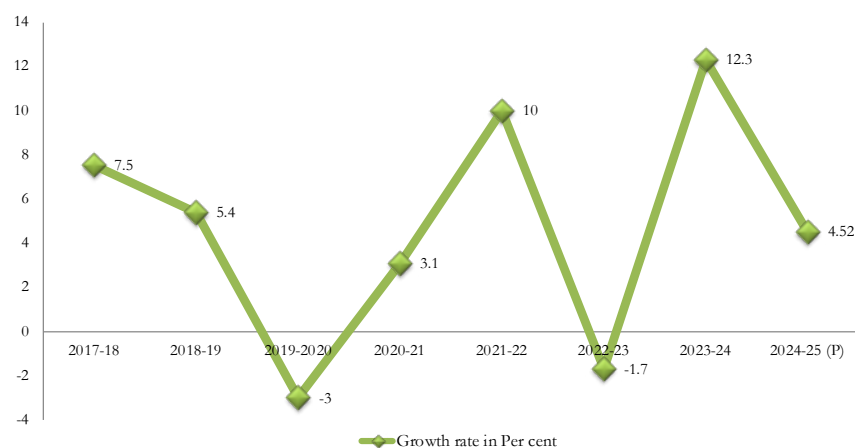
Manufacturing is widely recognised as the backbone of economic development. It has strong potential to generate employment, raise productivity, strengthen exports, and reduce dependence on imports. The share of Gross Value Added from the manufacturing sector in India's total Gross Value Added was 17.5 per cent in 2023–24. Provisional data indicate that this share is expected to decline to 17.2 per cent in 2024–25. The share of manufacturing in India's Gross Domestic Product declined from 16.01 per cent in 2023–24 to 15.71 per cent in 2024–25, as per provisional estimates.

Provisional estimates of growth in Gross Value Added at constant prices by the Central Statistics

Office in May 2025 show a fluctuating trend since 2020–21. Growth increased from 10 per cent in 2021–22 to 12.30 per cent in 2023–24. Growth declined thereafter to 4.52 per cent in 2024–25, as per provisional estimates. Figure 4.2.1 presents the year on year growth rate of Gross Value Added by the manufacturing sector in India at constant prices from 2017–18 to 2024–25.

Manufacturing includes the organised and unorganised sectors. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI's) Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) 2023–24 shows a steady upward trend in the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the registered manufacturing sector from 2019–20 to 2023–24. The main drivers of this growth in 2023–24 are the Manufacture of Basic

Figure 4.2.1 Growth rate of Gross Value Added by the Manufacturing Sector in India, at constant prices



Source: Central Statistics Office, MOSPI

Metals, Motor Vehicles, Chemicals and Chemical Products, Food Products, and Pharmaceuticals, having a 48 per cent contribution in the output of the registered manufacturing sector. As per the Annual Survey of Industries 2023-24, Gross Value added grew by 11.89 per cent in 2023-24 over 2022-23; and industrial output grew by 5.80 per cent in 2023-24 over the previous year. According to the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises 2023-24, there are more than 7.33 crore unincorporated establishments in the country, employing about 12.05 crore workers and contributing about 17.97 lakh crore in Gross Value Added. The growth rate of the number of establishments, number of workers and GVA in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23 are 12.8 per cent, 10 per cent and 16.5 per cent, respectively.

Manufacturing Sector in Kerala

Recent years have witnessed a steady increase in the size of Kerala's manufacturing sector. The state has also achieved progress in modernising and diversifying its industrial sector. As per the estimates by the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala, the GSVA of the manufacturing sector at constant prices increased by 15.33 per cent to reach Rs.73,656.03 crore in 2023-24 (Provisional). As per the Quick Estimates of 2024-25, GSVA of the manufacturing sector at constant prices increased by 7.53 per cent to reach Rs.79,203.73 crore. At current prices, the

growth rate of Manufacturing GSVA was 18.07 and 10.63 in 2023-24 and 2024-25, respectively. For details on the manufacturing sector's growth in Kerala from 2014-15 to 2024-25, please refer to **Appendix 4.2.1**.

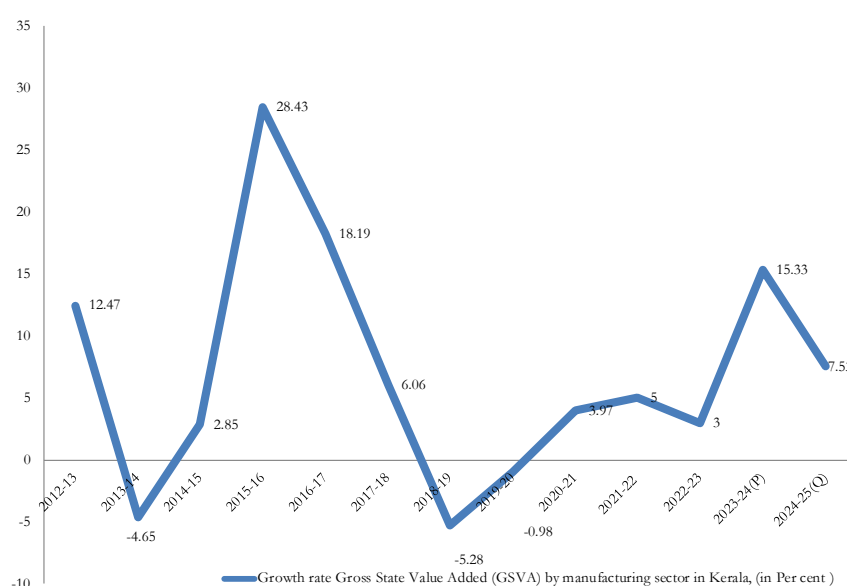
The trend in the growth rate of GSVA of the manufacturing sector in Kerala (at constant prices) for the period from 2012-13 to 2024-25 is shown in **Figure 4.2.2**.

As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24, about 9.9 per cent of total workers of the State were engaged in the manufacturing activities. As per the Annual Survey of Industries India 2023-24, Kerala's share in employment in factory sector in India is 1.82 per cent, while Kerala's share in total output in factory sector is 1.72 per cent. Sectors providing significant employment include food and beverages, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastic products, and non-metallic mineral products. The top output generating industries include food and beverages, refined petroleum products, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and rubber and plastic products.

Mining Sector in Kerala

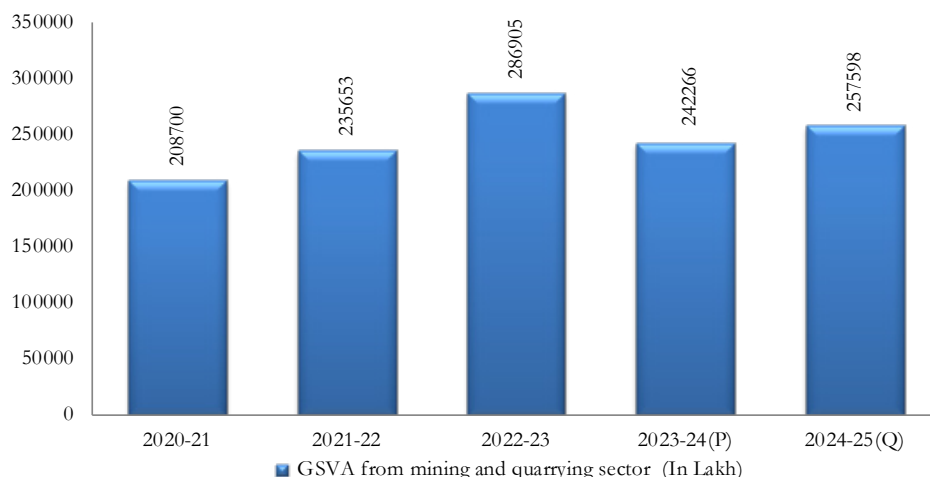
Kerala is endowed with the deposits of minerals such as Heavy Mineral Sands (Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Monazite, Sillimanite), Iron ore, Bauxite, Graphite, China Clay, Tile and Brick clay, Silica

Figure 4.2.2 Growth rate of Gross State Value Added (GSVA) by manufacturing sector in Kerala, at constant prices (2011-12), in per cent



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics

Figure 4.2.3 GSVA from the Mining and Quarrying in Kerala, at constant prices (2011-12), Rs in Lakh



Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics

sand, Lignite, Limestone, etc. However, mining activities on a large scale are confined to a few minerals like Heavy mineral sands, China clay and to a lesser extent Limestone/Lime shell, Silica sand and Granite.

In 2024-25, the mining and quarrying sector in Kerala contributed an estimated value of Rs.2,57,598 Lakh (QE) at constant prices in Kerala's GSVA. This sector registered 6.33 per cent growth in 2024-25 (QE) at Constant Prices. The GSVA from the Mining and Quarrying sector in Kerala, at constant prices from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is presented in **Figure 4.2.3**.

Mineral-wise Production and Revenue Collection 2024-25

The Government gets revenue from minerals mainly by way of royalty. About 95 per cent of the revenue comes from minor minerals. In 2024-25, the revenue from minerals amounted to Rs.556.08

crore, indicating annual growth of 4.83 per cent as compared to the previous year's revenue of Rs 530.46 crore. In 2024-25, out of the total revenue of Rs.556.08 crore, an amount of Rs.15.39 crore was contributed by major minerals, and the rest Rs.540.69 crore, was from minor minerals. The revenue from minerals from 2019-20 to 2024-25 is given in **Table 4.2.1**.

In 2024-25, Kerala witnessed a significant increase in the production of major and minor minerals, which totalled 504.92 lakh tonne. Among the major minerals, limestone emerged as the top contributor with a production of 2.96 lakh tonne, followed by Ilmenite with 1.45 lakh tonne. In case of minor minerals, Granite Building Stone topped with production of 363.61 lakh tonne, followed by Ordinary Earth with 120.11 lakh tonnes. In 2024-25, Ilmenite and Sillimanite generated the highest royalty among major minerals, accounting for Rs 9.07 crore and Rs 3.00 crore, respectively. On the other hand, Granite Building Stone and ordinary earth were the top royalty contributors among minor minerals, generating Rs.174.53 crore and Rs 48.04 crore respectively in 2024-25. The production and royalty obtained from major and minor minerals in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (up to August 31st 2025) are exhibited in **Appendix 4.2.2**.

District-wise analysis of Revenue Collected from Major/Minor Minerals

In 2024-25, Kerala has generated revenue of Rs.556.08 crore from minerals. District-wise analysis of revenue collection shows Malappuram

Table 4.2.1 Revenue from Minerals (Rs in crore)

Sl No	Year	Major Minerals	Minor Minerals	Total
1	2019-20	8.76	151.34	160.1
2	2020-21	8.38	183.74	192.12
3	2021-22	10.76	209.00	219.76
4	2022-23	17.32	322.91	340.23
5	2023-24	17.28	513.18	530.46
6	2024-25	15.39	540.69	556.08

Source: Department of Mining and Geology

ranked top with total collection of Rs.91.20 crores. Following behind were Ernakulam with Rs.75.99 crore, Pathanamthitta with Rs.52.44 crore and Palakkad with Rs.48.90 crore. Alappuzha witnessed the lowest revenue collection of Rs.4.65 crore. The detailed breakdown of the district-wise revenue collection from both major and minor minerals is depicted in **Appendix 4.2.3**.

The Plan outlay and expenditure of the Mining and Geology Department from 2016-17 to 2025-26 is shown in **Table 4.2.2**.

Table 4.2.2 Plan Outlay and Expenditure of Mining Department (Rs in lakh)

Sl. No	Year	Outlay	Expenditure
1	2016-17	84.00	48.82
2	2017-18	135.00	123.03
3	2018-19	149.00	61.46
4	2019-20	149.00	75.92
5	2020-21	132.00	117.73
6	2021-22	132.00	111.29
7	2022-23	405.00	229.3
8	2023-24	605.00	181.57
9	2024-25	557.00	217.68
10	2025-26	700.00	30.91*

Source: Budget Estimates

*till September 2025

The Mining and Geology Department is now upgrading the Kerala Online Mining Permit Awarding Services (KOMPAS) to Level 2, KOMPAS 2.0, an online system implemented through the National Informatics Centre in all districts. As part of using modern technology, Lidar based Drone survey is being used to conduct field investigations, which gives better accuracy in estimating the amount of mineral deposits.

Mineral-Based Industries in Kerala

Indian Rare Earths Ltd, Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd, Travancore Titanium Products, Malabar Cements, Travancore Cements Ltd, Kundera Ceramics, English Indian Clays Ltd, and Kerala Clays and Ceramic Products Ltd are some of the industries that are based on major minerals. On the other hand, the major industries that rely on minor minerals include stone crushers, units for the production of manufactured sand, brick factories, and tile factories. Mineral-based

industries, though limited in number, play a strategic role in Kerala's industrial economy. Their relevance lies not only in economic contribution but also in promoting technological innovation, employment, and regional balance. Strengthening value addition, sustainable mining, and diversification can further enhance their contribution to the state's growth.

Though mining and quarrying are important economic activities, the impact they may have on the environment needs to be closely monitored. The Government is therefore diligent in adopting and implementing Lidar-based Drone Survey, to moderate the negative impacts of mining operations. Modern technologies and practices have reduced to some extent the risks associated with mining and quarrying to the environment and economy.

4.3 PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS

The Government of Kerala seeks to improve the efficiency of public sector undertakings by ensuring professional management and improved profitability. State public sector units have contributed significantly to industrial sector performance, particularly in recent years. Kerala has several State and Central public sector units operating in manufacturing sectors such as chemicals, engineering, and electronics. Certain public sector undertakings in the State, including Travancore Cochin Chemicals and Keltron, are pioneers in their respective fields at the national level.

Kerala also hosts several Central public sector undertakings, including Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Limited in Kochi, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited, HLL Biotech Limited, and HLL Life Care Limited. The Government has introduced systems for the execution of memoranda of understanding, preparation of business plans, and fixation of performance targets for public sector undertakings through the Board for Public Sector Transformation.

Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs)

The Public Enterprises Survey traditionally covers, besides certain statutory corporations, those Government companies wherein more than 50 per cent equity is held by the Union Government. The subsidiaries of these companies, if registered in India, where any CPSE has more than 50 per cent equity, are also categorised as CPSEs. The Public

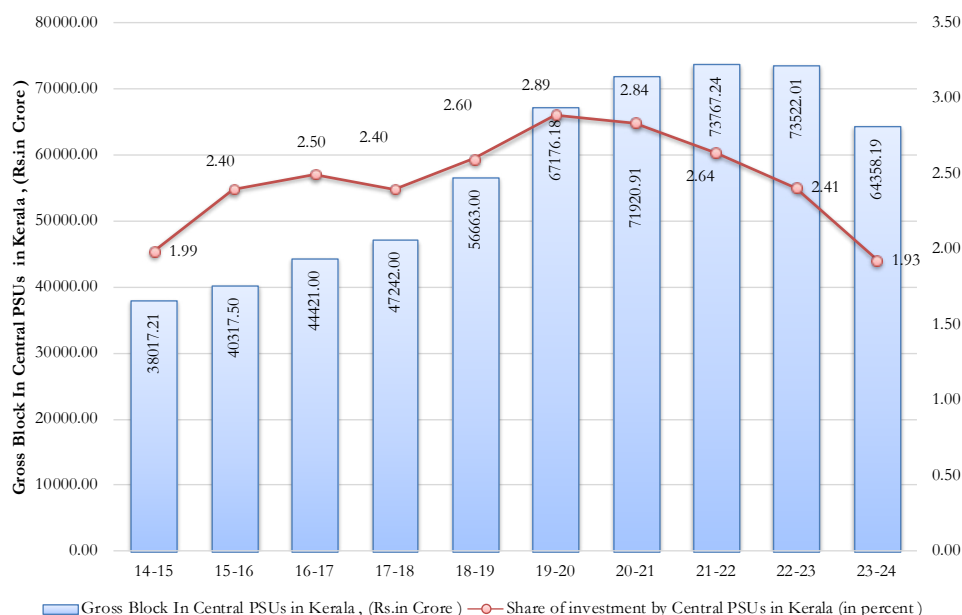
Enterprises Survey 2024-25 covers 475 CPSEs, but does not cover departmentally run public enterprises, banking institutions and insurance companies. As per the survey reports, 291 CPSEs are operational during 2024-25.

Central Sector Investment

The total financial investment in Central PSUs in India increased from Rs.27.74 lakh crore in 2023-24 to Rs.31.65 lakh crore in 2024-25, registering a growth of 14.1 per cent over the previous year (Public Enterprises Survey, 2024-25). The total Gross Block of all CPSEs increased from Rs 33.33 lakh crore in FY 2023-24 to Rs 37.12 lakh crore in 2024-25, registering a growth of 11.4 per cent over the previous year. However this report follows a new format and state wise details regarding gross block are not currently available.

As per Public Enterprises Survey 2023-24, total gross block by Central PSUs in Kerala decreased from Rs.73,599.36 crore in 2022-23 to Rs.64,358.19 crore in 2023-24 (Kerala's share decreased from 2.4 per cent to 1.9 per cent). The investment in central PSUs as on March 31, 2024 is highest in Maharashtra (7.67 per cent of investment), followed by Uttar Pradesh (6.57 per cent of investment) and Tamil Nadu (6.37 per cent of investment). Kerala occupies 18th position among states in terms of Gross Block (Public Enterprises Survey 2023-24). Details of investment in gross block in CPSUs Kerala from 2014-15 to 2023-24 are given in **Appendix 4.3.1**, and investment in central PSUs in selected States (as on March 31, 2024) are given in **Appendix 4.3.2**.

Figure 4.3.1 Total amount of gross blocks in Central PSUs in Kerala, and the total Share of investment in Central PSUs in Kerala



Source: Public Enterprises Survey 2023-24

The total amount of gross blocks in Central PSUs in Kerala and the per cent share of investment from 2014-15 to 2023-24 is shown in **Figure 4.3.1**.

Joint Stock Companies

As of March 2024, Kerala has 61,741 joint stock companies. In 2024-25, a total of 6,220 new Joint Stock Companies were registered in Kerala. During the period, 22 companies were transferred from other states, while 20 companies were transferred to other states. Additionally, 541 companies were dissolved, struck off, or amalgamated in 2024-25. So the total number of joint stock companies at the end of 2024-25 was 67,422. The Registrar of Companies, Kerala and Lakshadweep, reported a total of 180 Government companies registered as of March 2025. Detailed information on joint stock companies operating in Kerala is provided in **Appendix 4.3.3**.

State Public Sector Undertakings under Industries Department

There are 51 Public Sector Units, including eight cooperative spinning mills under the Department of Industries and Commerce, spread across nine sectors. Of these, two units were non-operational since 2023-24. The PSUs under the Industries Department reported a combined turnover of Rs 5,135.89 crore and net loss of Rs 306.24 crore in 2024-25. The turnover has increased 15.14 per cent compared to the previous year. The

number of profit-making PSUs (Net profit) in Kerala has increased from 12 in 2023-24 to 14 in 2024-25. The number of PSUs making operating profit has increased from 18 in 2023-24 to 22 in 2024-25. The performance of State PSUs under the Industries Department during the last 5 years is given in **Appendix 4.3.4**.

The major profit-making PSUs (Net Profit) during the year include Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd (KMML), Kerala State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd, Travancore Titanium Products Limited, Keltron Electro Ceramics Ltd, Transformers and Electricals Kerala Ltd, Kelton Component Complex Ltd, Steel Industrial Kerala Ltd, Steel and Industrial Forgings Limited and Kerala State Industrial Enterprises Ltd. The 51 PSUs under the Department of Industries and Commerce are classified into 9 sectors. PSUs under the Electronics sector generated a net profit of Rs.44.92 crore. At the same time, PSUs in all other sectors recorded losses. The State Government has launched efforts to revive the PSUs and help them emerge as agents of technological transformation of Kerala's industrial sector. The sector-wise financial performance of State PSUs under the Industries department during the last five years is shown in **Appendix 4.3.5**. Details of PSU-wise turnover and profit/loss in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (till August 2025) are shown in **Appendix 4.3.6**.

Box .4.3.1 Kerala's PSUs in nationwide scenario

Kerala remains a notable stronghold of state-run Factories while the national policy encourages privatisation, under investments and closure. Kerala has the largest number of government owned factories- 163 units, the same as its neighbour Tamil Nadu as per Annual Survey of Industries, 2023-24. These are followed by Gujarat (139) and Maharashtra (98). Kerala's 33,781 employees in this sector constitute 8.8 percent of total government factory employment nationwide.

In terms of Gross Value Added, Kerala contributes 11.3 percent of the national total, just behind Maharashtra, while Gujarat accounts for 2 percent and Tamil Nadu for 5.9 percent. Over the last nine years, Kerala has achieved a cumulative nominal GVA growth rate of 15.2 percent and the top performer whereas major industrial states like Gujarat and Maharashtra have recorded negative growth.

A comparative performance Kerala based all government owned enterprises with other major Indian states using the Annual Survey of Industries data between 2016 and 2024 clearly demonstrate the positive climate provided by the State of Kerala for PSUs.

State-wise public sector enterprises GVA growth 2016-2024

State	2016			Public Sector Enterprises	2024		
	Public Sector Enterprises	Employees	Gross Value Added (In Rs crores)		Employees	Gross Value Added (In Rs crores)	Growth CAGR %
Kerala	170	42786	5756	163	33781	17801	15.2
Tamil Nadu	268	57523	5597	163	38876	9236	6.5
Gujarat	406	63667	8354	139	20321	3189	-11.3
Maharashtra	343	57292	58237	98	26224	18863	-13.1
Chhattisgarh	90	31880	5173	86	36216	5203	0.1
Karnataka	151	23447	4610	74	18705	10148	10.4
West Bengal	152	48369	5061	63	37320	12437	11.9
Odisha	51	57072	7834	60	42955	17009	10.2
Madhya Pradesh	31	20723	5380	46	16842	15104	13.8
Uttar Pradesh	117	27734	4525	46	21260	9675	10.0

Source : Annual survey of industries 2015-16 and 2023-24

In 2025-26 the Budget provision for PSUs under the Industries Department is Rs 309.10 crore, which includes working capital support to PSUs. Of this amount, Rs 58.06 crore was spent till September 2025.

Major achievements of the PSUs

- During 2024-25, the total turnover of all PSUs

was Rs 5,135.89 Cr, and the total operating Profit was Rs 55.86 Cr. 22 PSUs achieved operating profit during the period.

- Compared to the previous year, 32 companies succeeded in increasing their turnover, 20 companies increased their operating profit, and 23 companies reduced their losses.

- KELTRON achieved a record turnover of Rs.1,057 crores and an operating profit of Rs. 50 Cr.
- Travancore Cochin Chemicals Ltd achieved an all-time record production of 75,440 MT of Caustic Soda.
- Launched an “Online Sales Platform” for Textile Mills.
- Formed “Coir Fibre Bank” to ensure an uninterrupted supply of Coir yarn.
- 36 new products launched by 9 PSUs, including KELTORN, KELTRON Component complex limited, Kerala State Industrial Enterprises Ltd, Foam Matting India Ltd, Kerala State Coir Machinery manufacturing Company Ltd, Handicrafts Development Corporation, Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation and CAPEX.
- KELTRON secured orders from Zimbabwe for their products and services, and also received orders for 3000 Laptops (Coconics). It also played a crucial role in the construction of the Indian Navy’s latest guided missile warship, “INS TAMAL”.
- Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited initiated technology absorption for monosite cracking to extract rare-earth elements and to support permanent magnet production.
- Keltron Electro Ceramics Ltd bagged several defence orders for the production of transducers in under underwater systems. Also developed a testing facility for underwater testing of sensors, which helps in value addition to their products.
- Steel and Industrial Forgings Limited (SIFL) obtained an American Petroleum Institute (API) Certificate and received orders worth Rs. 3.6 crores from the European Organisation for Nuclear Research.

Future Plans

PSUs form an important part of Kerala’s industrial and employment ecosystem. Reviving them can lead to job preservation, regional industrial development, and value addition within the state rather than being purely service-based. A competitive and well-run PSU sector helps the state improve its fiscal health.

PSUs need transformation from purely profit-making ventures to institutions that create an enabling environment for high technology enterprises, in private and public sectors. There

is a need to increase the linkages between PSUs and the State’s economy. For this, raw material should be procured as much as possible from the State itself, and measures should be taken to help and support the development of ancillary and downstream industries. PSUs in Kerala should play the role of facilitators for the promotion of entrepreneurship, especially high-technology entrepreneurship.

The Government of Kerala is committed to the development and rejuvenation of PSUs. Professional managers have been appointed to oversee the operations of PSUs. A permanent Public Enterprises Selection and Recruitment Board (KPESRB) has been set up for selecting a cadre of top managers transparently. Convergence and mergers of PSUs manufacturing similar products will be undertaken to bring about efficiency in their operations.

Board for Public Sector Transformation (BPT)

Government have re-named Public Sector Restructuring & Internal Audit Board (RIAB) as the Board for Public Sector Transformation (BPT) and re-constituted the Governing Board. BPT is functioning under the Industries department, as a responsible agency for undertaking reform initiatives in State PSUs. BPT has been playing a major role in the rejuvenation and revival of PSUs under the Industries department. Major responsibilities of the agency include performance planning and monitoring of PSUs, enterprise reconstruction, capacity building, and governance advisory support to State PSUs. Some of the measures taken by BPT for the turnaround of PSUs are.

- Implementation of new Human Resource (HR) policy / Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) in PSUs
- Turnaround strategy in selected under performing PSUs.
- Encourage Joint Ventures (JV) for technology access, operational excellence, and market penetration.
- Cost rationalisation and improved process control to reduce wastage and inefficiency
- Product diversification aligned with market demand
- Improving the financial position of PSUs

Industrial Promotion and Investment Facilitation

The main industrial financing agencies in the State are Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) and Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC). In addition to industrial financing, KSIDC promotes and facilitates the physical and social infrastructure required for industrial growth in the State. Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) is the agency focusing on industrial infrastructure development.

Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC)

KSIDC is a wholly owned company of the Government of Kerala, established in 1961, for the promotion and development of medium and large-scale units in the State. KSIDC initiated major industrial and infrastructure projects, which are strategically important for Kerala's economic development. KSIDC has 11 industrial parks with 1174.5 acres of land. Out of these 707.34 acres of land is developed, of which 566.11 acres is allotted to 360 units, generating employment for 12,950 persons. Details are given in **Appendix 4.3.7**. KSIDC also plays a vital role in the State by financing and promoting private industrial projects, spearheading investment promotion initiatives, creating sector-specific industrial infrastructure and ecosystem, and nurturing entrepreneurship and start-ups. As the nodal agency for foreign and domestic investment in Kerala, KSIDC provides comprehensive support for investors, helping them access various incentives and schemes, and facilitating constant interaction between the Government and the industrial sector.

The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) serves as the primary interface for investors who wish to establish their businesses in the state. KSIDC provides a wide range of services that encompass the entire process of transforming business ideas into successful ventures. These services include aiding in the formulation of feasible projects, conducting thorough feasibility studies, offering well-developed infrastructure facilities, expediting necessary approvals and clearances, and providing continuous support to investors from the initial conceptualisation of their projects to their ultimate realisation. KSIDC has strived to create an enabling ecosystem for start-ups by establishing

Business Incubation Centres, organising mentoring sessions, and offering seed funding to foster their growth.

The corporation has played a vital role in the setting up of pioneering organisations such as Cochin International Airport Limited, Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd, Nitta Gelatin India Ltd., Geojit BNP Paribas Financial Services Ltd., Lakeshore Hospital & Research Centre Ltd, KIMS Hospital, Le-Meridien Hotel, Crown Plaza Hotel, Apollo Tyres and many others.

Major initiatives and achievements (2024-25)

- **Investment Promotion:** - As part of investment promotion, more than 40 events have been conducted by KSIDC. Prominent industries that have invested in Kerala through these programmes include DSpace, Athachi, RCC Nutra fills (Bharat Bio tech), Avigna, Vensure, Safran and Trasna. The MEDICA Summit held in Germany from 11 to 14 November 2025 served as a platform to showcase to the global community, Kerala's expertise in the field of medical technology, biotechnology and life sciences. It also facilitated discussions with manufacturers, suppliers, entrepreneurs, research institutions and policy makers in these sectors.
- To showcase Kerala's evolving industry-friendly environment and to attract global investment to the State, the Government of Kerala organised Invest Kerala Global Summit on February 21 and 22, 2025, in Kochi under the leadership of KSIDC.
- The Cabinet has approved the Kerala Logistics Policy and ESG Policy.
- Bio Connect 2024, an international conclave & expo was organised in September 2025 by Kerala Life Sciences Industries Park (KLIP) under the aegis of Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC). The theme for Bio Connect 2.0 in 2024 was "Innovation to Industry" (I2I), highlighting the transition from research/innovation in life sciences to industrial manufacturing. It brought together Startups, well-established industries, academia, investors, and Government agencies in the life-sciences/biotechnology/med-tech/pharma sectors.
- Organised India's first International Gen AI Conclave and International Robotics Round Table Conference.

Box 4.3.2 Invest Kerala Global Summit 2025

The Invest Kerala Global Summit, organised by the State Government, was one of the largest events in Kerala. It positioned Kerala as a global investment destination. The summit received an overwhelming response with 449 Expression of Interest (EOIs), translating into a total proposed investment of approximately 1.80 lakh crore and an estimated employment generation potential of 5.81 lakh jobs. Highlights include participation from representatives of 26 countries, around 4,000 industry leaders, startups, and investors, 115 exhibitions, six country sessions, and multiple B2B meetings. A dedicated mobile application was launched to provide summit-related information. The app allows individuals with industrial land to list it for potential investors, who can directly connect with them. It also provides details on KINFRA, KSIDC, government estates, and approved private industrial parks. In preparation for the summit, sector-specific meetings were held in areas such as maritime & logistics, waste management & recycling, ayurveda & pharmaceuticals, tourism, food processing, and retail. Road shows were organised in Dubai, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, and Chennai. Pre-summit events included the Vizhinjam Conclave and the Kerala Automotive Conclave held in Thiruvananthapuram. Notably, this investment momentum of Invest Kerala Global Summit has already translated into early project implementation, with 109 projects (24.27%) having commenced construction, representing active investments of about Rs.35,608.22 crore.

Source: KSIDC

- Initiated steps for the preparation of High-tech Manufacturing Policy.

Financial Status

The Corporation reported a net profit of Rs.71.82 crore in 2023-24. Certain key financial parameters of KSIDC for the past five years are given in **Table 4.3.1**.

Industrial Financing by KSIDC

In 2024-25, KSIDC sanctioned projects worth Rs 454.99 cr, of which amount of Rs.340.81 cr was disbursed. An amount of Rs 284.19 cr was recovered by way of principal and interest. There are 92 projects under various stages of implementation with a total investment of Rs.1,477.00 crore, which would create employment for around 4,731 persons. The physical and financial performance of KSIDC in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on August 2025) is given in **Appendix 4.3.8**.

The plan outlay and expenditure of KSIDC from 2017-18 to 2025-26 are shown in **Table 4.3.2**.

Major Activities of KSIDC**1. Investment Facilitation and Industrial Promotion Activities**

- **Investment Facilitation Division** - The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPPIT) has published the

Table 4.3.2 Plan Outlay and Expenditure, KSIDC, Rs in crores

Sl. No	Year	Outlay	Expenditure	Per cent
1	2017-18	96.3	171.7	178.4
2	2018-19	134.4	77.5	57.7
3	2019-20	116.0	15.9	13.7
4	2020-21	109	84.32	77.36
5	2021-22	109	48.74	44.72
6	2022-23	113	50.53	44.73
7	2023-24	122.50	56.35	46.01
8	2024-25	127.50	89.26	70.01
9	2025-26*	127.50	29.88*	23.43

Source: Budget documents for various years *till September 2025

Table: 4.3.1 Key Financial Parameters of KSIDC (Rs in Crore)

Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Net Worth	643.2	809.8	869.12	945.23	1225.13
Total expenditure	16.2	20.4	13.6	13.6	14.48
Employee Expenses	10.7	10.7	9.02	9.71	10.02
Net Profit/Loss (+/-)	39.6	25.5	54.9	64.72	71.82
Audit Status	Audit up-to-date		Provisional		

Source: BPE Review 2023-24

SBRAP 2024, which includes 434 reforms. Under the leadership of the Industries Department, KSIDC has successfully coordinated the implementation of the SBRAP 2024 through sustained departmental engagement, policy support, and digital integration. Working closely with 22 departments and agencies, the state achieved 99.1 per cent reform implementation, marking a significant improvement from the previous cycle and the State was recognised as 'Fast Mover' in the State Business Reforms Action Plan 2024 assessment and felicitated in the 'Udyog Samagam' Event. The state achieved 'Top Achiever' status for 4 reform areas, namely- Business Entry, Labour Regulation Enablers, Obtaining Utility Permits, Sector Specific- Healthcare.

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released SBRAP plus Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) plus 2024, consisting of additional reforms that have to be implemented as part of SBRAP 2024. SBRAP plus includes 70 new reforms, and RCB plus includes 92 reforms. At present, 9 reforms have been completed, and the respective departments are undertaking necessary measures to implement the other reforms.
- *KSWIFT*- As per the recommendation of the State Business Reform Action Plan 2024, 83 services from various departments must be added or revised in the KSWIFT Portal. Having completed the integration of 81 of these services, the total number of services available through KSWIFT is 113.
- *Kerala Centralised Inspection System (K-CIS)*- Updation of K-CIS by incorporating more departments has been completed. Inspections of Factories and Boilers and the Labour Department are currently being carried out through K-CIS. The Legal Metrology Department and the Pollution Control Board have been onboarded to the K-CIS. As per SBRAP plus recommendations, the Electrical Inspectorate needed to be onboarded to K-CIS, and necessary measures are being taken towards this.

2. Innovation Acceleration Scheme Under the Innovation Acceleration Scheme, various kinds of financial assistance were offered to industrial units during 2024-25. This includes sanctioning of Rs.60 lakhs as seed fund assistance to 3 units and scale-

up support of Rs.200 lakhs to 3 units. An amount of Rs 83.85 lakhs was disbursed to 7 seed fund-assisted units, and Rs. 150 lakhs was disbursed to 5 scale-up units.

3.Women Entrepreneurship (WE) mission: Five proposals were given approval under the WE Mission financial assistance scheme for the financial year 2024-25. An amount of Rs. 125 lakh has been disbursed to these 5 units in the financial year.

4.Chief Minister's Special Assistance Scheme: A sum of Rs. 894.95 lakhs has been allocated as financial assistance to units.

5. Covid Samashwasa Padhathi: A sum of Rs. 424.40 Lakh were spent towards interest waiver on land allotment at Industrial Growth Centres (IGCs).

6. Medical Devices Park (Medspark) & Life Science Park: In the Meds Park Civil structure of Prototype & Incubation Centre and Animal House has been completed. Ist phase of Life Sciences Park was completed. The Admin Block & Biotech Lab Block, with a built-up area of 80,827 sq. feet, has been completed in the second phase. About 95per cent of the work of IInd phase of Life Science Park is completed, and finishing works are in progress.

Kerala Rubber Limited

The Government of Kerala formed KRL for promoting the manufacturing of intermediate and final rubber products and coordinating related activities with a prime focus on the MSME sector. KRL is nominated as the State Level Implementing Agency for the development of Rubber/Rubber Wood-based Common Facility Centres (CFCs) in Kerala.

- Construction works of the Rubber Industrial Complex at Velloor village in Kottayam district are progressing. Where facilities such as the Research & Development Centre, Testing and quality control centre, and Business Incubation Centre are planned.
- Infrastructure and related land development activities such as land development works (83 per cent completed), construction of R&D centre, training and administrative building (30 per cent completed), and construction of 110/11 KV substation of industrial complex(60 per cent completed) are in progress.
- The institution is also involved in research activities in collaboration with the Rubber Board, CUSAT and MGU.

Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)

KINFRA was set up in 1993 with the objective of building industry-specific infrastructure across the State, to promote private investment, generate employment and to create a land bank for future industrial growth. KINFRA has promoted economic development of industrially backward regions of the State by setting up industrial parks/townships/zones, which provide most of the facilities required for entrepreneurs to start an industry. The industrial parks developed by KINFRA have facilities such as developed land, built-up space, dedicated power and water supply, and communication facilities. KINFRA offers entrepreneurs a readymade manufacturing environment, assisting them in minimising the time and expenses required for establishing a unit. The primary objective of KINFRA is to develop infrastructure and attract investments by providing land or built-up spaces.

Over the past three decades, KINFRA has developed 34 industrial parks, accommodating around 1,400 units across various sectors such as garment manufacturing, food processing, defence equipment, petrochemicals, IT/ITES and healthcare. KINFRA has also constructed over 1.5 million sq ft of industrial space. These have generated about 74,158 jobs and attracted investment totalling Rs.6,656.22 crores. The details of allotments in KINFRA industrial parks as on 31 August 2025 are given in **Appendix 4.3.9**.

The Kochi Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (KBIC) project is being implemented as an extension of the Chennai Bengaluru Industrial Corridor. This is implemented with the participation of Union Government and Government of Kerala, through a Special Purpose Vehicle (Kerala Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Ltd) involving National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) & KINFRA with 50:50 equity participation. The project is being developed in two nodes. Node 1 involve the Integrated Manufacturing Clusters (IMC) Palakkad and Node 2 involves Global Industrial Finance and Trade City (Global City) Kochi. The entire land acquisition is done by Government of Kerala. The total cost of acquiring 1710 acres of land for the project is estimated at Rs. 1844 crore. Out of this, the Kerala government has so far spent Rs. 1489 crore. Till December 2025, about 1350 acres of land has been acquired in Puthussery Central and

Kannambra (Palakkad). The central government has allocated Rs. 1789.92 crore for infrastructure development of this acquired land.

KINFRA has promoted investments in the State and created investment-friendly climate within its parks, contributing significantly to the State's economy.

- KINFRA has completed the construction of a state-of-the-art IT house (SDF Phase I) for IT/ITES companies in KINFRA Film & Video Park and fully leased to Tata Elxsi.
- A 1,20,000 Sq.ft SDF building at KINFRA Integrated Industrial and Textile Park for automated manufacturing and EPC services has leased to Hailstone Innovations (P)Ltd.
- 77 acres of land at Ramanattukara, Kozhikode has been earmarked for the State- of-the –art-technology park that will boost the growth of technology in the state. A ready-to-move standard design factory with an area of 1.2 lakh square feet has been completed with all necessary facilities for IT/ITES initiatives. 90 per cent of the allotment is completed.
- The first phase of KINFRA Spices Park is developed on 15.43 acres of land in Thodupuzha. Currently, 85 per cent of the allotment process within the park is completed. The park aims to enhance the value of spice products, helping farmers achieve better prices and secure a stable market.
- Land of 30 acres from KINFRA, industrial park, Perumbavoor has been allotted to Kaynes Technologies for their operations, which is a leading provider of Electronic System Design and Manufacturing Solutions.
- KINFRA has developed a mini industrial park for MSME units on 7.48 acres in Thonnakkal, Veiloor Village, Mangalapuram panchayat. Currently, 17 units have been allotted in this park. This has resulted in an investment of around Rs 42 crore and around 350 job opportunities.
- KINFRA completed the construction of the International Exhibition cum Convention Centre (IECC), Kakkannadu, marking a significant milestone in the State's infrastructure development.

The major ongoing projects of KINFRA are shown in **Box. 4.3.2**

Table 4.3.3 illustrates the physical performance of the KINFRA Park

Box 4.3.3 On-going projects of KINFRA

- Petrochemical Park, Kochi
- Kochi-Bangalore Industrial Corridor
- Advanced Technology Park, Ramanattukara
- Global Ayurveda Village, Thonnakkal and Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram
- Upgradation of infrastructure in existing industrial parks
- Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC Kochi)
- Kinfra Industrial Park, Perumbavoor
- Unity Mall

Source: KINFRA

Financial Status

The Corporation reported a net profit of Rs. 10.32 crore in 2023-24. Certain key financial parameters for the past five years are shown in **Table 4.3.4**.

The plan outlay and expenditure of KINFRA from 2018-19 to 2025-26 are shown in **Table 4.3.5**.

Table: 4.3.3 Performance of KINFRA

Sl No.	Particulars	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 (up to 31st August)
1	Allotment of land (acres)	36.94	111.75	65.5
2	Allotment of Space (sq.ft.)	1,63,702.26	1,55,577	50,584
3	No. of Units (Nos)	103	47	57
4	Employment (Nos)	2,686	1,414	2,850
5	Investment (Rs in crore)	460	1,124	670

Source: KINFRA

Table: 4.3.4 Key Financial Parameters of KINFRA (Rs in crore)

Particulars	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Net Worth	1427.4	1548.7	1724.13	1845.01	2100.07
Total expenditure	506.9	38.66	52.65	125.94	57.58
Net Profit/Loss (+/-)	2.3	17.04	7.33	6.08	10.33
Audit Status	Complete and up to date				

Source: BPE Review 2023-24

Table 4.3.5 Plan Outlay and Expenditure, KINFRA (Rs in crore)

Sl. No	Year	Outlay	Expenditure	per cent
1	2018-19	96.0	47.0	49.0
2	2019-20	107.0	31.0	29.0
3	2020-21	92.53	85.14	92.0
4	2021-22	302.53	177.88	58.80
5	2022-23	332.53	62.92	18.92
6	2023-24	335.56	226.74	67.57
7	2024-25	324.31	154.40	47.61
8	2025-26*	346.31	101.49	29.31

Source: Budget Estimate *till September 2025

Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) (Industrial Financing)

KFC incorporated under the State Financial Corporations Act of 1951, is a leading State Financial Corporation in India, playing a vital role in the industrialisation of the State by providing financial assistance to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the manufacturing and service sector. The Corporation provides financial assistance for setting up of new units and for the expansion/modernisation/diversification of existing units in both manufacturing and service sectors. Financial assistance is provided in the form of term loans, working capital loans and special schemes. KFC is a member of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises.

With a strong capital base, sound credit quality, and an expanding portfolio of targeted financial schemes such as the Chief Minister's entrepreneurship Programme (CMEDP), Startup Kerala, and the Kerala Agro-based MSME Loan scheme (KAMS), KFC continues to advance the State's vision of inclusive industrialisation.

The major activities of the Corporation are the following:

- Sanction of term loans to new micro, small and medium enterprises in the manufacturing and services sector.
- Sanction of term loans to existing industrial concerns and services sector units for expansion/modernisation/diversification.
- Sanction of working capital loans to meet the working capital requirements of industrial/service enterprises under special schemes.
- Special schemes for financial assistance to civil contractors.
- Special scheme for financial assistance for producing feature films and TV serials.
- Special scheme for modernisation, upgradation and expansion of existing cinema theatres and establishment of new multiplexes.
- Special scheme for the purchase of lab equipments/waste management.
- Scheme for Funding Venture Debt for IT Hardware and Software Enterprises.
- Scheme for financing working capital requirements of start-ups for executing purchase orders.

Key Business Initiatives

The key initiatives taken up are given below:

- During 2024-25, KFC's loan portfolio exceeded Rs.8,000 crore for the first time, reaching Rs.8011.98 crore and its net worth surpassed Rs. 1,000 crore to touch Rs. 1,328 crore. Key performance indicators reflect a notable growth. Sanctions have increased by 19.96 per cent while disbursements declined by 3.70 per cent. Portfolio has expanded by 8.73 per cent, and profit increased by 32.57 per cent. Gross NPA decreased by 7.29 per cent, and net NPA witnessed a decline of 10.29 per cent.
- Recognition of High-Performing Clients – KFC Platinum/Gold/Silver Cards – KFC Platinum/Gold and Silver Cards was introduced to recognise borrowers with exemplary repayment and business conduct. These cards, which are renewable annually, acknowledge creditworthy clients and help foster long-term engagement.
- Launch of KFC Pink card for Women entrepreneurs: - To promote women-led enterprises, the corporation launched the KFC Pink card, offering eligible women entrepreneurs benefits such as reduced processing fees, interest concessions and access to additional finance on relaxed terms.
- New Scheme for commercial real estate – Residential housing: - A specialised financing scheme was introduced for the commercial real estate – residential housing segment. The scheme offers competitive interest rates and includes revolving working capital facilities to builders with strong credit profiles, for projects registered with Kerala Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA).
- Refinancing Scheme for State NBFCs Supporting MSMEs: - A new refinancing scheme was introduced for well-established and profitable NBFCs in Kerala, to support them in providing financial assistance to MSMEs within the State, with a maximum loan amount of Rs.50 crore.
- Award and Recognition: KFC was conferred the Hues of Life Exemplary Business and Leadership Award 2024 for its exceptional performance in designing and implementing financial schemes tailored for MSMEs. Additionally, the corporation secured the MSME Excellence Award 2024 from Hues of Life, recognising it as the Best Financial Service Provider to the MSME Sector.

Table 4.3.6 Performance of Kerala Financial Corporation (Rs in lakh)

Sl.No	Key Parameters	2023-24	2024-25
1	Portfolio Size	7,36,832.71	8,01,198.61
2	Sanctions	3,33666.41	4,00,257.07
3	Disbursements	4,06,855.43	3,91,839.91
4	Recovery	4,06,855.43	3,98,075.93
5	Interest Income	68,185.01	71,745.29
6	Total Income	86,871.54	90,139.05
7	Total Expenditure	76,082.46	80,011.48
8	Op. Profit before technical write-off of bad debts	24,098.66	23,815.28
9	Op. Profit after technical write-off of bad debts	10,789.08	10,127.58
10	Net profit after tax	7404.39	9,815.91
11	Net worth	1,06,352.78	1,32,834.64
12	Capital Adequacy Ratio per cent	25.52	28.65
13	Gross NPA as per cent of Gross advances	2.88	2.67
14	Net NPA as per cent of Net advances	0.68	0.61

Source: Kerala Financial Corporation

Table 4.3.7 The Sector-wise classification of loans and advances (Rs.in Lakh)

Sector	2023-24			2024-25		
	Number	Amount	Per cent	Number	Amount	Per cent
Manufacturing	1639	102153.41	13.86	1577	113131.35	14.12
Service	4941	602809.70	81.81	3867	653756.45	81.60
Commercial Real Estate	120	31869.60	4.33	110	34310.80	4.28
Total	6700	736832.71	100	5554	801198.6	100

Source: Kerala Financial Corporation

The performance of KFC over the past five years is outlined in **Appendix 4.3.10**, while **Appendix 4.3.11** and **Appendix 4.3.12** provide details on loan operations and industry-wise loan classification for the year 2024-25. **Table 4.3.6** displays the notable achievements of the Corporation during the previous two financial years.

The sector-wise classification of loans and advances as on 31 March 2025 is shown in **Table 4.3.7**.

Other Government Agencies for Industrial Development

Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (KBIP)

Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (KBIP) is an autonomous body under the Department of Industries and Commerce. KBIP, established in 1991, is a registered society under the Travancore

Cochin Scientific Literary and Charitable Societies Act 1955. They are involved with MSME and Medium and Large enterprises in Kerala. Ministry of MSME, Government of India, has sanctioned 17 Common Facility Centre Projects to the State, of which 12 projects worth Rs.7,522.45 lakh have been commissioned and commenced operation, and 5 Common Facility Centre projects worth Rs.5,996.31 lakh are in various stages of implementation.

The various industrial promotion activities undertaken by KBIP are as follows.

Industrial cluster development - The industrial promotional activities of K-BIP include the implementation of the Common Facility Centre (CFC) under the MSE-CDP Scheme, the 'Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance' (RAMP) scheme, the PM Formalization of Micro Food

Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme, the activities of the Kerala State Bamboo Mission and the National Bamboo Mission (NBM) Scheme, the certification of food processing and related units by the National Centre for HACCP Certification (NCHC), facilitating MSME participation in regional, national, and international events, and organizing regional exhibitions, B2B meetings, technical workshops, and awareness programs on behalf of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

Implementation of PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme

- KBIP is the State Nodal Agency of the centrally sponsored Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PM FME Scheme) launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India. The Scheme provides financial, technical and business support for the upgradation of existing Micro Food Processing Enterprises. Kerala achieved 104 per cent of its target as of March 31, 2025, by sanctioning 3,086 loans under individual applications from micro-enterprises. Additionally, Rs. 32.67 crore has been released by the Government of Kerala as a 40 per cent State share in the financial year 2024-25.

Audit and Certification of Food Processing and related units - In the FY 2024-25, the National Centre for Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Certification (NCHC) functioning in K- BIP completed the process of auditing for the issue/renewal of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Certification to 4 Food Processing and Allied Units from the State.

Participation in Regional, National and International Events - KBIP provides an opportunity to establish our State's strengths in National and International markets by introducing Kerala's MSME products to potential importers, distributors, and representatives in various Regional, National & International Events. The following are the Regional/National/International Events in which KBIP facilitated the participation of MSMEs from Kerala during the FY 2024-25:

- India Horeca Expo 2024, Coimbatore (July 3 to 5, 2024)
- Foodpro 2024, Chennai (August 9 to 11, 2024)

- Pro Food Pro Pack Exhibition 2024, Sri Lanka (August 23 to 25, 2024)
- World Food India 2024 Exhibition, New Delhi (September 19 to 22, 2024)
- India Boat & Marine Show, Kochi (January 22 to 24, 2025) Ahaar 2025 Exhibition, New Delhi (March 4 to 8, 2025)
- World Hospitality Expo 2025, Bangalore (June 22 to 24, 2025)
- India Horeca Expo 2025, Coimbatore (July 2 to 4, 2025)
- Pro Food Pro Pack 2025 Exhibition, Sri Lanka (August 22 to 24, 2025).
- Meeting on Ease of Doing Business at Sankaranarayanan Thampi Hall, Kerala Legislative Assembly, Thiruvananthapuram on August 10, 2025.
- Year of Enterprises Interactive Workshop at Hotel Taj Vivanta, Marine Drive, Kochi on November 11, 2024.
- Impact study report on Year of Enterprises at Hotel Renai Cochin, Ernakulam, on July 12,
- Meeting on Study Report on Plantation Sector in Kerala at Hotel Hilton Garden Inn, Thiruvananthapuram on November 27, 2024.
- State Level Investors Conclave-Mission 1000 at IMA House, Ernakulam on September 1, 2024.
- Meeting on Implementation of a new scheme for the Construction and Rejuvenation of Layams for Plantation Workers at Hotel Hilton Garden Inn, Thiruvananthapuram on March 14, 2025.
- Meeting concurrent to the Inauguration of Plantation Directorate at Vikas Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram held at Hotel Mascot, Thiruvananthapuram on April 10, 2025.
- Conduct of State-wide Quiz Competition for School/College Students with the title as Awareness Response for Young and Student Entrepreneurs (ARYSE) as part of International MSME Day Celebrations on June 27, 2025, at Hotel Residency Tower, to the young/student generation in the State on the significance and relevance of the MSME Sector in the State economy.
- National Handloom Day Celebration 2025 was held at Hotel Forte Manor, Thiruvananthapuram, on August 7, 2025.
- State Handloom Expo 2025 was held at LMS Square Ground, Palayam, Thiruvananthapuram, from August 17 to September 6, 2025.

- KBIP is undertaking the social media campaign activities of the Department

of Industries & Commerce. Social Media Accounts have been created in Facebook (www.facebook.com/IndustriesKerala), Instagram (www.instagram.com/Keralaindustries), and a YouTube channel (Kerala Industries) has been created exclusively for the Department of Industries & Commerce.

- To disseminate the various Schemes and to make the entrepreneurs aware about the recent happenings in the industrial sector of the State, a bi-monthly E-Newsletter named ‘Vyavasaya Keralam’ is designed and published fortnightly by KBIP for the Directorate of Industries & Commerce from September 2021 onwards. As on March 31, 2025, 80 editions of the E-Newsletter have been published by KBIP.

Centre for Management Development (CMD)

Centre for Management Development (CMD) is an autonomous institution sponsored by the Government of Kerala and attached to the Department of Industries and Commerce. The Centre was established in 1979 as a professional registered society to provide professional management support to public enterprises in the State. Over the years, CMD has broadened its sphere of activities, and it provides support to the Development Agencies, Corporate Section and the Government, both at the National and State levels, through consultancy, project management, Monitoring & Evaluation, Human Resource Management, Training, Education & Research and Public Private partnership (PPPs).

Major activities of CMD in 2024-25 are

- **Evaluation of the StartUp Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP):** CMD carried out a state-level evaluation of the Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) of Kudumbashree. Using surveys, focus groups, interviews and data analysis, the study assessed enterprise performance, financial outcomes and social impact. The study recommended the need for stronger block resource centres, micro-clusters and structured training.
- **Sectoral profiling study for RAMP Scheme:** In 2024-25, CMD undertook a key assignment for KSIDC as part of the RAMP Scheme to revitalise MSMEs. The study profiled ten strategic sectors and assessed

Kerala’s comparative advantages, ecosystem strengths, infrastructure readiness, investment climate, exports and sustainable growth.

- **Sustainable Livelihood Generation Programme for Scheduled Tribe Community (Gothrajeevika II):** Following the successful completion of Gothrajeevika I, Gothrajeevika II was developed and implemented by CMD under the sponsorship of the Scheduled Tribes Development Department to generate sustainable livelihoods for tribal communities by enhancing employment potential through targeted skill development initiatives. The project trained 840 tribal beneficiaries in trades such as masonry, decorative painting, jute stitching and mobile phone repair. It also facilitated the formation of 29 Self Help Groups (SHGs) under the banner ‘Gothra Jeevika ST Swayam Sahaya Sangham’ to promote long-term income generation and self-reliance.
- **Preparation of Project Execution Document for KIIFB:** In 2024-25, KIIFB engaged CMD to prepare the Project execution documents for bridge and elevated Highway projects worth nearly Rs. 415 crore. The work involved detailed technical reviews and Project execution documents preparation in line with KIIFB manuals. CMD was entrusted with 13 bridge projects across Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Ernakulam, Thrissur and Alappuzha districts. Site visits were completed for 11 projects, and comprehensive technical review reports were submitted to KIIFB.
- **Social Impact Assessment Studies:** During 2024-25, CMD has completed three SIA studies in Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts by conducting site visits, consultations and public hearings. These covered land acquisition for the Coastal highway (Reach IV) in Thiruvananthapuram, the Pinnakkanadu 33 KV substation at Chemmalamattom in Kottayam and the Iravon bridge in Pathanamthitta. The findings offered recommendations for having a balanced development with social responsibility.

Way forward

Recent years have witnessed a steady increase in the size of Kerala’s manufacturing sector. Kerala has achieved substantial progress with respect to

modernising and diversifying its industrial sector. The vision of the Government is to achieve an industrial transformation in Kerala that is socially and environmentally sustainable, even while protecting the interests of the workers. A new set of modern industries has emerged and is growing in Kerala.

Kerala has a well-educated workforce and good quality human capital, which can be leveraged for higher-value manufacturing (R&D, design, engineering) rather than purely labour-intensive. There has been a growing interest in food and agro-based industries, and industries using advanced technology such as medical devices. There is renewed interest and vibrancy in the manufacturing sector in the state.

Facilitation of industrial investment, especially from the private sector, the adoption of new technologies, application of research, continuous upskilling, human resource development and encouragement to innovation are significant components of Kerala's strategy for industrial progress. With continued Government support and a favourable industrial climate, the state is poised to do well in manufacturing in the coming years.

4.4 MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs)

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises play a vital role in promoting entrepreneurship and innovation. They operate across diverse sectors and cater to domestic as well as international markets with a wide range of products and services. These enterprises contribute significantly to employment generation and provide large scale job opportunities with relatively lower capital investment compared to large industries. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises also function as ancillary units and complement large industries. The sector plays an important role in promoting inclusive industrial development.

MSMEs in India

According to the MSME Annual Report 2024-25 of the Government of India, the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector is a key part of the Indian economy, contributing about 30 per cent to India's GDP and over 45 per cent to its exports. As per the Economic Survey 2024-25 of Government of India, MSMEs provide employment to 23.24 crore population. As on November 13, 2025, a total number of 7,12,70,211 MSMEs, including Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) were registered in Udyam Registration online portal, which include 1,49,35,543 enterprises registered under Manufacturing category, 2,51,20,174 enterprises registered under Service and 3,12,14,494 enterprises registered under Trading category. They are estimated to have generated 31,21,00,555 employment opportunities (Web Portal, Ministry of MSME, Government of India). The sector is diverse in terms of size, levels

of technology employed, and products. Revised classification of MSME units based on investment in plant/machinery/equipment and annual turnover is shown in **Table 4.4.1**.

Table 4.4.1 Classification of MSMEs

The investment and turnover limits for MSME classification have been revised by the Union Government to broaden the eligibility for government schemes with effect from April 1, 2025. The new limits are:

Table 4.4.1 Classification of MSMEs

Composite Criteria: Investment in plant / machinery / equipment and Annual Turnover			
Criteria	Micro	Small	Medium
Investment	Investment <Rs 2.5 crore	Investment <Rs25 crore	Investment <Rs125 crore
Turn over	Turn over <Rs 10 crore	Turn over <Rs 100 crore	Turn over <Rs500 crore

Source: S.O 1364(E) Gazette Notification, Ministry of MSME, Government of India

MSME Sector in Kerala

The Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector plays a vital role in Kerala's economic growth by promoting entrepreneurship and creating jobs with relatively low investment. It supports inclusive industrial development, especially helping by addressing rural challenges

and encouraging rural industries. MSMEs also provide a strong base for innovation and start-ups because they are flexible and easy to set up. Kerala has witnessed the emergence of a large number of new MSMEs, mainly due to initiatives like the “Year of Enterprises” campaign. Data shows this positive trend, proving that focused support, good infrastructure, and skill development programs can effectively help new entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses.

The industries under MSMEs include, handicrafts, handloom, khadi, food processing industries, garment making and textile industries and industries related to coir, wood, bamboo, plastic, rubber, leather, and clay products. MSMEs produce over 8000 products ranging from traditional to high-tech items. One third of the MSME units in Kerala are owned by women.

The Government and banks in Kerala facilitate and support MSMEs. To promote the growth of the MSME and traditional industrial sectors, the District Industries Centres (DIC) acts as a facilitator. DIC implements various schemes to develop an entrepreneurial culture in the State. The Industries Department provides financial assistance to start Entrepreneurship Development clubs at school and college levels to foster entrepreneurship among the youth. The Department also gives high priority in providing services to start-ups and establishing business incubation centres in District Industries Centres.

The agencies under the Department of Industries & Commerce are the DIC, Directorate of Handloom and Textiles (which aims at evolving policies for the promotion and development of handloom and textile sector in the State); Directorate of Coir Development (the implementing agency for all policy decisions of the Government of Kerala related to coir industry); Khadi and Village Industries Board (vested with the responsibility of organising and promoting Khadi and Village Industries in the State); and the Directorate of Plantations (for the development of the plantation sector in the State).

MSME and 14th Five-Year Plan

The industrial development strategy under the 14th Five-Year Plan includes several initiatives to strengthen Kerala’s industrial ecosystem. The main goals are to support existing industries, make them more resilient, protect jobs, and give special focus to developing MSMEs. The strategy also aims to promote sustainability, expand and upgrade industrial units, link local enterprises with national and global markets, develop modern industrial parks, create land banks for future use, etc. While Kerala’s natural conditions limit the growth of large, resource-based industries, they offer strong potential for developing diverse MSMEs in many sectors. Recognizing this, the Government has introduced various policies and schemes to promote MSMEs.

Box 4.4.1 Year of Enterprises 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0

To encourage and promote Micro, Small and Medium level entrepreneurs in the State, the Government declared the Financial Year 2022-23 as the “Year of Enterprises” with the motto “My enterprise, Nation’s pride”. The Directorate of Industries & Commerce was entrusted with the initiative of “Setting up of One Lakh Enterprises in 2022-23”. The targets were to establish one lakh enterprises through joint efforts of various departments and to create three lakh employments in the year 2022-23. This is known as Year of Enterprises 1.0.

Some of the key systems that were established as part of this initiative include

- Appointment of professionally qualified interns and setting up Enterprises Help Desks at all local bodies.
- Setting up MSME Clinics in all Districts.
- Establishing Taluk level Enterprise Facilitation Centres with the services of professional resource persons.
- Constituting committees at State, District and local body level for monitoring the activities under the initiative.
- To ensure adequate access to affordable finance to enterprises, a new subsidy scheme was introduced to provide all enterprise loans at 4 per cent interest through interest subvention,
- To ensure adequate availability of industrial land/infrastructure, Private Industrial Estate Scheme was introduced to grant developer permit to private entities.
- A robust and dynamic online portal was developed to offer Industries Department’s services.

- Continuous campaigns starting from General Orientation Training to potential entrepreneurs, Loans, License, Subsidy mela for entrepreneurs, and Marketing festivals for providing marketing avenues to newly formed enterprises were conducted at all local bodies.

As part of the 'Year of Enterprises 1.0', in 2022-23, a total of 1,39,839 new enterprises were started which led to an investment of Rs 8,421.64 crore. It generated 3,00,049 new employment opportunities in the State.

The 'Year of Enterprises 2.0' was the second edition of the flagship initiative for the period 2023-24. In addition to the activities of 2022-23, emphasis was placed on sustainability of enterprises. The objective was to ensure that at least 70 per cent of new MSMEs formed in the State operate successfully. It also sought to ensure 5 per cent growth rate in the turnover of new MSMEs. Another significant addition was 'Mission 1000' which sought to select 1000 MSMEs and turn them into ventures with an average turnover of Rs 100 crore in four years. As part of the 'Year of Enterprises 2.0' campaign, in 2023-24, a total of 1,03,596 new enterprises were started which are backed by an investment of Rs.7,048.66 crore and generated 2,18,179 new employment opportunities in the State.

The 'Year of Enterprises 3.0' campaign was started in the year 2024-25. Under the campaign, a total number of 1,17,442 MSMEs have been started leading to an investment of Rs 7,798.55 crore and also created 2,48,810 employment opportunities till November 20,2025. Around one-third of these newly formed enterprises are promoted by women entrepreneurs. The top sectors in which new units have been established include Agro and Food Processing, Textiles and Garments; and Service activities.

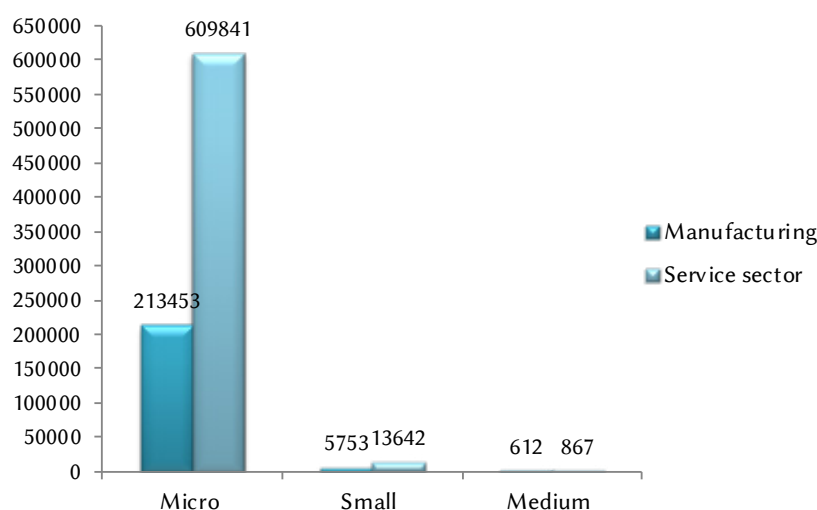
Source: 'Year of Enterprises Portal, Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Kerala.

Udyog Aadhar Memorandum (UAM) in the State

Kerala has discontinued the practice of filing Entrepreneurs Memorandum Part II from September 18, 2015, and in its place, started online registration in Udyog Aadhar. As on March 31, 2025, there were 8,44,168 UAMs filed which include 2,19,818 manufacturing units and 6,24,350

units in the Service Sector. Manufacturing units comprised of 2,13,453 micro units, 5,753 small units and 612 medium units. Out of 6,24,350 UAMs in the service sector, 6,09,841 are micro, 13,642 are small and 867 are medium units. The District-wise number of Micro, Small and Medium units registered under manufacturing and service sectors as on 31 March 2025 is given in

Figure. 4.4.1. Number of Micro, Small and Medium units registered under Manufacturing and Service Sectors in Kerala as on 31 March 2025.



Source: Directorate of Industries and Commerce

Appendix 4.4.1. Number of Micro, Small and Medium units registered under Manufacturing and Service Sectors in Kerala as on 31 March 2025 are shown in **Figure 4.4.1**.

Performance of the Sector

The State achieved remarkable surge in the number of new MSME units established in 2024-25. A total of 1,09,692 new MSME units were set up in 2024-25 with investment of Rs.7,217.83 crore. These units have created employment opportunities for 2,31,468 individuals, marking a sustainable expansion in the MSME sector. The details of new MSME units for the last five years are given in **Table 4.4.2**.

Table 4.4.2 Achievement in MSME sector, 2020-21 to 2024-25 (As on March 31, 2025)

Year	No. of MSME units	Investment (in Rs crore)	Employment generated (in number)
2020-21	11,540	1,221.86	44,975
2021-22	15,285	1,535.09	56,233
2022-23	1,39,839	8,421.63	3,00,051
2023-24	1,03,596	7,048.65	2,18,179
2024-25	1,09,692	7,217.83	2,31,468
TOTAL	3,79,952	25,445.06	8,50,906

Source: Directorate of Industries and Commerce

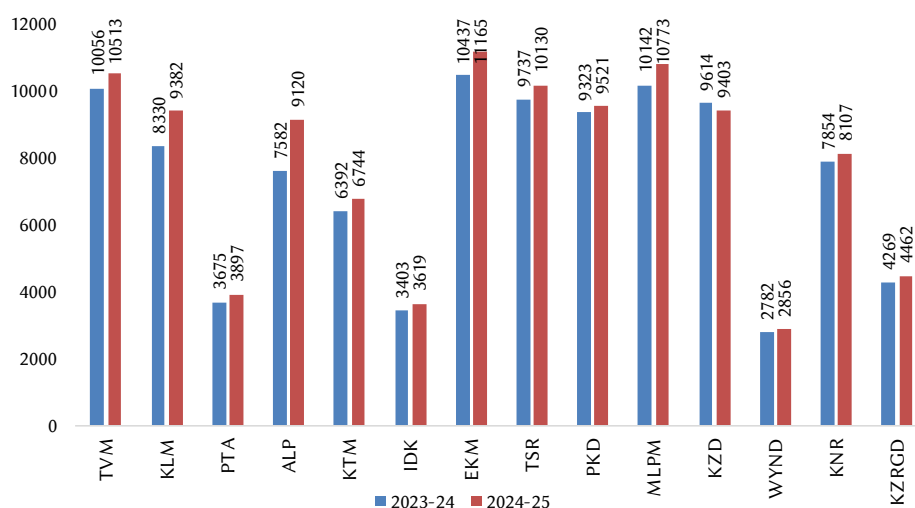
In 2024-25, the district with the largest numbers of new MSME units was Ernakulam

(11,165 units) with an investment of Rs 1,027.05 crore, generating 26,828 employment opportunities, followed by Malappuram (10,773 units) with an investment of Rs 689.54 crore generating 24,176 employment opportunities and Thiruvananthapuram (10,513 units) with an investment of Rs 630.34 crore providing employment to 21,399 persons. Wayanad had the lowest number of new enterprises (2,856 units) with an investment of 267.16 crore generating employment for 6,207 persons. The District-wise details of new MSME units started in Kerala in 2024-25 is given in **Appendix 4.4.2**.

Figure 4.4.2 shows District-wise details of new MSME units in the State started in 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The number of new MSME units registered in the state in 2019-20 was 13695, which decreased to 11540 in 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The number increased to 15285 in 2021-22. As a result of the “Year of Enterprise” campaign launched by the state government in 2022-23, there has been a huge increase in the number of newly registered MSME units in the subsequent years. The sector-wise growth of MSME units over the last three years reveals that, most of the units are registered under agro and food-based sector. It also shows an increase in the number of agro and food-based units from 23,473 in 2022-23 to 29,541 in 2024-25. Moreover growth has been recorded across all sectors except trade activity. The

Figure. 4.4.2. Number of Micro, Small and Medium units registered under Manufacturing and Service Sectors in Kerala as on 31 March 2025.



Source: Directorate of Industries and Commerce

Table 4.4.3 Subsector wise details of new MSME units started in Kerala

SI No	Sub Sector Name	Achievement			
		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	% share of subsector in 2024-25
1	Agro and food based	23473	26304	29541	26.93
2	Automobile Sevice / Repair	4088	4785	5020	4.58
3	Biotechnology	28	33	62	0.06
4	Building & Construction Materials	3830	4043	3885	3.54
5	Chemical Products	576	722	780	0.71
6	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	1847	1467	1618	1.48
7	Electrical & Electronics & IT	5316	4202	4147	3.78
8	Energy and Renewable Energy	155	283	333	0.30
9	Garments and Textiles	14702	13742	14065	12.82
10	General Engineering	1989	1773	1599	1.46
11	Glass Products	133	230	227	0.21
12	Handloom, Coir & Handicraft	1252	649	933	0.85
13	AI & Robotics	775	755	684	0.62
14	Training/ Coaching Centres	2329	2068	2493	2.27
15	Leather Products	252	480	448	0.41
16	Medical Related	2426	1843	1595	1.45
17	Organic / Chemical Fertilzers	272	338	367	0.33
18	Other manufacturing activities	2427	1556	1822	1.66
19	Other service Activities	11678	10040	11272	10.28
20	Paper Products	659	846	900	0.82
21	Personal Care Product	4963	6608	7060	6.44
22	Plastic Products	266	526	477	0.43
23	Waste Management	223	76	66	0.06
24	Rubber Products	247	363	394	0.36
25	Trade activity	48948	13842	14130	12.88
26	Travel and Tourism	1603	1661	1751	1.60
27	Media & Entertainment	3795	2728	2392	2.18
28	Wood Products	1529	1633	1631	1.49
	Not Entered	58	0	0	0.00
Total		139839	103596	109692	100.00

Source: Directorate of Industries and Commerce

number of units engaged in trade activity shows a significant decline from 48,948 in 2022–23 to 13,842 in 2023–24, followed by a slight increase to 14,130 in 2024–25. The least number of units have been registered in the sub-sectors of Biotechnology and Waste Management. The subsector-wise details of MSME units started in the last three years is given in **Table 4.4.3**.

The top five subsectors together consisting of over 69 per cent of the MSME units in 2024-25 are Agro and food based (26.93 per cent) Trade Activity (12.88 per cent), Garments and Textiles (12.82 per cent), Other Service Activities (10.27 per cent) and Personal Care Products (6.43 per cent).

Box 4.4.2 Kerala Brand (Made in Kerala)

Kerala Brand aims to create a strong and attractive image of Kerala's products and services in the global market. It will highlight the State's commitment to quality, ethical, and responsible industrial practices while helping local enterprises reach international customers with a unique identity for products "Made in Kerala." In the initial phase, the government has introduced Kerala Brand for Coconut Oil manufacturers in the state. In the second phase, 10 new products have been selected. Coffee powder, Tea powder, Ghee, Honey, Packed Drinking Water, Plywood, PVC Pipe, Surgical Rubber Gloves, footwear and Compounded Cattle feed are the products included in the Kerala Brand.

Source: Directorate of Industries and Commerce

State Plan Schemes- Overview

Over the years, the Government of Kerala has introduced several schemes to meet the basic and emerging needs of entrepreneurs in the State. These initiatives are increasingly designed based on feedback from current and aspiring entrepreneurs. Their effectiveness in supporting entrepreneurs has played a major role in boosting enterprise growth, investment, and employment across Kerala. **Table 4.4.4** shows the incentives and related schemes implemented by the Directorate of Industries and Commerce in FY 2025-26.

The MSME sector consists of the Small Scale Industries, Commerce, and Handicraft subsectors. In the FY 2023–24, the sector achieved an expenditure progress of 61.20 per cent, by utilizing Rs 13,702.34 lakh out of the total budget allocation of Rs 22,390 lakh. However, the low expenditure progress in the Commerce subsector (14.69 per cent) had a notable impact on the sector's overall performance in 2023-24. Despite fiscal constraints in FY 2024–25, the MSME sector recorded an expenditure progress of 55.97 per cent, with both the Commerce and Handicraft subsectors showing

Table 4.4.4 State Plan Schemes

Sl No	Type of Incentive	Scheme
I	Interest subsidy	• Interest subvention on deferred land cost investments to entrepreneurs in industrial parks and areas • Interest subvention to Nano Household Enterprises • Special Package for MSMEs
II	Capital Assistance	• Entrepreneurship Support Scheme (ESS) • Revival of MSMEs with stressed assets • Margin Money Grant to Nano Units • Revival of small and medium scale cashew factory units • Assistance to skilled Entrepreneurs Development Centres • Special Package for MSMEs- One family One Enterprise • Special Package for MSMEs • Assistance to Apex Organisations in the Handicraft sector • Revival, Rejuvenation and Resurrection of the private cashew industry sector • Local economic development and sustainability of enterprises
III	Rent waiver	• Rejuvenating Industrial Co-operative society support scheme
IV	Subsidies on land	• Interest Subvention on deferred land cost investments to entrepreneurs industrial areas and parks
V	Infrastructure Development Programmes	• Improving Infrastructure in Existing DA/DP • Modernisation of Existing Common Facility Service Centres • Construction of Multi-Storied Industrial Estates • Development of Industrial Parks/Areas/Estates in PPP Mode • Infrastructure Development and Capacity Building - Setting up of CFCs / Small Industry cluster Development Scheme (Restructured Centrally sponsored scheme of MSE-CDP) • Multi-Purpose Trade Facilitation Centres • Modernisation of DIC and District/Sub Offices
VI	Entrepreneurial Development Programme	• KIED as a centre of Excellence in Entrepreneurial Development • Enterprise Development Centres • Entrepreneurship Development Clubs in Schools and Colleges

VII	Marketing Assistance	• Multipurpose Trade Facilitation centres • Special Package to MSMEs • Infrastructure Development and Capacity building Setting up of CFCs / Small Industry cluster Development Scheme (Restructured Centrally sponsored scheme of MSE-CDP) • Central MSME sector Scheme (Additional State share) • PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises - PMFME (40% State Share)
VIII	Technology support	• Entrepreneurship Support Scheme • Local Economic Development and sustainability of enterprises • Capacity Building Programme • Central MSME sector Schemes (Matching State Share)
IX	Insurance Scheme	• Local Economic Development and sustainability of enterprises
X	Capacity Building	• Capacity Building Programmes
XI	Support for Commerce	• Development of Commerce
XII	Support for Handicrafts	• Assistance to Organisations in Handicrafts Sector • Establishment of Common facility Service Centres for Handicrafts • Assistance Scheme for Handicrafts Artisans (ASHA) • Rejuvenating Industrial Co-operative society support scheme • Craft Complex – SURABHI
XIII	Support for Bamboo related Industries	Development of Bamboo Related Industries
XIV	Support for Plantation	Directorate of Plantation

Source: Directorate of Industries & Commerce

improved performance compared to the previous year. For FY 2025–26, the total budget allocation for the MSME sector has increased by 23.67 per cent, and also the sector has achieved 39.41 per

Table 4.4.5 Plan Outlay and Expenditure of Directorate of Industries and Commerce, 2023-24 to 2025-26, Rs in lakh

Sector	2023-24			2024-25			2025-26 (as on 20/09/2025)		
	Outlay	Exp	%	Outlay	Exp	%	Outlay	Exp	%
Small Scale Industries	21,270.00	13458.25	63.27	20,494.00	11746.68	57.32	25493.00	10453.48	41.01
Commerce	700.00	102.83	14.69	650.00	166.50	25.62	700.00	13.33	1.90
Handicrafts	420.00	141.26	33.63	420.00	157.21	37.43	411.00	18.88	4.59
Total	22,390.00	13702.34	61.20	21,564.00	12070.39	55.97	26604.00	10485.69	39.41

* as on September 20th , 2025 Source: Plan space Kerala

Box 4.4.3 Mission 1000 Scale Up

‘Mission 1000’ has been launched in 2024-25 with the aim of scaling up of 1000 Micro, small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state into business with an average annual turnover of 100 crore within a span of 4 years. An amount of Rs. 3500 lakh is allocated for the scheme “Scaling up of MSMEs” during last four years. As of September, 2025, 1,134 applications were received and 376 enterprises have been enrolled under the Mission 1000 scheme and are in the process of scale up DPR preparation. Of the selected units, DPRs prepared by 105 units for scaling up activities have also been approved. An amount of Rs 73.4 Lakh has been disbursed among 58 entrepreneurs who have submitted detailed project reports.

Source: Directorate of Industries & Commerce

cent expenditure progress within the first five months of the financial year. Details are provided in **Table 4.4.5**.

Industrial Co-operative Societies

There were 710 working industrial co-operative societies in the State as on March 31, 2025 of which 147 are women cooperative societies.. Kazargod has the larger number of working societies (148). The District-wise number of Industrial Cooperative Societies in the State is given in **Appendix 4.4.3**.

Improving infrastructure in existing Development Plots/Areas

The Directorate of Industries and Commerce (DIC) develop infrastructure facilities for small-scale industries in the State. At present, there are 41 development area/development plots under DIC, having a total area of 2,414.60 acres. In 2024-25, a total of 2,724 units employing 33,101 persons generating an income of Rs. 13,18,146.5 lakh were functioning in these DA/DPs. The District-wise details are given in **Appendix 4.4.4**.

Industrial Estates

Industrial estates are being utilised as an effective tool for the promotion and growth of small-scale industries in the State and also as an effective tool to decentralise industrial activity to rural and backward areas. Industrial estates are specific areas zoned for industrial activities in which infrastructure such as roads, power and other utility services are provided to facilitate the growth of industries and to minimise impacts on the environment. The number of major and mini industrial estates and DA/DPs in Kerala as on March 31, 2025 is given in **Table 4.4.6**.

Industrial Estates under District Industries Centers

The District Industries Centre is a permanent administrative structure at the district level. They provide all the services and support facilities to the entrepreneur for setting up micro, small and medium enterprises. This includes end-to-end support like identification of suitable projects, preparation of feasibility report, arrangements of credit, machinery and equipment, and raw materials and also connecting the units into industrial clusters. They also cater registration and development of industrial cooperatives. There are 92 mini-industrial estates under District Industries Centres with 868 Small Scale Industrial units as on March 31, 2025. There are 748 working units in these estates employing 5,020 persons and generated an income of Rs.11,209.75 lakh. The District-wise details are given in **Appendix 4.4.5**.

Industrial Estates under SIDCO

Kerala Small Industries Development Corporation (SIDCO) is playing a vital role for the promotion of Small, Micro and Medium Industries in the State. The Industrial Estate under SIDCO provides infrastructure facilities such as land, work shed, water and raw material to the units in the small-scale sector. SIDCO has developed 17 major industrial estates in 235.83 acre of land, and about 195.75 acre has been allotted to 877 working units employing 7,821 workers (as on March 31, 2025). Besides, there are also 36 mini industrial estates under SIDCO, with 323 working units employing 1,610 workers. The total income generated by 36 mini industrial estates under SIDCO in 2024-25 was Rs 19.83 lakh. The total income generated in major industrial estates in 2024-25 was Rs.1,419.82 lakh. They also generated 7,821 employment opportunities. District-wise details of industrial estates under SIDCO are given in **Appendix 4.4.6, 4.4.7 and 4.4.8**.

Table 4.4.6 Industrial Areas in Kerala as on 31 March 2025

Sl No	Agency	No. of Industrial Estates		
		Major Estates	Mini Estates	DA/DPs
1	District Industries Centre	-	92	41
2	SIDCO	17	36	-
3	KINFRA	30	-	-
4	KSIDC	11	-	-
Total		58	128	41

Source: DIC, SIDCO, KINFRA & KSIDC

Industrial Cluster Development

Industrial clusters play an important role in the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises mainly because of their inclusiveness, technology absorption, efficiency improvement, and availability of common resources. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has adopted the cluster approach as a key strategy for enhancing the productivity and competitiveness as well as capacity building of small enterprises. Kerala is among the top 5 States in the country in the effective implementation of Cluster Development Programmes. Under the Scheme, approval has been received for common Facility Service Centres of 16 clusters. Out of them 12 had been completed and are functional expending 7,522.45 lakhs. The 4 ongoing schemes at an outlay of Rs.4,997.30 lakh are in progress viz; Wood furniture cluster (Kozhikode), Traditional Furniture Cluster (Chevoor, Thrissur), West Malabar Plywood manufacturers cluster (Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam) and Pappad Cluster (Thiruvananthapuram).

MSME- Development and Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO), Thrissur

MSME-Development and Facilitation Office, Thrissur is a field unit of Development Commissioner (MSME) under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India. The Institute is actively engaged in the promotion and development of MSME clusters in the State. The DFO provides need-based support to MSME entrepreneurs by providing techno-economic and managerial consultancy services and also conducts entrepreneurial, technical and managerial training programmes. The DFO operates a number of reimbursements schemes and facilitates participation in industrial exhibitions in order to provide a platform to MSMEs to improve their productivity. MSME-DFO, Thrissur has reached to 89,497 beneficiaries through various modes of awareness programmes. The details are given in **Appendix 4.4.9**.

As the State Level Office of Office of Development Commissioner (MSME), under Ministry of MSME, Government of India, MSME-DFO, Thrissur has carried out large number of programmes to contribute to the development of MSME Sector in the State. The major activities are as under:

- Guidance and assistance for the MSMEs on credit related matters

- Implementation of various schemes of Government of India for Artisans, i.e. PM Viswakarma
- Implementation of MSME Champions Scheme for promoting competitiveness amongst MSMEs by the way of wastage reduction through Lean Manufacturing, support for Design improvement, building awareness on Intellectual Property Rights, Zero Defect Zero Effect (ZED) Scheme, and to promote & support untapped creativity of individual and to promote adoption of latest technologies in manufacturing as well as knowledge based innovation MSMEs through Incubation across India.
- Various initiatives to support the Marketing and Export Promotion of MSMEs, like Vendor Development Programmes, reimbursement for participation in the Domestic Trade Fairs and also soft intervention by creating awareness.
- Infrastructure Development and Cluster Development activities in the State
- Entrepreneurship and Skill Development assistance provided to 1,745 Entrepreneurs through 23 training programmes
- Total 89,497 Entrepreneurs got assistance through various awareness programmes and one to one consultancy
- Conducted Grievance Redressal, Publicity and Out Reach Programmes.

Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council (MSEFC), Kerala

As per the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 (Section 15-24) State Government established Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Councils (MSEFC) for settlement of disputes on getting references/ filing on Delayed payments (Section 20 and 21). In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 20 of the MSMED Act, 2006, the Government of Kerala has established three Regional Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Councils at District Industries Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode in addition to the State MSEFC at Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Thiruvananthapuram.

Package for Rural Industries- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

The scheme aims to generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas

of the country through setting up of new self-employment ventures, projects and micro enterprises. Besides, the scheme also seeks to provide continuous and sustainable employment to all segments of traditional and prospective artisans and rural/urban unemployed youth in the country, so as to help arrest migration of rural youth to urban areas. The scheme also focuses to increase the wage-earning capacity of artisans and contribute to increase in the growth rate of rural and urban employment. The Scheme is implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), as the nodal agency at the National level. At the State level, the scheme is implemented through State offices of KVIC, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIB), District Industries Centres (DIC), Coir Board (for coir related activities) and Banks. The maximum cost of the project or unit admissible under manufacturing sector is Rs.50 lakh and under business or service sector is Rs.20 lakh. Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a credit linked subsidy scheme at the national level. In 2024-25 the banks in the State sanctioned 4,371 projects and released margin money of Rs.4272.7 lakh. District-wise details are given in **Appendix 4.4.10**.

Industrial Financing in MSME Sector

State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC)

As per the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) report, Banks have launched a number of sustainable banking initiatives like the achievement of target under PMEGP, indicates their keenness in lending under Government Sponsored Schemes. According to the SLBC Report, outstanding flow of credit to the MSME sector increased to Rs 85,341.80 crore in 2024-25 from Rs 77,440.62 crore in 2023-24, registering an increase of 10.20 per cent over previous period. The details regarding flow of credit to various sectors is given in **Appendix 4.4.11**.

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

The Government encourages SIDBI to refinance credit institutions, which provide unsecured loans, at reasonable interest rates, to borrowers based on their transaction history. In order to improve access to credit for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), particularly those that have been underserved, SIDBI created a special fund of Rs 1,000 crore. The aim of this fund was to establish a bond market for smaller and lower-

rated Micro Finance Institutions, Non-Banking Financial Companies, and Financial Technology companies. In FY 2023, SIDBI further simplified and digitised its lending processes for MSMEs. This resulted in a reduction of reliance on outdated borrower information and a shift towards using up-to-date information from public databases such as Goods and Service Tax, Income Tax Returns, Bank statements, and Ministry of Corporate Affairs databases. SIDBI also expanded its 'Prayaas' scheme, which provides micro-loans up to Rs 5 lakh to Micro Enterprises for livelihood activities. This expansion helped 2,94,000 beneficiaries, more than 85 per cent of the beneficiaries are women entrepreneurs and more than 70 per cent of the assisted beneficiaries belongs to the socially backward sections of the society.

Other Initiatives and achievements in the MSME sector

- **456 Local Bodies** identified Products under One District One Product (OPOP) scheme.
- **MSME Clinics** were functioning successfully as a State-wide system to aid the MSMEs that face difficulties with licensing, marketing, financing, exporting, banking, GST, and technology. Clinics have been constituted in all 14 District Industries Centers (DIC), by identifying and empaneling around 160 subject matter experts in Law, Marketing, DPR preparation, Export, GST, Technology, Consents, Licenses and Banking for providing the facility to clear the queries/doubts of the entrepreneurs or aspirants.
- **RAMP** - The Ministry of MSME has sanctioned Rs 107.71 crore for the implementation of the scheme, with an additional Rs 37.07 crore committed by the state government. The scheme is being executed through eight strategic interventions comprising 24 components, coordinated by the Directorate of Industries and Commerce, the designated nodal agency. As of 31st March 2025, Rs 2.91 crore has been expended from the GoI fund, towards the scheme's execution in the state.
- Approval issued to 38 **Private Industrial Estates** since inception
- Approval issued to 10 **campus industrial parks**
- **The Scheme to establish Cooperative Industrial parks is under the consideration of Government**

- An office for the Directorate of Plantations (a separate directorate exclusively for Plantations sector, first of its kind in India started functioning in 2023) inaugurated on April 10, 2025
- **Sambhrambhaka Sabha** - The Sambhrambhaka Sabha initiative was inaugurated on December 11, 2024. It has been successfully conducted in all 1,034 local bodies, bringing together entrepreneurs, officials, and stakeholders for knowledge sharing and growth.
- **Construction of Layams for the Plantation Sector** - An expenditure of Rs 80.81 lakh was made in the financial year 2024-25 for the construction of layams (Construction and renovation of labour housing) for the plantation sector. This initiative aims to improve infrastructure for the plantation industry.
- **Development of Industrial Infrastructure under Public Panchayat Partnership Scheme** - A revised proposal for the development of industrial infrastructure under the Public Panchayat Partnership Scheme has been submitted to the government. The proposal is now in its final stages of approval.
- **ED Club Registration** - The registration process for ED (Entrepreneur Development) Clubs is currently underway, with 702 ED Clubs already registered on the portal.
- **Revival, Rejuvenation, and Resurrection of Private Cashew Industry Sector** The allocated fund for this scheme has fully utilised in the year 2024-25.
- **Kerala Women Entrepreneurs Conclave 2025** - The Kerala Women Entrepreneurs Conclave is conducted on October 13, 2025.

Issues and challenges in the sector

- Ensuring the sustainability of enterprises launched under the Year of Enterprises campaign is a key concern for the department.
- Changes in the Union's distribution of net tax proceeds are having a significant impact on the State's development.
- The State also faces shortage of industrial land because of its long coastline and the Western Ghats.
- MSMEs are facing intense competition from large industries, including multinational corporations (MNCs), and e-commerce giants, which can offer lower prices.
- Despite the increase in bank lending, many

MSMEs still face challenges in securing timely and affordable credit due to a lack of collateral and complicated application processes.

Way Forward

As part of creating a better industrial ecosystem suitable for the formation and growth of new enterprises, the State Government is formulating and implementing various schemes. The Year of Enterprises campaign and scaling up campaign of the Government have generated enthusiasm and has led to a momentum in the industrial sphere of the State. In the coming days it plans to create a sustainable industrial environment for the industry by further strengthening the integration of activities of various departments, capacity building in various sectors, technology transfer and establishment of Kerala brand certification for quality control. As we move forward it is essential to consolidate our gains, explore new possibilities and link up with broader developments in the industrial ecosystem at the national and international levels. The positives emerging out of the industrial landscape point towards greater achievements in the sector in the future.

4.5 FOOD PROCESSING

The food processing sector plays a key role in strengthening linkages between industry and agriculture. A well-developed food processing sector with higher levels of processing helps reduce wastage, increase value addition, promote crop diversification, ensure better returns to farmers, generate employment, and enhance export earnings. The sector supports integration and collaboration between agriculture and industry and strengthens the agricultural value chain. It also addresses issues related to food security and food inflation and supports the supply of safe and nutritious food.

Food processing in India covers fruits and vegetables, plantations, grain processing, spices, milk and dairy products, meat and poultry, fisheries, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, and consumer product groups such as confectionery, chocolates, cocoa products, soya based products, mineral water, and high protein foods. The sector includes enterprises ranging from micro units to large industries. Food

processing can be analysed across different levels, namely primary, secondary, and tertiary processing. Primary processing refers to the conversion of raw agricultural produce into commodities suitable for human consumption. This includes activities such as cleaning, grading, sorting, and packing. Food processing industries generally operate at higher levels of processing, where new or higher value food products are manufactured.

Food Processing in India

Over the year's agricultural production in India has consistently recorded higher output. India ranks first in pulses, milk and onion, second in vegetables primary, fruits primary, wheat, rice, eggs primary etc. and third in cereals in World Agriculture in 2021. An abundant supply of raw materials, increase in demand for food products and incentives offered by the Government has impacted food processing sector positively. According to the Annual Report 2024-25 of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, (MoFPI) Government of India, India's Gross Value Added

Table no. 4.5.1 Employment in food processing Sector in India

Type	Total Number of Factories	Total Number of FPI Factories	% of FPI in Total Factories	Total Employment in Factories (in Lakhs)	FPI Employment (in Lakhs)	% of FPI Employment in Total Employment	Women Employment in FPI (in Lakhs)	% of Women Employment in total FPI Employment
Registered	2,53,334	42,801	16.89	184.95	22.96	12.41	2.17	9.45
Un- incorporated	6,50,48,400	24,59,929	3.78	306.25	46.57	15.21	11.25	24.15

Source: Annual Report 2024-25 of the MoFPI, Government of India,

(GVA) from Food Processing Industries (FPI) in 2023-24 is estimated to be around 2.24 lakh crore (Constant Prices) which is about 1.39 per cent of India's Total GVA. Growth rate of GVA from FPI in 2023-24 is estimated to be around 7.55 per cent. The share of food processing industries in GVA from manufacturing is about 7.93 per cent and that of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is 9.46 per cent. In food processing sector, around 22.96 lakh workers are employed in 42,801 registered factories in 2022-23, out of which 2.17 lakh workers are women. Around 46.57 lakh workers are employed in 24.59 lakh unincorporated enterprises in food processing sector, of which more than 11.25 lakh workers are women. The details of employment in the Indian food processing sector is given in **Table 4.5.1**.

India's Food - Export and Import

The value of agri-food exports (including processed food exports) in 2023-24 was US \$ 46.43 billion accounting for about 11.7 per cent of India's total exports (US \$ 395.39 Billion). The value of processed food exports was US \$ 10.88 billion accounting for about 23.4 per cent of India's agri-food exports. The value of import of agri-food items (including processed food) in 2023-24 was US \$ 31.7 billion which was 4.7 per cent of India's total imports (US \$ 678.21 billion). The value of import of processed food in 2023-24 was US \$ 5.34 billion which was 16.9 per cent of India's total agri-food imports. The share of India's agri-food exports in the world was 2.39 per cent in 2023 and the share of India's agri-food imports in the world was 1.53 per cent in 2023. Hundred per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted under automatic route in food processing industries in India. The food processing sector witnessed FDI equity inflow of US \$ 7.22 billion during the period April 2014 to December 2024 (Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India).

Food Processing Sector - Union Government Initiatives

Development initiatives have been taken by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries of India to promote growth of the food processing sector since it has been identified as one of the priority sectors under "Make in India." PM Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) Scheme and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for food processing industry (PLIS-FPI) are three of

the main schemes used for the purpose. Other activities include promoting of Foreign Direct Investment and dissemination of all relevant information relating to food processing sector through Ministry's website and Investor Portal "Nivesh Bandhu".

Food Processing Industry in Kerala

The Government of Kerala has formulated a new industrial policy in 2023 to accelerate its industrial growth and create more employment opportunities. This policy builds upon the previous policy from 2018, incorporating changes that align with the current times. Food Processing has been accorded the status of a Priority Sector by the State in new Industrial Policy 2023. Kerala has been successful in developing its ethnic food preparations for tapping the export markets around the world, mainly to cater to the vast Malayali diaspora across the world. These products have evolved into an important export sector. Besides, lot of non-residents have also made investments in food processing sector of the State. The State Government offers incentive for setting up industry through its 'Entrepreneur Support Scheme' and special incentive is offered for food processing, it being a priority sector. As per Annual Survey of Industries 2021-22 (Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Kerala), "Manufacturing of Food products" had the largest share in total employment in the factory sector (28.2 per cent) and largest share in total number of Factories(21.77 per cent) in Kerala. Its share in total output in Kerala's factory sector was also significant at around 19.09 per cent and share in GVA of the state is 16.84 per cent.

Year of Enterprises and Food Processing Sector

A total of 3,59,875 units were started under the Year of Enterprises programme of Kerala since 2022 till November 2025. Of this, about 50,077 are units in the manufacturing sector, 1,51,544 units are in service sector and 1,58,253 units are in trade category. As part of Year of Enterprises about 81,158 MSME units were started in the agro food, beverage, meat/fish product and processing subsectors. Of which 24,149 units were in Manufacturing sector, 24,262 units were in Service sector and 32,747 units were in Trade Sector. Hence food processing units contribute 48.22 per cent of units started in Manufacturing Sector, 16 per cent of units started in Service Sector and 20 per cent of units started in Trade Sector (YoE 1.0, YoE 2.0 & YoE 3.0 as of November 18, 2025).

Pradhan Mantri Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme

The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India in partnership with the State Governments has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) for providing financial, technical and business support for upgradation of existing micro food processing enterprises as part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharath Abhiyan'. The Department of Industries and Commerce is implementing the PMFME scheme through Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP), to support micro food processing enterprises with credit linked subsidy up to 35 percent of project cost with ceiling of Rs. 10.00 Lakh for expansion and modernisation. The scheme also includes support for working capital, small tools and grant for strengthening backward and forward linkages, common infrastructure packaging branding and marketing etc. Focus is on value addition of local perishable products in identified agro clusters of fisheries, dairy, poultry and other allied segments. The scheme has been implemented since 2020-21 with expenditure shared at 60:40 ratio between Union Government and State. Achievements under the scheme include;

- Loan assistance has been given to 3086 individual Micro Enterprises, against the scheme target of 3,000 loans (achieved 104 per cent as on March 31, 2025) and also sanctioned 30 Loans to Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs), Farmers Producers Companies (FPCs), Producer cooperatives and societies for Group Enterprises in the FY 2024-25. An amount of Rs.50.00 crores and Rs.80.00 crores was received from MoFPI as 60 per cent GoI share during 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively. An amount of Rs.32.67 crores and Rs.49.34 crores was released from Government of Kerala as 40 per cent State share during 2024-25 and 2025-26 respectively.
- **PMFME Food Tech Kerala 2025 Exhibition** – Exhibition conducted from May 22 to 24 , 2025 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Ground, Kaloor, Kochi by providing 104 stalls to PMFME beneficiaries for the display and sales of their products
- **The Common Incubation Facility (CIF)** – **CIF** under PMFME was inaugurated on August 12, 2025 at Agri Business Incubator in Kerala Agricultural University Campus, Vellanikkara, Thrissur. CIF is catering to the

processing needs of ODOP(One District One Product) product of the region including Rice, Spices and Fruits & Vegetables.

Kerala Park Model Development – Food Processing

Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) is taking a pro-active role in the advancement of the food processing sector within the State. KINFRA is the nodal agency for implementing schemes under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India; and the nodal agency of the State for implementing “Assistance to States for developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities” (ASIDE) scheme of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. KINFRA has set up a number of food-based parks across the State. Details of KINFRA food processing units in KINFRA parks are given in **Appendix 4.5.1**.

• KINFRA Mega Food Park, Palakkad

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), Government of India has approved the proposal from KINFRA for setting up a Mega Food Park in 79.42 acres at Kanjikode, Palakkad, with 41 working units, in accordance with the Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) So far, the park has attracted an investment of Rs 22,659.41 lakh and about 50.22 acres of land is allotted. The park provides employment to 1,490 persons.

• KINFRA Food Processing Park, Kakkancherry (Malappuram)

The KINFRA Food Processing Park at Kakkancherry, Malappuram district, set up in an area of 71.63 acres, has 44 working units. So far, the park has attracted an investment of Rs. 15,675.94 lakh and an area of 36.95 has been allotted. About 1,835 persons are employed in the park.

• KINFRA Food Processing Park, Adoor (Pathanamthitta)

Kinfra's food processing park has been set up on 15 acres at Adoor in Pathanamthitta district with all necessary infrastructure requisite for food processing industries. About 12.312 acres of land has been allotted and 16 units function here. The park has attracted investment of around Rs 6,936 lakh so far. About 1,094 persons are employed in the park

- **Food and Spices Park, Muttam, (Thodupuzha, Idukki)**

KINFRA is setting up Spices park at Muttom in Thodupuzha, Idukki district. As the first phase of the park, setting up of infrastructure on 15.43 acres was completed and inaugurated on October 14, 2023. KINFRA has provided the necessary infrastructure facilities for functioning of industries for spices and their value-added products as well as food processing industries. About 6.79 acres of land has been allotted to 10 unit. The park has attracted private investment of around Rs 11,880 lakh generating around 433 employment opportunities. The development of second phase of the park (21.17 acres) commenced on September 19, 2024, and work for this phase is currently in progress. In the second phase, 2.50 acres of land has been allotted to 1 unit and attracted private investment of around Rs 5,064 lakh, and also generating around 150 employment opportunities.

- **KSIDC Mega Food Park, Alappuzha**

KSIDC Mega Food Park has been set up on 84.03 acres at Pallippuram, Cherthala, Alappuzha district, of which 68.03 acres are Developed area, with all necessary infrastructure requisite for food processing industries. It is focusing on the sea-food processing sector, with grant assistance from Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI), Government of India under the Mega Food Park Scheme. The park caters to marine food processing sector with common infrastructure facilities such as cold storage, deboning, deep freezer, standard design factory (SDF), common facility center (CFC) and industrial shed. It is based on a demand driven, hub and spoke model, with strong backward and forward linkages. It contains three vital components – the Central Processing Centre (CPC) at its Hub, Primary Processing Centres (PPC) and Collection Centres (CC) linked by the agro-logistics network as the spokes. About 58.65 acres of land has been allotted and 43 units function here. The park has attracted investment of around Rs 41,245 lakh so far. About 3,049 persons are employed in the park.

- **Integrated Rice Park at Palakkad and Alappuzha**

Integrated Rice Park at Palakkad and Alappuzha aim to modernize post – harvest handling, reduce losses and enhance income opportunities for rice farmers across Kerala. Kerala Rice

Limited has undertaken the implementation of these rice parks. Currently, civil construction works have been completed up to 88 per cent in Palakkad and 46 per cent in Alappuzha. The projects will be completed by 2026-27.

Implementation of Food safety system through NCHC

National Centre for HACCP Certification (NCHC) in association with Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP) has been conducting auditing, certification and recertification at various food processing and allied units in Kerala. National Centre for HACCP Certification (NCHC) in association with the Kerala Commissionerate of Food Safety has been organising awareness programmes on food Safety across the State. During FY 2024-25, the National Centre for HACCP Certification completed the process of auditing for the issue/renewal of HACCP Certification to 4 Food Processing and Allied Units from Kerala viz M/s Nitta Gelatin India Ltd. Thrissur, M/s Dinesh Foods Kannur, Hotel Abad Atrium Ernakulam and Hotel Abad Plaza Ernakulam.

Challenges

The food processing sector experiences several issues that hinder its growth. It suffers from limited financial support, making it hard to expand or modernize its units. There are not enough primary processing centres. Inadequate storage and distribution facilities increase wastage and reduce access to markets. The sector also lacks innovation and new product development, which lowers its competitiveness. Poor coordination between production and processing creates supply-demand imbalances. Additionally, the slow adoption of modern technology limits improvements in productivity and quality.

To overcome these challenges, infrastructure and processing capacity of food processing sector should be improved. This requires major investment in various connected segments of the industry such as supply chain, technology inclusion, improving grading and packing centres, controlled-atmosphere facilities, transportation, cold storage at ports, airports, and railway stations, setting up of testing labs, and other support services like research, skill training, and marketing.

Way forward

Kerala is rich in a wide variety of natural food items. With many Keralites living abroad, along

with the growing demand for processed food in India, the state has strong opportunities for developing its food-processing industry. To fully utilise this opportunity, the government needs to create a suitable platform for farmers, processors, and retailers to work together and link farm production with the global market. Continued government support along with implementation of PPP model and use of AI Technology can help the sector to develop a high-quality food-processing industry and gain a strong position in the global market in the coming years.

4.6 TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES

Traditional industries in Kerala include coir, handloom, cashew, khadi and village industries, and handicrafts. These industries generate large scale employment, especially for women from relatively marginalised sections. They remain closely linked to the natural resources of the State, although input supply chains have changed over time. Traditional industries create value and represent an important part of Kerala's heritage and culture. They play a significant role in promoting inclusive development.

The coir industry is among the earliest industries to have developed in Kerala. The industry is now mainly concentrated in Alappuzha district and provides employment to nearly 1 lakh workers, of whom about 80 per cent are women. The handloom industry is concentrated in Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur districts and in parts of Kozhikode, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kollam, and Kasaragod districts. Major handloom products include dhotis, furnishings, sheets, shirting, saris, and lungis. The cashew industry is a major traditional agro-based industry in Kerala, with several processing units located in Kollam district, which is known as the cashew capital of the world. The khadi sector in Kerala has a strong base because of historical importance and social and political support. There are 29 khadi institutions engaged in khadi production and sales, including the Khadi and Village Industries Board, 14 board aided institutions, and 14 institutions aided by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Kerala also has a long tradition of handicraft production using materials such

as ivory, bamboo, palm leaves, seashells, wood, coconut shells, clay, cloth, coir, metals, stone, and lacquer. Many traditional handicrafts are preserved in palaces, heritage homes, and museums across the State.

Handicraft sector

The Handicrafts Sector plays vital role in economic development in terms of its contribution to GSVA, providing employment to a vast segment of craft persons in rural and semi urban areas, and generation of foreign exchange. About 70 lakh craft persons who are the backbone of Indian Handicraft Industry possess inherent skill, technique, traditional craftsmanship. The Handicraft sector has experienced significant growth in terms of exports facilitated by various Government schemes. The export of handicrafts during the year 2024-25 [Upto December, 2024] is Rs 24595.97crore(Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India). The Government of India has initiated an integrated approach for promotion and development of the handicrafts sector under National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS)

Handicraft industry in Kerala

Kerala has a rich tradition of handicrafts with variety of materials including ivory, bamboo, palm leaves, seashells, wood, coconut shells, clay, cloth, coir, metals, stone, lacquer ware, and more. Kerala has 32 unique crafts like ivory carving, wood and horn carving, bell metal casting, hand embroidery,

and coconut shell carving, which are commercially important. Kerala State Handicrafts Apex Co-operative Society (SURABHI), Handicrafts Development Corporation of Kerala (HDCK), and Kerala Artisans Development Corporation (KADCO) are entrusted with the promotion of handicraft industry in Kerala.

Kerala State Handicrafts Apex Co-operative Society (SURABHI)

Surabhi, an apex organisation of primary handicrafts co-operatives, aims at uplifting the artisans by marketing their products and supporting them through welfare schemes of Government of Kerala and Government of India. There are 38 Co-operative societies and 8 showrooms under Surabhi inside and outside the State. It also operates a craft development centre and a common facility centre at Ernakulam. In 2024-25, Co-operative societies generated revenue of Rs 44.80 lakh and total employment generated was 25,000. A loss of agency reduced from Rs 100.96 in 2023-24 to Rs 46 lakh in 2024-25. Details are given in **Appendix 4.6.1**

Handicrafts Development Corporation of Kerala (HDCK)

HDCK, Government-supported organisation is specialised in procurement and marketing of handicraft products. Its main objective is to assure fair returns to artisans. HDCK has showrooms across Kerala including Sree Moolam Shashtyabdapurthi Memorial Institute (SMSMI) in Thiruvananthapuram and 19 Kairali emporia outlets spread within and outside the State. In addition, HDCK supports artisans through welfare schemes of Government of India and Government of Kerala. It finances schemes under National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) loan schemes. With the support of Government of India, the Corporation implements welfare schemes for artisans, conducts training programmes, set up Common Facility Centres, distributes tool kits, conducts exhibitions/craft bazars at important places and tourist centres and provides marketing facilities to the crafts produced by artisans.

In 2024-25, Corporation has earned Rs 906.30 lakh from sales, registering an increase of Rs 50.20 lakh over previous year. A total of 68 persons were employed in 2024-25 in the sale of handicraft products in HDCK. Details are given in **Appendix 4.6.2**.

The Kerala Artisans Development Corporation (KADCO)

KADCO, a Government-owned company established in 1981, is registered under the Companies Act, 1956. Corporation aims to uplift the indigenous artisans of Kerala, including carpenters, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, potters, masons, and those who work with copper/bronze and other handicrafts. To promote crafts, there are Common Facility Center's for Carpentry in Mini Industrial Estate at Nadavannur, Kozhikode, and Umayanallore, Kollam are functioning. In an effort to facilitate and empower the beneficiaries for their livelihood, KADCO introduced a registration-based online labour data bank. The data bank will aid in understanding and utilising hidden capabilities, providing proper training in respective domains, as well as in general aspects of doing business and commercial activities. This approach is the first step towards organising the beneficiaries and to ensure that they receive the support that is needed for their success.

As per the data for 2024-25 of KADCO, the total number of persons employed is 1.82 lakh while the turnover is Rs.5222.3 lakh. It has reported a profit of 92.1 lakh. Details are given in **Appendix 4.6.3**

Bamboo Industry

Bamboo is considered as sustainable, eco-friendly and renewable natural resource having special properties conducive in creating a wide range of everyday products. About 28 species of Bamboo are found in Kerala. Bamboo from Kerala forests is being supplied mainly to the pulp and rayon units at concessional rates. A unique feature of Kerala bamboo sector is that 67.3 per cent of the extracted bamboo comes from home gardens rather than from the forests

The Kerala State Bamboo Mission

Kerala State Bamboo Mission (KSBM), the bamboo development agency was constituted in 2003 under the Department of Industries and Commerce. KSBM implements the Centrally Sponsored National Bamboo Mission Scheme under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India and functions at Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP) with the broad aim of marshalling the scattered resources of the State and adopting a focused approach to revitalise the bamboo sector by promoting value addition, enhancing income generation of workers in the sector, and

alleviating poverty. The interventions initiated by KSBM through K-BIP include propagation and promotion of Bamboo-based entrepreneurship by providing necessary support services, creation of new design for innovative products in Bamboo sector, quality enhancement and product improvement on existing products through engineering inputs and providing necessary support to create market demands. The major activities undertaken by KSBM in the FY 2024-25 include (Source: K-BIP)

- As part of capacity building programmes, KSBM conducted 5 skill upgradation training programmes on Bamboo Handicrafts through NGOs/Societies/Bamboo Groups in Thrissur, Malappuram, Pathanamthitta, Wayanad and Palakkad under National Bamboo Mission Scheme.
- A Bamboo Livelihood Business Incubation Centre was established by Kerala State Bamboo Corporation (KSBC) at Kothamangalam in Ernakulam with the financial assistance under the National Bamboo Mission Scheme with an objective to facilitate the livelihood support to the economically and socially backward community. One entrepreneur has started functioning in the centre.
- Kerala State Bamboo Mission facilitated the participation of Artisans/ Craftsmen from Kerala for exhibiting their Bamboo products in Kerala Pavilion of India International Trade Fair 2024 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from November 14 to 27, 2024
- A Bamboo Museum and Handicrafts Centre was established on 28 November 2024 at the campus of Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden & Research Institute (JN TBGRI), Palode, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Kerala State Bamboo Mission organized the 21st edition of the Annual Mega Event 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' as a marketing support to the stakeholders in a larger scale, facilitating the participation of 281 Bamboo Artisans/ Craftsmen from 12 States.
- Registration of Bamboo Artisans of Kerala: In order to create a database of Artisans/ Craftsmen in Kerala engaged in this unorganized Bamboo Sector in the State, a Registration procedure has been introduced by Kerala State Bamboo Mission. The registered Artisans are provided an ID card by KSBM. So far 400 Artisans/ Craftsmen have been registered in this program.

- Kerala State Bamboo Mission facilitated the participation of Bamboo Artisans/ Craftsmen/ NGOs in Invest Kerala Global Summit (IKGS) 2025 held at Grand Hyatt, Bolgatty, Kochi from February 21 to 22, 2025
- Kerala State Bamboo Mission participated in the 'Vividhha Ka Amrit Mahotsav 2025' organised at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi from March 6 to 9, 2025.
- The National Bamboo Mission (NBM), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India has approved the Annual Action Plan 2025-26 of Kerala for an amount of Rs.936.62 lakh with Central share of Rs.562.15 lakh and State share of Rs.374.77 lakh.

21st edition of Kerala State Bamboo Fest

Kerala Bamboo Fest is one of the major interventions undertaken by Kerala State Bamboo Mission (KSBM) for the development of marketing of Bamboo sector. It provides a platform for the beneficiaries to widen their market, acquire knowledge about product development and sharing information to each other. The first edition of the 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' was organized in 2004 at the Town Hall in Kochi. It also provides an opportunity and a platform for Bamboo Artisans from the State to interact and share knowledge with the Artisans from all over the Country. The 21st edition of 'Kerala Bamboo Fest' organised by the Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Kerala in association with Kerala State Bamboo Mission (KSBM) and Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (KBIP) was held at Marine Drive Ground in Ernakulam, from December 7 to 12, 2024. A total of 375 artisans/ craftsmen/ NGOs from within and outside the state displayed their products in the Fest.

The Kerala State Bamboo Corporation

The Kerala State Bamboo Corporation is an undertaking established in 1971 for the welfare, development and uplift of traditional bamboo workers in Kerala. The main objectives of the Corporation are to develop and promote industries based on bamboo, reed, cane and rattan; to undertake the manufacturing and trading of bamboo-based products, and to provide financial, technical and other assistance to the traditional bamboo workers.

The main activities of the corporation include collection of good quality reeds from government forests, distribution of these reeds to traditional

bamboo weavers at a subsidised rate on a credit basis, as well as procurement of woven mats from the weavers. The main products of the corporation are bamboo mats, bamboo ply, flattened bamboo boards, bamboo flooring tile, bamboo furniture and handicraft items. As part of encouraging more workers into mat weaving, Kerala State Bamboo Corporation has started training programmes in making bamboo mats and handicraft items.

Kerala State Bamboo Corporation Ltd. has three feeder/primary processing units at Palakkad, Mananthavady and Nadapuram for converting raw bamboo into strips of different thickness. They are weaved to bamboo curtains for the production of Flattened Bamboo Board. The waste bamboo from processing, ranging from 50 per cent to 70 per cent, is further used to manufacture value added products like toothpick, curtain blinds, bamboo curtains and incense sticks. The agency undertook activities for cutting reed from October 2024 and collected about 2370 bundles (47,400 number) of reed.

In 2025 production was undertaken at Perumbavoor Plywood Manufactures Consortium Pvt Limited Common Facility Centre and a total of 2920 plywood board was produced. Total production in 2025-26 is 2985 boards with a total value of Rs.42.64 lakh. In 2025 (January to September) an amount of Rs 14.17 lakh has been provided as DA to bamboo mat weavers and reed cutters.

Problems and issues in the sector

Many traditional artisans in Kerala suffer from social and economic disadvantages, making it difficult for them to sustain in the industry. Limited entrepreneurship, insufficient skill development programmes and lack of modernisation in designs and products are the major challenges faced by the sector. The handicraft industry is labour-intensive, and artisans face difficulties in terms of hands-on labour. Lack of interest of new generation to enter this field is a major challenge faced by the handicraft sector. Industries dependent on bamboo and other raw materials face unique challenges like absence of proper supply chain impacting the overall sector. Artisans struggle to access markets, making it challenging to sell their products. Insufficient financial support and resources, like shortage of working capital and credit facilities hinder the growth of artisans and the sector as a whole. The

handicraft sector faces stiff competition from machine-made products, affecting demand and pricing. Lack of awareness about technology, designs and developing tools, standardisation and packaging, lack of effective pricing mechanism, exploitation by intermediaries and availability of cheap replacements for the crafts are also the challenges prevailing in the sector. Due to adverse working conditions, craftsmen are reluctant to pursue traditional employment, which results in a shortage of skilled workers in industries like bamboo.

Way Forward

To tackle the challenges, collaboration among the Government and various stakeholders is essential to offer support and resources to artisans, enhance market access, and boost the handicraft industry in Kerala. The GI tag serves as an effective means to safeguard the authenticity of handicrafts produced in the industry, as various organisations are implementing successful marketing strategies to promote GI-tagged items. Government is taking measures in this direction.

HANDLOOM AND TEXTILE INDUSTRIES

Textile and Garment Industry

The Indian textile industry is one of the largest in the world with a large raw material base and manufacturing strength across the value chain. As per the annual report of Ministry of Textiles 2024-25, India is the 6th largest exporter of Textiles & Apparel in the world in 2023. Textile and apparel exports including handicrafts account for around 8.2 per cent of India's total exports. India shares about 3.9 per cent of global trade in apparels and textiles in 2023-24. Major countries of export are USA, European Union and UK, which together account for about 47 per cent. Textile industry provides direct and indirect employment and is a source of livelihood for millions of people including a large number of women and rural population.

Handloom and Power loom Industry in India

The handloom and textile industry is experiencing growth, driven by a global push for sustainable and ethically produced goods, with the Asia-Pacific region leading the market and India's handloom sector showing particular strength. Handloom industry, with 28.23 lakh looms is the major source of livelihood for the rural and semi-urban area. According to the Annual Report 2024-25 of the Ministry of Textiles, the Handloom Sector is one of the largest unorganised sectors in India, which provide employment to more than 35 lakh persons, of which more than 25 lakh are women weavers and allied workers, which makes it an important source of economic empowerment of women. Handloom sector accounted for nearly 15 per cent of the cloth production.

The Handloom industry mainly exports fabrics, bed linen, table linen, toilet and kitchen linen, towels, curtains, cushions and pads, tapestries and upholstery's, carpets, and floor coverings. The major handloom export centres are Karur, Panipat, Varanasi and Kannur. The major destinations of export are USA, UAE, Spain, UK, Italy, Australia, France, Germany, Netherlands and Greece. Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) is the nodal agency under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India to promote exports of handloom products. Technology advancement varies across looms, and upgradation of technology is under process.

Textile sector in Kerala

The textile sector in Kerala includes spinning, weaving, garment manufacturing, dyeing and processing units. Textile units are there in public sector (both State and Central), co-operative sector, and private sector. The weaving sector includes the khadi units, handloom units, and power loom units. The garment industry has higher potential for employment, particularly for women. The textiles sector in Kerala has to depend on other States to meet its requirement for dyeing and digital printing. Hence it is setting up a dyeing and eco-friendly printing unit at KINFRA Textile Centre at Nadukani, Kannur which will be an important step towards localisation of textile processing in the State.

The total State Plan outlay for the textile sector in the Annual Plan 2024-25 was Rs 5,189 lakh and the amount spent was Rs. 10,314.46 lakh (198.77 per cent). In addition, PSUs under this sector are provided funds through BPT. Also, there is separate budgetary assistance for Khadi institutions under Khadi and Village industries sector. The total plan outlay for the sector in the Annual Plan 2025-26 is Rs. 5,189 lakh and the amount spent up to October 2025 is Rs. 7,396.44 lakh (142.54 per cent). Details are provided in **Table 4.6.1**.

Handloom sector in Kerala

The handloom industry is a traditional industry of Kerala mainly concentrated in Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur Districts, and in some parts of Kozhikode, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kollam and Kasargod Districts. The industry is dominated by the Co-operative sector covering 84 per cent of total looms. The remaining 16 per cent of handloom looms is owned by private entrepreneurs.

The major products in the handloom sector of the State are dhotis, furnishing, bed sheets, shirting, saree and lungi. The total value of production in the handloom sector in 2024-25 is Rs. 198.49 crore and the total sales turnover is Rs. 186.27 crore. The total number of weavers engaged in the handloom sector in 2024-25 is 13570. The total number of women weavers employed in this sector in 2024-25 is 10,415 (76.75 per cent of total weavers). The total employment generated in 2024-25 is 14.59 lakh person days. The value of production, total turnover, number of weavers and person days of work generated have all decreased in 2024-25,

Table 4.6.1 State Plan Outlay and Expenditure for Textile sector (excluding PSUs and Khadi), in Rs lakh

Sub-Sector	2024-25			2025-26(till October 2025)		
	Outlay	Expenditure	%	Outlay	Expenditure	%
Handloom	3,189	2244.52	70.38	4,485.00	1428.48	31.85
Powerloom	115	32.50	28.26	94.00	11.50	12.23
Spinning Mills	985	1037.44	105.32	600.00	440.00	73.33
Textile Processing Centre-Nadukani	900	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Bulk Purchase of cotton for Co-operative spinning mills through cotton board (NCDC assistance)	0.00	7000.00	100.00	0.00	5516.46	100.00
Total	5,189	10314.46	198.77	5,18	7396.44	142.54

Source: Plan Space, Kerala State Planning Board

as compared to 2023-24. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.4**.

Agencies in Handloom Sector

The Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles, Kerala State Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Society (HANTEX), Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation (HANVEEV) and the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT, Kannur) are the major stakeholder institutions involved in the development of the handloom sector in the State.

Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles

The Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles, Kerala functioning under the Department of Industries and Commerce aims at evolving policies for the promotion and development of handloom and textile sector in the State. The Directorate was established in the year 1979, to protect and promote the production in handloom and textile industry in the State. It has the overall responsibility to support the areas of infrastructure, marketing, human resource development, conservation and preservation of traditional skills and products, finance, design input, raw material supply, export, modernisation, welfare programmes, price stability to equip the segment to compete in a globalised environment. It also aims at the overall skill upgradation of the weavers so as to produce high-quality value-added handloom products utilising traditional skill of Kerala in the global market avenues.

The Government implements various schemes and; provides assistance by way of loan and grant for the development of the handloom industry.

Loans and Grants include those from the State Government, Central Government and other financial agencies such as National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO). Government also provides assistance for sales promotion through rebates. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.5**

The handloom uniform project is one of the innovative projects that provides handloom school uniform cloth to students of government and aided school. This project is implemented by the Directorate of Handloom and Textiles, involving HANVEEV, HANTEX and District Industries Centres as key players. This project has been successful in increasing employment, wages and person days of work.

Kerala Handloom Mark has been launched by the Handloom sector to endorse the quality of the handloom products in terms of raw material, processing, embellishments, weaving design and other parameters besides social and environmental compliances for earning the trust of the customers. Ultimately this will provide high quality defect free products to those consumers who are looking niche handmade products.

Geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation due to that origin. Handloom products of Kerala like Kannur Home Furnishings, Balaramapuram Sarees and Fine Cotton Fabrics, Kasargod sarees, Kuthampully Sarees, Chendamangalam Dhoties& Set Mundu have received Geographical Indication.

Two mega projects of the sector are on-going. One is Nadukani Printing and Dyeing unit in Kannur District and the second one is Chendamangalam Kaithari Gramam in Ernakulam District. These works will be completed in a phased manner; the initial works has already been started as 1st Phase.

Kerala State Handloom Weaver's Co-operative Society (HANTEX)

Kerala State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society Ltd (HANTEX), the apex body of primary handloom weavers' co-operative societies in Kerala was established in 1961. It has its headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram. The main objective of HANTEX is to market the products of member societies and thereby support the livelihood of handloom weavers. At present 405 handloom societies are registered under HANTEX and more than 10,000 weavers are engaged for HANTEX. Hantex has 340 permanent/temporary employees working in various departments. It is marketing the products through its own 69 showrooms all over Kerala. Besides headquarters, 4 regional offices, 5 production centres, 2 weaving units, a processing unit and an international garment unit are functioning under HANTEX.

HANTEX achieved income from sales to the tune of Rs1748.60 lakh in 2024-25. Sale in 2023-24 was Rs 2286.03 lakh. The paid-up capital at the end of the year 2024-25 was Rs.7199.74 lakh. (Source: HANTEX) The agency has reported losses since 2019-20. The accumulated loss of HANTEX is increasing on a yearly basis and has reached about Rs 24790.91 lakh by the end of 2024-25. Sales turnover has increased from 2020-21 to 2023-24, however it had decreased in 2024-25. Details are given in **Appendix 4.6.6**.

As part of modernisation and value addition of handloom fabrics, a full-fledged garments unit is functioning with state of the art facility at Thiruvananthapuram. HANTEX has launched shirts in linen and cotton under the brand name 'Royal Mint' and 'Commando', Ladies churidar tops and kids shirts under the brand name 'Kemi' and 'Junior Commando', and new born babies products in the brand name 'Tara' and 'Vavo'. The scheme 'E-credit card' was launched to attract employees in the Government/banking sector as its customers.

During the financial year 2024-25, HANTEX has successfully renovated the Kannur SPS, Payyannur

Showroom, North Paravoor showroom, which has been transformed and upgraded to a modern and customer oriented showrooms.

Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation (Hanveev)

Kerala State Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (Hanveev) was established in the year 1968. It is engaged in the production and marketing of a wide range of handloom products. At present Hanveev provides employment to 1950 individual weavers. It has 36 own showrooms and 32 production centres. The corporation conducts exhibitions during festival seasons and participates in expos conducted at national and international level. Free Handloom School Uniform Scheme helped Hanveev to provide uninterrupted employment and wages to around 2,000 weavers and indirect employment opportunities to others.

In order to innovate and enhance the consumer appeal, Hanveev launched a stylish gift box called "Proud-e" and double side kasavu dhoty "Sreshtam", featuring value-added handloom products in attractive packaging. Hanveev successfully launched a Combo pack including items for men and women, which has been quite popular. It also introduced ready-made shirts and children's clothing, which broadened the product range. In order to promote Handloom products, the State Government is encouraging employees to wear handloom clothing on Wednesdays. Hanveev distributed more than 27 lakh meters of school uniform material to students across seven districts in Kerala from Kasargode to Thrissur Districts under the school uniform project. As per the focused policy to expand its market through targeted institutional sales and e-commerce platform, Hanveev is now securing institutional orders worth Rs5 crore rupees annually.

Competition from power loom products, limited production capacity, and inability to meet urgent orders are some of the challenges faced by Hanveev. Sales turnover of Hanveev in 2024-25 was Rs1738.50 lakh. The value of cloth and other items procured has decreased from Rs1201.81 lakh in 2023-24 to Rs 768.53 lakh in 2024-25. The value of yarn purchased and distributed was Rs. 275.15 lakh in 2023-24. It has increased to Rs462.43 lakh in 2024-25. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.7**.

The paid-up capital of Hanveev at the end of 2024-25 was Rs 5949 lakh. Income through sale of products at the end of the year has increased (Rs.1738.50 lakh) in 2024-25, compared to 2023-24 (Rs.1660.59 lakh). The net loss of Hanveev was Rs-1144.96 lakh in 2023-24, it has decreased to Rs-551.41 lakh in 2024-25. The details regarding the financials of Hanveev are provided in **Appendix 4.6.8.**

Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT, Kannur)

Indian Institute of Handloom Technology-Kannur is an autonomous institute set up in 1987 in the name of 'Handloom Training Institute' under the aegis of Industries Department, Government of Kerala. In 2011 it was renamed as Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, Kannur. The institute is assigned as the nodal agency of Government of Kerala for implementing training and projects related with handloom and textile industry. The institute has been affiliated to Kannur University and has commenced 3-year degree course-BSc Costume and Fashion Designing in 2020. The institute is playing a key role in the setting up of the Integrated Handloom Village at Chennamangalam. IIHT was instrumental in setting up the design studios in HANTEX and Hanveev.

The implementation of project like Kannur Pudava, setting up of handloom village at Chendamangalam and establishment of Technology centre at Balaramapuram are also on-going. The 35 Quality Control Inspectors (QCI) selected during 2024-25 and 38 no's of QCI's selected for the financial year 2025-26 by the IIHT were deputed in all districts of Kerala by the Directorate of Handlooms and Textiles. Under the internship programme, 34 students completed their internship in IIHT during 2024-25.

Co-operative Sector

The co-operative sector in Textiles sector is involved in spinning and weaving activity (both power loom and handloom) in the State. There are 8 spinning mills in the co-operative sector. In weaving, the total number of power looms in the co-operative sector is estimated to be about 692. The co-operative units form about 40 per cent of total number of power looms in the State. There are 50 power loom co-operative societies in the State.

The co-operative sector in handloom sector (weaving) consists of factory type and cottage type societies. In 2024-25, there were 539 registered Primary Handloom Weavers Co-Operative Societies (PHWCS) in the State of which 198 were factory type and 341 were cottage type societies. Out of 539 registered Primary Handloom Weavers Co-Operative Societies, 355 were operational. In Factory type Handloom co-operative Societies, the number of profit-making societies has increased and the number of loss-making societies has decreased in 2024-25 as compared to the previous year. In 2024-25, a marginal increase is seen in the number of dormant societies and a decrease has been seen in the number of liquidation of societies. The number of profit-making societies has increased and the number of loss-making societies has decreased in the cottage type handloom societies in 2024-25 as compared to the previous year. Number of dormant societies has also decreased. Liquidation of cottage type societies also shows an increasing trend. Details of handloom Co-operative societies in the State are given in **Appendix 4.6.9.**

The production of handloom cloth by the co-operative sector in 2024-25 was 45.76 million metres valued at Rs. 82.05 crore. The production of cloth shows a slight decrease and the value of production also shows a decreased figure in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24. Total turnover which was Rs. 97.30 crore in 2023-24, has decreased by 19.47 per cent to Rs 78.35 lakh in 2024-25. Number of looms has fallen from 14,064 in 2023-24 to 13,063 in 2024-25. The number of weavers has decreased to 11,085 in 2024-25 from 12,085 in 2023-24. Employment generated was Rs. 13.57 lakh person days in 2024-25. The number of women weavers engaged in the sector has been increased from 2020-21 to 2023-24, however it decreased in 2024-25. Details can be found in **Appendix 4.6.4.**

Power loom Sector

There are 1796 power looms in the State of which 42 per cent (750) are in the co-operative sector. The remaining 58 percent, ie; 1046 power looms are in the private sector. In the power loom sector, production of cloth in 2024-25 was 102.13 lakh meters valued at Rs. 6269.7 lakh. Productivity was 5686.5 meters per loom and the total turnover through sale of goods was Rs. 6,972.4 lakh. Details are given in **Appendix 4.6.10.**

There are 6 Co-operative societies under Kerala State Co-operative Textile Federation Limited (TEXTFED). Of these 5 are Powerloom/Integrated societies, namely, Neyyattinkara Taluk Integrated Powerloom Village Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd (NIPCOTEX), Kottayam Integrated Powerloom Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd, Kerala Hi-Tech Textile Co-operative Ltd. (KELTEX), the Calicut Integrated Power Loom Ind. Co-operative Society and the Wayanad Handloom, Powerloom and Multi-purpose Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd (WHIPCOS). The total number of looms under these societies is 565.

Spinning Mills

Spinning mill industry, one of the labour-intensive traditional sectors in Kerala, plays an important role in absorbing rural unskilled labour force. The spinning sector in Kerala includes the public sector (State and Central), the co-operative sector and the private sector. None of the Central Public Sector units are functional now. The spinning sector includes 26 mills with total spindle capacity of 7.03 lakh, employing more than 7600 people. There are 9 spinning mills under the 3 State PSUs, namely, Kerala State Textile Corporation Limited (7 mills), Sitaram Textiles Limited and Trivandrum Spinning Mills Limited. There are 8 co-operative spinning mills in Kerala. They are part of Kerala State Co-operative Textile Federation Limited (TEXTFED) and have a spindle capacity of 1.52 lakh. Together under State PSUs and co-operative sector, there are 17 spinning mills having 2.87 lakh spindle capacity and employing about 3500 people.

The central PSU National Textile Corporation Limited (NTC) had 5 mills (out of total 23) with a total spindle capacity of 1.99 lakh in Kerala. It used to employ more than 1900 people. Four of these mills were operational till 2020-21. It is reported that they are not operational now. In addition, there are two major private sector enterprises with a total of 4 mills. They have a spindle capacity of 2.16 lakh and employ more than 2200 people.

The main problems faced by spinning mills are the lack of working capital and non-availability of raw material. To overcome shortage of raw material for the sector, Government of Kerala constituted a Cotton Board for the procurement of good quality cotton during the crop season. This would ensure adequate cotton to all spinning mills under Government control in the state, thereby ensuring availability of yarn for users down the value chain.

Sale of yarn produced by these mills is carried out through a Depot System which is monitored by the same committee. As a result, raw material costs have been brought down and the sector's performance has improved.

Kerala State Co-operative Textile Federation Limited (TEXTFED)

TEXTFED is the apex body of co-operative spinning mills and integrated powerloom co-operative societies in the State. TEXTFED was established in 1992 as a body to plan, to assist and supervise the setting up and management of co-operative textile units in Kerala. It integrates all segments of the textile industry including spinning, weaving, processing and garmenting. There are eight co-operative spinning mills with TEXTFED as apex body. They include the Quilon Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd, Alleppey Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd, Priyadarshini Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd, Trichur Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd, Malappuram Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd, The Malabar Co-operative Textiles Ltd., The K. Karunakaran Memorial Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd, and The Kannur Co-operative Spinning Mills Ltd.

These 8 co-operative spinning mills having a total capacity of 1,51,920 spindles and directly employ 1,680 people. TEXTFED mills have done modernisation of machines with the financial assistance of the National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC) and Government of Kerala. This has led to improvement in productivity and quality of output. The Government of Kerala intends to take the mills into break even through completion of the modernisation projects taken up with State assistance and other agencies.

Kerala State Textile Corporation Limited (KSTC)

Kerala State Textile Corporation Limited (KSTC) was incorporated on March 9, 1972. Its registered office is in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The main objective of KSTC is setting up and running textile mills in the State, and uplifting the sick units in textile industry in Kerala. The Corporation has seven mills and one research and testing centre. The mills under KSTC are Prabhuram mills, Kottayam Textiles, Edarikkode Textiles, Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Hi Tech Weaving Mills, Pinarayi, Komalapuram Spinning and Weaving Mills and Uduma Textile

Mills. Two other units called Sitaram Textiles and Trivandrum Spinning Mills Limited are now under the administrative control of KSTC. After introducing Air jet looms at Komalapuram spinning and weaving Mills and Pinarayi Hi-tech weaving mills, KSTC is able to produce variety of fabrics and capable of supplying processed fabrics, uniform cloths, and also capable of supplying readymade garments and face masks. KSTC is an enlisted supplier of Khaki uniforms to Kerala police through various police canteens and also supplied uniforms to KSRTC staff during the year 2023-24 & 2024-25. In addition to the above, the corporation has under its fold a research and testing division, Centre for Applied Research and Development in Textiles (CARDT), located at Balaramapuram, Thiruvananthapuram. The agency is setting up a new printing cum dyeing unit at Nadukani KINFRA Park, Kannur.

In 2024-25, the value of production of the corporation was Rs78.04 crore and income from sales of product was Rs77.52crore. KSTC has reported consecutive net loss in the last 5 years. The accumulated loss of the corporation at the end of 2024-25 is estimated to be about Rs706.29crore. Details regarding the performance of KSTC are provided in **Appendix 4.6.11.**

Sitaram Textiles Limited: was started in the year 1903. In the year 1972, Government of Kerala by Public auction took over the unit. Thereafter the unit was functioning as fully owned Government of Kerala Undertaking under the administrative control of Industries Department and it was incorporated officially on February 14, 1975. Presently the total no of workers/man power in Sitaram Textiles Limited is 117. Only the Spinning Section is functioning now and it has a capacity of around 25,000 spindles. Income from sales has decreased from Rs3.72 crore in 2023-24 to 2.42 crore in 2024-25. It has reported net loss over the years. Details regarding the performance of Sitaram Textiles Limited are provided in **Appendix 4.6.12.**

Trivandrum Spinning Mills Ltd in Balaramapuram, a State Govt company, incorporated on November 01, 1963, is one of the largest handloom centres in the State. The unit had to close down in 1998. As part of the attempt to revive the industrial unit, the Government of Kerala with the help of Kerala State Textile Corporation Ltd. took steps to revive Trivandrum Spinning Mills and converted the same to a

brand-new Open End (OE) spinning mill with imported state-of-the-art technology from Czech Republic, Germany and China under EPCG (Export Promotion Capital Goods) Scheme. In 2009, the Company restarted its production with the capacity of 360 rotors. Now the company has a 680 rotor capacity. There are 67 employees in the unit and accumulated loss is Rs 40.35 crore. Details regarding the performance of Trivandrum Spinning Mills Ltd are provided in **Appendix 4.6.13.**

Achievements in Textiles sector 2024-25

Under the Kerala Handloom School uniform project about 40.00 lakh meters of school uniform cloth has been distributed to 9 lakh students. The Government Share Participation was given to 9 Primary Handloom Weaver Co-operative Societies in 2024-25. Assistance was provided to 74 primary societies for modernisation and promotion of value added products, which include work shed renovation, purchase of loom associates and supply of looms. Contributory Thrift Fund Scheme had covered 1912 weaver beneficiaries in the year 2024-25. About 3,162 weavers benefitted under the weavers/allied workers motivation programme. Government Share Participation assistance was also provided to HANTEX and Hanveev for revitalisation and modernisation. Skill upgradation training was provided to weavers with stipend by engaging 10 professional designers. Government have provided 6.97 crore as assistance for the activities of 8 spinning mills under TEXTFED, through the comprehensive revival scheme for the co-op spinning mills. First phase of civil work of Chendamangalam Kaithari Gramam project in Ernakulum is completed.

Issues and Challenges

Scarcity and increasing cost of raw materials, increasing production costs and the infrastructure constraints are some of the challenges faced by the Textile sector. Slow pace of modernisation, stiff competition, low productivity, increasing administrative expenses and production cost, decreasing profits and lack of working capital are also the issues of concern for the textile sector in Kerala. Mills involved in spinning and weaving in Kerala have been facing problems of both demand and supply. Absence of fabric processing facilities is also a problem faced by the industry in Kerala. Despite these significant hurdles, the handloom sector possesses immense future potential, primarily driven by its unique

positioning in the global market. In India and Kerala, the deep cultural and heritage value of products like the Kerala Kasavu grants it a high-value niche. More broadly, handloom is perfectly aligned with the global trend towards sustainability and ethical fashion, as it has a minimal ecological footprint compared to industrial textile production. This ethical dimension is increasingly attractive to a discerning international customer base. The potential for growth is also tied to massive employment generation in rural areas and expanding export opportunities in markets that demand unique, high-quality, and authentic products certified by marks like the India Handloom Brand.

Way forward

Kerala has a large market for clothing and the State has the potential to emerge as a major player along various segments within the value chain (from spinning to garments). Opportunities exist in production of fabrics, bed linen, toilet and kitchen linen, towels, curtains, cushions and pads, upholstery, carpets and floor coverings, and embroidered textiles. The textile sector needs to find ways to attract the young and educated in Kerala to this sector, as entrepreneurs or as workers. Adopting innovative marketing strategies, the sector can attract younger consumers who value craftsmanship and sustainability. Branding and avenues for finance need attention. More priority will have to be given in the formation of handloom clusters, which bolster productivity and market access. It would also be essential to give attention for granting the Geographical Indication (GI) tags that protected the authenticity of Handloom products.

To bridge the gap between potential and reality, a strategic way forward is needed to focus on modernization and empowerment. Firstly, financial stability for weavers is crucial, necessitating simplified access to credit (like the Weaver MUDRA Scheme), stable wage systems, and robust social security schemes to retain generational talent. Secondly, aggressive marketing and branding excellence is needed, including full integration into digital commerce platforms and a strong emphasis on authentic certification to combat imitation. Finally, institutional reforms must support skill up gradation, fostering collaborations with contemporary designers to ensure the products remain relevant, while strengthened clusters will provide the necessary shared infrastructure and technology to make the traditional craft

economically viable in the 21st century.

KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES SECTOR IN INDIA

Khadi and village industries have the potential to create employment for rural artisans with a very low capital investment. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) undertakes activities such as skill improvement, transfer of technology, research and development, and marketing. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) network includes 2,981 khadi institutions located across the country, which provide employment to 4.99 lakh artisans, of which about 80 per cent of employees are women. The production in khadi and village industries (including poly vasthra and solar vasthra) increased from Rs 108297.91 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 117542.78 crore (Estimated Figures) in 2024-25, of which, Khadi production constitute Rs.3686.90 crore. Similarly, sales increased from Rs 155673.13 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 167602.77 crore (Estimated Figures) in 2024-25. Employment generation in khadi and village industries sector increased from 1.87 crore in 2023-24 to 1.96 crore in 2024-25 (Source: Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India). Production, sales and employment in Khadi and Village Industries in India for the last five years are shown in the **Table 4.6.2**.

Table 4.6.2 Production, Sales and Employment generation in Khadi & Village Industries Sector in India, 2020-21 – 2024-25

Year	Production (Rs in crore)	Sales (Rs in crore)	Employment (in crore)
2020-21	72,235.15	95,741.36	1.59
2021-22	84,289.93	1,15,415.23	1.67
2022-23	95,956.67	1,34,629.5	1.77
2023-24	1,08,297.68	1,55,673.1	1.87
2024-25	1,17,542.78	1,67,602.77	1.96

Source: Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India

Khadi and Village Industries Sector in Kerala

In 2024-25, Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector in Kerala provided employment to 55,682 artisans of which 12,201 were from Khadi sector and 43,481 from Village Industries. The production from Khadi sector was Rs.3,251.90 lakh and from Village Industries, it was Rs.15,660 lakh. The total Khadi sales were Rs 8,201.5 lakh

Table 4.6.3. Production, Sales and Employment in Khadi and Village Industries in Kerala in 2023-24 and 2024-25

Sector/sub sector	Value of Production (Rs in crore)		Value of sales (Rs in crore)		Employment (in numbers)	
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25
Khadi sector	30.75	32.52	74.59	82.02	12,201	12,201
Village industries Sector	156.34	156.60	166.09	166.80	43,487	43,481
Total	187.09	189.12	240.68	248.82	55,688	55682

Source: Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board

and sales from Village Industries were 16,609 lakh. Details are provided in **Table 4.6.3.** and **Appendix 4.6.14.**

There are 29 Khadi institutions including Khadi and Village Industries Board (KKVIB), KKVIB aided institutions (14 numbers) and KVIC aided institutions (14 numbers) engaged in Khadi production and sales. Production, sales and employment details of these institutions (under KKVIB & KVIC) from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix.4.6.15.**

State Plan outlay and expenditure of the sector for the last 3 years is provided in **Table 4.6.4.**

Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board (KKVIB)

KKVIB is a statutory body under the Department of Industries and Commerce. KKVIB is responsible for organising, developing and promoting Khadi and Village industries in Kerala. Schemes implemented by KKVIB include the Special Employment Generation Programme (SEGP) (Ente Gramam), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

Table 4.6.4. Plan Outlay and Expenditure of Khadi and Village Industries Sector in Kerala (Rs.in lakh)

Year	Outlay	Expenditure	% of Exp
2022-23	1610	860.77	53.46
2023-24	1610	728.41	45.24
2024-25	1480	985.71	66.60

Source: Plan Space

and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of KVIC. The Khadi and Village Industries Board generated 1,539 employment opportunities through the SEGP & PMEGP village industries programmes in 2024-25. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.16** and **Appendix 4.6.17.**

The allocation of funds from various sources to KKVIB and the expenditure incurred by the Board in 2023-24 and 2024-25 is shown in **Table 4.6.5.**

Special Employment Generation Programme
Special Employment Generation Programme provides margin money subsidy to small

Table 4.6.5. Fund allocated and expenditure incurred by Khadi & Village Industries Board in Kerala, Rs in lakh.

Particulars	2023-24		2024-25	
	Receipt	Expenditure	Receipt	Expenditure
State Government Grant -PLAN	784.67	755.4	985.71	985.71
1. Plan (Budget provision)				
2. Income Support Scheme (Fund through DIC)	3,680.79	3,680.79	3,500	3,500
State Government Grant - NON-PLAN	4,800.20	4,853.06	5,996.20	5,827.48
1.Non- Plan – Special Rebate	570	570	1500	1500
KVIC Grant				
1.PMEGP - Margin Money	1,336.31	1,336.31	1,058.34	1,058.34
2.Grant for District Awareness Camps and District-level Exhibition of PMEGP	2.55	2.55	1.44	1.44

Source: Khadi and Village Industries Board, Government of Kerala.

entrepreneurs and traditional artisans through bank linked projects, based on appraisal of the project and approved guidelines by Industries and Commerce Department. The maximum assistance under margin money is limited to 40 per cent of the project cost. The general category will get subsidy of 25 per cent of the project cost, women and OBC category will get 30 per cent and SC/ST/ job lost NRIs due to COVID 19 pandemic will be eligible for 40 per cent. In addition, this scheme aims to provide necessary technical assistance and marketing assistance to the entrepreneurs. At least one person should be provided employment for every Rs 3 Lakh of capital expenditure. Those who start the enterprise and successfully run it for 2 years and complete the lock-in-period by following the scheme conditions are granted a subsidy of 25% to 40% from the State scheme share without any distinction between rural and urban areas. In 2024-25, SEGP created 416 village industries with a total project cost of Rs. 13.05 crore creating 515 employment opportunities. District-wise details of achievements under SEGP in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 4.6.16**.

Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

PMEGP is a credit-linked subsidy programme that aims at generating employment opportunities through establishment of micro enterprises in rural as well as urban areas. The objective of the programme is to provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of

traditional and prospective artisans, and rural and urban unemployed youth in the country. The scheme facilitates participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to micro sectors. Under the programme, Government subsidy will be credited to the bank accounts of micro enterprises. It is supervised by the Khadi and Village Industries Board, it also involves as additional wages. In 2024-25, through the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), 294 units were established with a total project cost of Rs 34.78 crore, it created 1024 employment opportunities. An amount of Rs10.58 crore was released as margin money. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.17**.

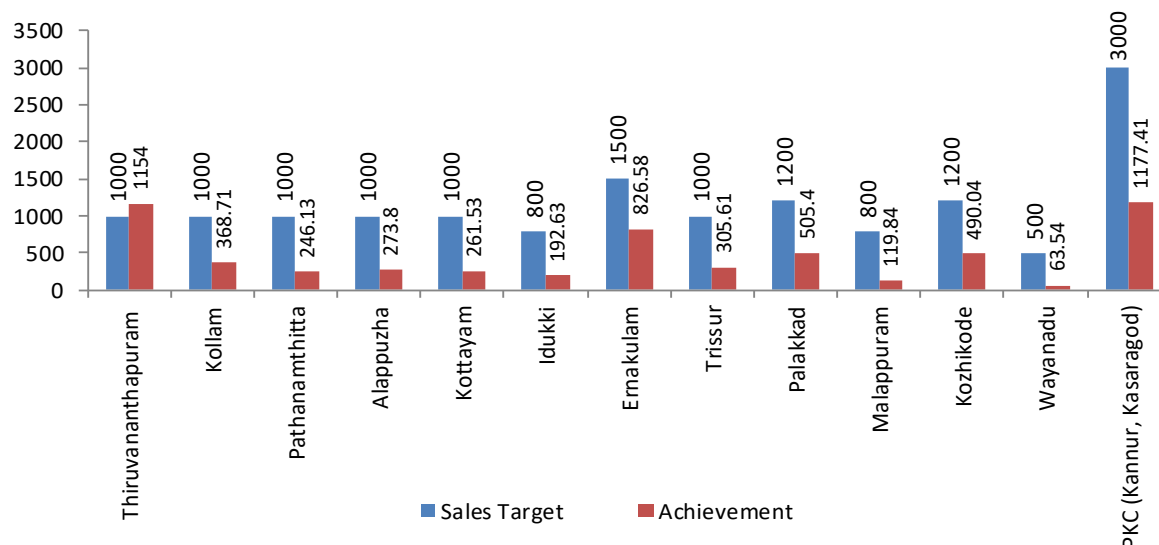
Marketing

The KKVIB had 187 departmental sales outlets for Khadi and village goods in 2024-25. They generated a sales revenue of Rs 59.85 crore. District-wise details of departmental sales outlets and sales under KKVI Board for 2023-24 and 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 4.6.18**. **Figure 4.6.1** portrays District-wise sales targets and achievement in 2024-25.

Other Activities of KKVIB

- An amount of Rs 15 crore was provided to departmental institutions of Khadi Board and Khadi institutions as rebate to promote sales.
- An amount of RS 35 crore was disbursed to 12,500 spinners and weavers in Khadi sector under the income support scheme.

Figure 4.6.1 District-wise sales target and actual sale 2024-25, Rs in lakh



Source: Khadi and Village Industries Board, Government of Kerala.

- An amount of Rs 5.60 crore was disbursed to Khadi workers as festival allowance.

Issues and Challenges of Khadi and Village Industries in Kerala

Poor marketing and branding are making it difficult for Khadi products in attracting customers, leading to low sales both online and offline. To receive Khadi certification and rebate on sale of product from KVIC, producers have to fulfill certain criterion. This limits their ability to access wider markets. Lack of innovation is another challenge, as Khadi Institutions (KIs) are not equipped to keep up with changing consumer preferences and adjust to shifts in market trends. Khadi products experience significant seasonal demand fluctuations, with certain products being more popular during specific times of the year due to various factors such as weather, cultural events, and fashion trends. Low wages for artisans are a major issue. Reluctance of young generation to enter the Khadi Sector is also problematic.

Way forward

Greater autonomy to Khadi institutions and support to increase competitiveness can address some of the challenges faced by the sector. Furthermore, empowering artisans through cooperatives or producer companies can guarantee fair wages and enhance their bargaining power. Innovation in product development and better marketing of products is essential in any industry. The khadi sector, being a traditional industry, is largely dependent on Government assistance. However, it is necessary to make the sector self-sufficient and adaptable to the changing economic environment. By promoting and ensuring the sustainability of businesses in this sector, the State can become a global leader in the sphere of sustainable traditional industries. Kerala's youth have a great potential to contribute to the growth of khadi with their innovative solutions and ventures. With substantial support from the Government and national institutes, the opportunities for entrepreneurship in this sector are at a high. The Khadi sector in Kerala requires greater momentum in its multi-faceted approach to address the challenges and ensure sustainability of this traditional industry. To meet the present-day challenges, Khadi institutions must enhance their professional management and capability. The sector can start off by changing their marketing strategies including the use of social media platform to create publicity among the masses.

COIR INDUSTRY

Coir Industry in India

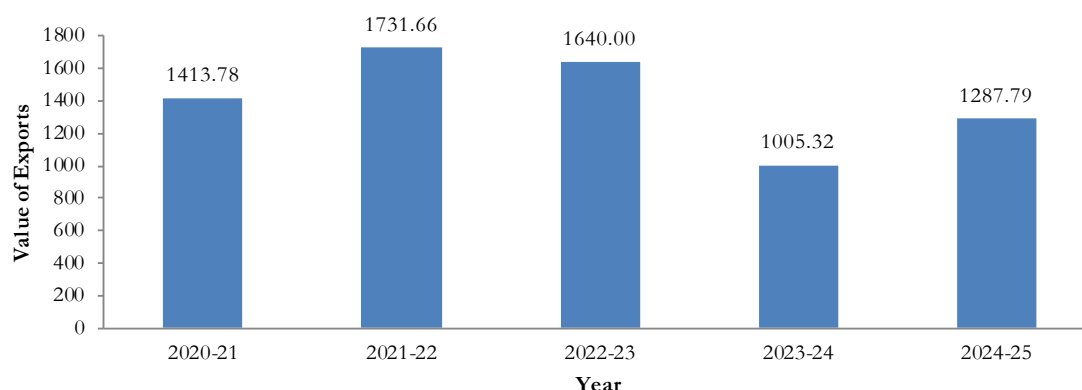
Coir industry is important in terms of its contribution to Gross Value Added, employment generation and foreign exchange earnings. It provides direct and indirect employment to about 7.4 lakh persons, of which, about 80 per cent are women (Source: MSME-Annual Report-2024-25). Coir industry is predominantly concentrated in States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Goa, Odisha, Assam, Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. Production of coir fibre increased from 7,96,300 MT in 2023-24 to 8,01,300 MT in 2024-25. India exported coir and coir products worth 4343.45 crore in 2024-25 (Up to March, 2025). India exports coir to more than hundred countries. India exports 14 coir products, including coir pith, coir fibre, tufted mats, handloom mats, geo textiles, coir yarn, curled coir, handloom matting and rubberised coir. (Source: Coir Board)

Coir Industry in Kerala

Kerala is the home of the Indian coir industry, particularly white fibre, accounting for 61 per cent of coconut production and over 85 per cent of coir products. Coir sector is the foremost traditional industry in Kerala in which nearly 1 lakh coir workers are directly and indirectly finding their livelihood. About 88,000 are enrolled as members in the Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board (KCWWF) of which around 80 per cent are women. The entire processes in coir industry can be divided into three major segments, namely fibre extraction, spinning and products sectors. The fibre extraction and spinning segments are mostly concentrated in the co-operative sector while the manufacturing segment is mostly running in factory mode with large presence of exporters.

Coir industry is also significant to Kerala for its role in generating export earnings. State Public Sector Undertakings and private entrepreneurs are engaged in export of coir and coir products in Kerala. In Kerala, the Coir PSUs namely Kerala State Coir Corporation and Foam Mattings (India) Limited along with Coirfed are engaged in export of coir products. From Rs 1731.66 lakh in 2021-22, exports had decreased to Rs 1640.00 lakh in 2022-23 and Rs 1005.32 Lakh in 2023-24. However, exports increased to Rs 1,287.79 lakh in 2024-25.

Figure 4.6.2 Export of Coir and Coir products by Kerala State PSUs and Coirfed, in Rs lakh



Source: Directorate of Coir Development, Government of Kerala

Recovery in global economy and Government efforts to promote the sector has led to subsequent increase in exports in 2024-25. Details are provided in **Figure 4.6.2** and **Appendix 4.6.19**.

Performance under schemes and programmes in coir sector

In Kerala, Directorate of Coir Development (DCD) is the nodal agency to implement the schemes of coir industry. In the Thirteenth Five Year Plan, State Government allocated an outlay of Rs 636.19 crore for the sector through Annual Plans. The expenditure reported is Rs 628.19 crore (98.7 per cent). In addition, coir PSUs were also provided funds for organisational management and modernisation for continuous operations. Outlay for the sector in 2024-25 was Rs 107.64 crore as against the expenditure of Rs 71.55 crore (66.5 per cent). Details are provided in **Table 4.6.6**.

One of the most significant achievements in the coir sector in recent years has been the implementation of a comprehensive revival and transformational package called '2nd Reorganisation of Coir Industry'. Through the programme, effort is on to mechanise the coir sector and protect the wages of labourers, at the same time. The package includes State and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) fund. The package involves activities in 5 thrust areas namely i) Technology enabled procurement and decentralised fibre extraction, ii) Distinct strategy for traditional spinning and weaving sector, iii) Modernisation of industrial spinning and weaving sector (focussing on geotextiles), iv) Product diversification of industrial coir – focus on non-woven and v) Institutional

support for the coir sector and dynamic markets. Modernisation and Mechanisation undertaken under the reorganisation package also benefit the sector.

Directorate of Coir Development and Agencies in Kerala Coir Sector

The Directorate of Coir Development acts as a facilitator for the promotion and sustainability of the coir industry in Kerala. Kerala State Coir Corporation (KSCC), Foam Mattings (India) Ltd (FOMIL), Kerala State Co-operative Coir Marketing Federation Ltd (Coirfed), National Coir Research and Management Institute (NCRMI), Kerala State Coir Machinery Manufacturing

Table 4.6.6 State Plan Outlay and Expenditure for Coir sector, in Rs lakh

Year	Outlay	Expenditure	Percentage of expenditure
2017-18	12,812	9,872.89	77.06
2018-19	14,108	12,766.13	90.49
2019-20	14,151	8,247.06	58.28
2020-21	11,274	21,913.40	194.37
2021-22	11,274	10019.50	88.87
13 th Five-Year Plan	63,619	62818.98	98.74
2022-23	11,700	8,581.91	73.35
2023-24	11,700	6,857.93	58.61
2024-25	10,764	7,154.86	66.47
2025-26*	10,764	3639.51	33.81

Source: Budget Programme Book, various years and Plan Space Kerala.

*Expenditure as on 31.11.2024

Company (KSCMMC), Kerala State Coir Workers Welfare Fund Board are the important agencies functioning for the promotion of coir industry. The co-operative sector plays a substantial role in activities like collecting husk, defibering, and production of yarn and other products in the coir sector.

Significant achievement of the sector in terms of schemes are highlighted below

- It has been possible to produce 11,900 tonnes of coir and 6,041.08 tonnes of fibre in the financial year 2024-25.
- Price of the coir produced by workers in the fibre societies have increased from Rs.3.50 to Rs.6.50 per Kilogram. The daily wages of the traditional workers have also increased from Rs. 350 to Rs.400.
- An amount of 12.48 crore rupees have been disbursed to 14,061 traditional coir workers under Income Security Scheme and thereby created 11,34,656 working days.
- Through the operation of new defibering units, the husk utilisation in the State has risen. New applications for pith and short fibre are discovered. As a result, the value of raw coir pith has risen.
- Over 26,000 good quality electronic ratts, and 1,493 Automated Spinning Mills (ASMs) in over 511 societies. Have been introduced. Mechanisation has resulted in yarn production has increased from 7,880 tonne in 2016 to 26976.25 tonne in 2024-25.
- In 2024-25, under the Coir Geo Textiles Development Programme, about 51 lakh square meters of coir geo textiles have been produced and supplied within the State.
- Coirfed and Coir Corporation participated in the 43rd India International Trade Fair -2024 (IITF-2024) held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 14th to 27th November 2024 and won the best exhibitor award.
- In the financial year 2024-25, the National Coir Research and Management Institute (NCRMI) undertook research projects on enhancing the durability of coir textiles, developing coir-based biochar and activated carbon from coconut palm biomass residue for use as sustainable controlled-release fertilizers, and conducted field efficacy studies of the use of coir for roads works.
- Under the scheme, 'Regulated Mechanisation of Coir Industry', benefits to the tune of Rs

7.66 crore was disbursed to NCRMI, FOMIL, KSCC, Coirfed, KSCMMC, 313 Coir Vyavasaya Cooperative Societies (CVCS's) (infra), 5 defibering units (DF) for renovation.

- The scheme 'Market Development Assistance' seeks to promote the sale of coir and coir products of co-operatives and PSUs thereby encouraging sustained production and better employment to workers. An amount of Rs 10.00 crore was distributed to 21 Mats and Mattings societies, Coirfed, FOMIL, and KSCC in 2024-25.
- The scheme 'Price Fluctuation Fund' intends to stabilize the price of coir fibre, yarn and coir products and an amount of Rs 42.06 crore was spent through KSCC, and Coirfed under the Scheme.
- To strengthen the share capital base of the co-operatives in the coir sector through the scheme 'Government Share Participation in coir co-operatives' support was provided to 3 co-operatives.
- The scheme 'Restructuring of Coir Production Societies and Managerial Subsidies' is for revival and rejuvenation of coir co-operative societies with working capital and managerial support. There were 267 societies that benefited from an amount of Rs 1.44 crore provided as managerial subsidy. About 109 societies benefited from an amount of Rs 52.5 crore provided as working capital.
- 'Production and Marketing Incentive' (PMI) scheme is for providing assistance to promote production, marketing and export of coir and coir products. In 2024-25, Rs 6.40 crore was provided to 391 CVCS's.
- Coir Corporation undertook the training of 350 traditional workers.
- KSCMMC made a remarkable entry into the international market and exported Rs. 23 lakh worth defibering units to Venezuela.

Coir Co-operative societies

The total number of coir co-operative societies in Kerala has decreased marginally from 1,099 in 2023-24 to 1055 in 2024-25. The number of working societies has reduced from 511 in 2023-24 to 492 in 2024-25. While the number of profitable societies decreased from 290 in 2021-22 to 209 in 2024-25, the number of loss-making societies has also decreased. Similarly, the number of dormant societies and those under liquidation have decreased. Almost 47 per cent of the total number of working societies is primary co-operative

societies engaged in the yarn sector. The non-yarn sector includes manufacturing societies (mats and mattings) and small-scale producers' co-operative societies. The total number of manufacturing societies (mats and mattings) and the number of small-scale producer's co-operative societies has remained more or less stagnant. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.20**.

The two important sub sectors within the coir industry are yarn sector and product sector. The number of workers engaged in the coir co-operative societies in the yarn sector has increased from 17,257 in 2023-24 to 17,731 in 2024-25. The amount of wages paid in the sector increased from Rs 28.22 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 38.76 crore in 2024-25. Compared to 2023-24, the value of husk procured, the value of fibre purchased and the value of yarn produced have increased in 2024-25. The number of workers in the product sector in the co-operative societies has also increased significantly in 2024-25 compared to the previous year. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.21**.

Coirfed

The Kerala State Co-operative Coir Marketing Federation Ltd (Coirfed) is the apex federation of primary coir co-operative societies spread all over Kerala. Coirfed has 11 factories for producing various coir related products and runs around 50 signature shops throughout the country. The main objective of the federation is procurement of the products of the member societies and marketing of these goods through its sales outlet. The process helps in providing fair wages and subsistence to the coir workers of Kerala. Coirfed has two facilities for the manufacturing of value-added products. One factory produces rubberised coir products and the other produces rubber backed coir mats. Coirfed has 4 defibering units. Income from sales has decreased from 2020-21 to 2022-23. However subsequently, income from sales has increased from Rs 87.99 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 88.94 crore in 2024-25. As a whole, the annual net loss of the agency has been decreasing since 2020-21. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.22**.

Kerala State Coir Corporation

The Kerala State Coir Corporation Ltd was established in 1969 to help the small-scale coir manufacturers by providing them assistance in manufacturing and marketing. Over the years, the Corporation has been procuring the produce

of small-scale manufacturers, thereby reducing their dependence on the intermediaries. They provide the procured products to exporters and other sellers. KSCC also runs 11 showrooms (8 in Kerala and 3 outside Kerala). The Kerala State Coir Corporation has 3 production centres in Kerala. One more unit is being established in Adoor. The products produced/traded by the corporation include PVC tufted Coir mats/matting, Coir pith, Coir yarn, Coir fibre and curled rope. KSCC exports their products to various countries including Australia, Brazil, USA, Poland, France, Kuwait, Kazakhstan and Guatemala.

The corporation implements the Purchase Price Stabilisation Scheme (PPSS) in coir sector. Value of procurement under the PPSS has decreased from 2020-21 to 2022-23. However, it has increased from 108.14 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 125.19 crore in 2024-25. The income from sales of products increased from Rs 147.50 crore in 2023-24 to Rs. 165.33 crore in 2024-25. The PSU has continuously reported net profit in recent years. Its net profit has increased from Rs 32.16 lakh in 2020-21 to Rs 105.02 lakh (Provisional) in 2024-25. The PSU has successfully reduced its accumulated losses in recent years and has recorded an accumulated profit in 2024-25. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.23**.

Major achievements of the KSCC

- Company opened a new showroom at Lulu Mall Trivandrum. This is the first ever PSU showroom in the Lulu Mall.
- Started exporting to UK and Dubai.
- Opened a new showroom at Military Canteen Pangode, Trivandrum.
- A new premium coir craft outlet was inaugurated in Alappuzha office.
- Managing Director of the company was awarded as the best Managing Director in PSU for 2024-25 by the State Government.
- KSCC won the 'MKK Nayar Productivity Award 2024' from Kerala State Productivity Council for 2nd Best Performer among Medium Industries.
- KSCC won the 'Dalam 2025' award for Best Performer in PSU,s from Asianet Satellite Communication Limited.
- Company has executed an agreement with Walmart for selling of coir products in their US platform and first container carry coir products shipped to USA.
- Company got an order from Odisha Mining

Corporation for the supplying and laying of coir Geotextiles in Iron ore mines.

National Coir Research and Management Institute (NCRMI)

The NCRMI is setup to strengthen the research and development activities of coir sector with a view to enabling the industry to produce more value-added products and new design products at competitive price.

The activities of the research institute in 2024-25 can be classified under the following heads –

- i. Demonstration projects including application of coir geotextile as mulch, coir geocell and its application in different parts of Kerala, field efficacy studies on coir road divider, durability enhancement of coir geotextiles, training programme on production and demonstration of coir textiles for SC women aspirants and coir pith composting, training initiative for SC community empowerment in Kerala.
- ii. Technology development includes utilization of coir pith for the production of bio plastic using significant microbial strains, optimization of pith activator for the composting of household organic waste using passive aeration bin, technology dissemination & training of coir pith composting to the workers of defibering units, collaborative project for the fortification and enrichment of coir pith compost and its evaluation, development of biofilm on coir based biomass carriers for treating effluent water, development of bacterial consortia to treat ret liquor, treatment of coir fibre with various biological and chemical agents to improve the texture and colour, technology transfer Patent achievement of COCOAURA
- iii. Commercial activities including PEATKOL Dots, Ecoir bag, trichopith spawn production, pith activator, new Trichoderma strain for coir pith composting, coconuture – (A new potting filler), identification and characterisation of microorganisms including bacteria and fungi in automated systems and supply of mother culture on behalf of Department of Agriculture, Kerala.
- iv. Machine activities includes design and fabrication of pyrolysis unit for the conversion of coconut palm biomass residues to biochar for soil, development of fully automatic creel mat loom, technology for blended yarn making
- v. Conduct of skill development training programs
- vi. Participation in exhibitions and workshops
- vii. Sponsored live workshop in association with Ernst & Young and Viswa Santhi Development Foundation
- viii. Testing facility and extension activities

Foam Mattings (India) Limited (FOMIL)

Foam Mattings (India) Limited (FOMIL) is a Government of Kerala undertaking founded in 1979. The company is engaged in the production, manufacturing and marketing of coir, jute and sisal products under the brand name FOMIL. It was established with an authorised capital of Rs 800 lakh and paid-up capital of Rs 666.73 lakhs. FOMIL caters to the needs of domestic and international markets with a wide range of products – mattings, door mats, rugs, carpets, coir tiles, car mats, coir geotextiles and a host of other environment friendly products. Company has released novel gift packs of foot mats, carpets and floor decors made from coir and jute fibre. The company has state of the art facilities like Latex Backing Plant, Modern Dye House, and Fully Automatic Power loom where spare capacity is used for undertaking works of other exporters. New products from the company like coir pith manure and coir tiles are having good demand in the market. FOMIL have introduced a new product called digital printed jute mattings. FOMIL has established a brand name of FOMIL in the mattress market with a definite sales volume.

The State PSU has reported loss in the last 5 years and the accumulated loss of the PSU was estimated to be about Rs 17.35 crore at the end of 2024-25. Income from the sale of products has increased from Rs 13.01 crore in 2023-24 to Rs. 16.51 crore in 2024-25. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.24.**

Kerala State Coir Machinery Manufacturing Company Ltd (KSCMMC)

Kerala State Coir Machinery Manufacturing Company Ltd (KSCMMC) was established in 2014, in Alappuzha by the Government of Kerala for the organisation of Coir Industry, to provide the machinery needed for the coir sector in Kerala. Company has a well-established machine shop, Quality Assurance Department, Research and Development Department, Marketing and after Sales Service Department. Since its inception KSCMMC has manufactured and installed 174

defibering mills so far and an increase in coir fibre production was registered from 7,000 tonnes to 30,000 tonnes. It has manufactured and supplied 29,832 electronic ratts having production capacity of 15 to 18 kg yarn in a single shift. Around 1,500 Automatic Spinning Machines having production capacity of 50-80 kg per shift were also manufactured and installed in coir co-operative societies in Kerala. The increased production of coir yarn through automatic spinning machines by KSCMMC has played a key role in the increase of wages of coir workers in the State. In addition to coir machines KSCMMC is manufacturing waste management machineries like bottle booth, mini MCF, metal trolley, sorting conveyors/sorting tables, deduster, shredder, glass bottle crusher and bailing machines. KSCMMC developed a Magnetic Loom (Magloom) that works with PLC control and VFD motors. Company manufactured and delivered a wide range of waste management machineries to different LSGD across Kerala. The company also carried out fabrication and machining works for various reputed PSUs like BATL, KAMCO and HLL.

The sales revenue of KSCMMC has fluctuated between Rs 32.88 crore in 2020-21 to 3.70 crore in 2024-25. The company reported a net profit of Rs 81.49 lakh in 2022-23, but in 2024-25 the company reported a net loss of Rs.71.43 lakh. In recent years, the demand for coir machinery seems to have reached a saturation point, resulting in a significant slowdown in new orders. Consequently, the company has initiated steps to diversify their business verticals, though these efforts are still in the preliminary stage. As a result, turnover has been steadily declining the past few years. Details are provided in **Appendix 4.6.25**.

Central Government Schemes

The Central Government has implemented various schemes for the Coir sector. The Coir Board a promotional body functioning under the Government of India is implementing various schemes for the promotion of the coir industry across the country. It is the implementing agency for Coir Vikas Yojana, and other central sector schemes like Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), and Scheme for Promotion of Innovation, Rural Industries and Entrepreneurship (ASPIRE). For the country as a whole, there are 17,332 coir units and 2179 coir exporters registered with the

Coir Board. Under the Umbrella scheme *Coir Vikas Yojana* (CVY), the Coir Board has been implementing various sub-components for Science and Technology, Skill upgradation and *Mahila Coir Yojana*, Domestic and Export market promotion and Trade and Industry related functional support services in coir sector. In 2024-25, a total of 2,121 people were trained under various training programmes of the Board. In addition, 22 Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), 25 awareness programmes, 7 national seminars, 10 workshops and 5 exposure tours were organised. A total of 122 entrepreneurs were supported to attend 5 international exhibitions abroad. Out of them, 59 entrepreneurs were from Kerala. Under domestic market promotion Coir Board has participated in 30 exhibitions. Market Development Assistance worth Rs 36.97 lakhs was disbursed to different State governments.

Under the scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) of the Government of India, Coir Clusters are being established in different coconut producing States/UTs. This is to pave the way for a faster growth of the coir industry in the country. Out of the 40 clusters approved, 4 are in Kerala. The coir industry under the purview of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is expected to contribute to employment generation in the sector especially for the youth. Under the scheme PMEGP, 29 units were provided assistance in the year 2024-25.

Expert committee on coir and recommendations

An expert committee was constituted by the Government in August 2022 for suggesting measures to revive the sector. It submitted its report on 01.01.2025. The following are some of the recommendations of the committee.

1. Kerala should find ways to ensure better availability of raw material for the coir industry in the State.
2. Enhance the role of KSCMMC and NCRMI for modernizing coir producing machines and ensure the utilisation of these machines at full capacity. This will help to produce quality products with low production cost and thereby compete in the market.
3. Change the market strategy to focus on products that are in demand in the market.
4. Strengthen the R&D activities of NCRMI to

develop a system for collecting coir of different runnage in ASM machines. A design department under NCRMI is to be developed for innovation in products and designs and for diversifying small producers and coir groups.

5. The quality of the product needs to be ensured in the coir production and coir spinning sectors.
6. Adopt a PPP model for utilising the land and infrastructure of dormant societies. The land could be given on contract/lease basis to small scale producers/ exporters. Employees who were working earlier in these societies could be retained.

Challenges and the way forward

The coir industry has been facing challenges including relatively low wages, shortage of raw materials, lack of advanced models for procurement of raw material, modern techniques of production and organisation. Government has taken comprehensive measures for the upgradation and devolvement of coir sector. This includes, technological upgradation, regulation of market-driven price fluctuations, developing self-sustaining units, innovations, competitiveness, diversification and tapping of new markets. The emphasis has also been given to develop an eco-friendly coir sector in the context of climate change.

CASHEW INDUSTRY

As per 2024-25 Global Tree Nut Production, almond leads (27 percent) followed by pistachios (20 per cent) and cashew (19 per cent). Pistachios and cashews fallow with similar shares, contributing 20% and 19% respectively. As per the Nuts and Dried Fruits Statistical Yearbook 2025 of the International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC), global cashew production has been increasing over decade. In 2024-25, global production of cashew was 11.66 lakh metric tons (kernel basis) or 53.66 lakh metric tons of raw cashew nuts. India is a major producer (of raw cashew nut and kernels), consumer and exporter of (shelled) cashew nut. Details of production of cashew by leading producers are given in **Table 4.6.7**.

Vietnam was the leading exporter of cashew (kernel equivalent) in 2024 (January-December), accounting for 33 per cent (4.67 lakh metric ton) of global exports. Cote d' Ivore was the

Table 4.6.7 Top producers of cashew nut—in 2024-25, in MT

Rank no	Region/Country	Production	Per cent share
1	Western Africa	5,43,814	51
2	India	1,63,152	15
3	Cambodia	1,32,940	12
4	Vietnam	89,240	8
5	Eastern Africa	80,388	8
6	Brazil	26,932	3
7	Others	33,960	3

Source: Nuts and Dried Fruits Statistical Yearbook 2025, INC-International Nuts and Dried Fruit Council

second leading exporter of 14 per cent (1.96 lakh metric ton). In the calendar year 2024 (January to December), India was the seventh largest exporter of cashew kernels, with an export of 51,100 metric tons and a share of 4 per cent in global exports. Sharing the same 4 per cent, the Netherlands, as a transit country, got the sixth position (which exports 51,777 metric tons).

India ranks second in the import of Cashew as a transit and processing country (kernel equivalent) and imported 2.99 lakh metric ton of Cashew (kernel equivalent) in the calendar year 2024. Viet Nam as a transit and processing country occupied the top position with an import of 3.98 lakh metric ton.

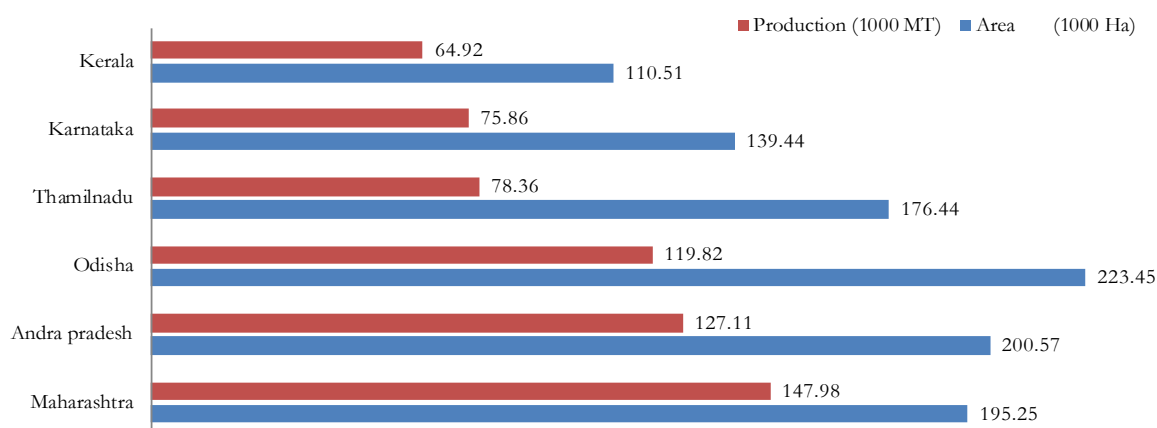
India is the top consumer of Cashew among the world countries, consuming about 3.95 lakh metric ton of Cashew (kernel equivalent) in the calendar year 2024. In consumption, second position went to USA, with consumption of 1.74 lakh metric tons in the calendar year 2024. Source: Nuts and Dried Fruits Statistical Yearbook 2025, (INC-International Nuts and Dried Fruit Council).

Researchers at various parts of the globe note an evolving interest in plant-based and vegan diets, and increased consumer interest in healthier snack options fostering an upsurge in the demand for cashew based products. This signifies better prospects for growth in the cashew market.

Cashew Sector in India

India is among the major cashew producing countries globally. India remains the world's largest consumer of cashews, processing almost half of global cashew kernels and consuming

Figure 4.6.3 Area and production of Raw Cashew Nuts in major producing states in India (2024-25)



Source: Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD), Government of India

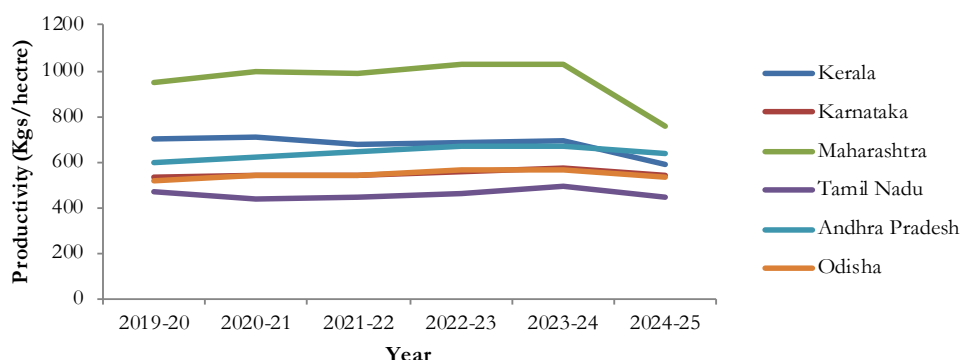
40 per cent of the global output. The United States is a distant second, accounting for 10-15 per cent of global consumption. India exports only 10 per cent of its output, down from 35 per cent in pre-pandemic times. This is because of an overwhelming rise in domestic demand, replacing the exports.

In India, cashew cultivation prevalent in Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, west cost of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, East cost of Odisha and in some areas of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand and the North-eastern States. According to the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD), in India, cashew was grown in 12.04 lakh hectares with a total production of 7.03 lakh MT of RCN in 2024-25. Compared to 2023-24, the total area under cultivation has increased marginally but the total production has witnessed a decline of more than

11 per cent. Maharashtra is the largest producer followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. In terms of total production of raw cashew, Kerala ranks 6th (0.65 lakh MT) among the producing states. Odisha has the largest area under cashew nut (2.23 lakh hectares) followed by Andhra Pradesh (2.01 lakh hectares) and Maharashtra (1.95 lakh hectares). Kerala has an area of 1.10 lakh hectares under cashew production and is sixth in terms of area under cashew production. State wise details of cashew nut production and area are provided in **Appendix 4.6.26**. A brief picture is provided in **Figure 4.6.3**.

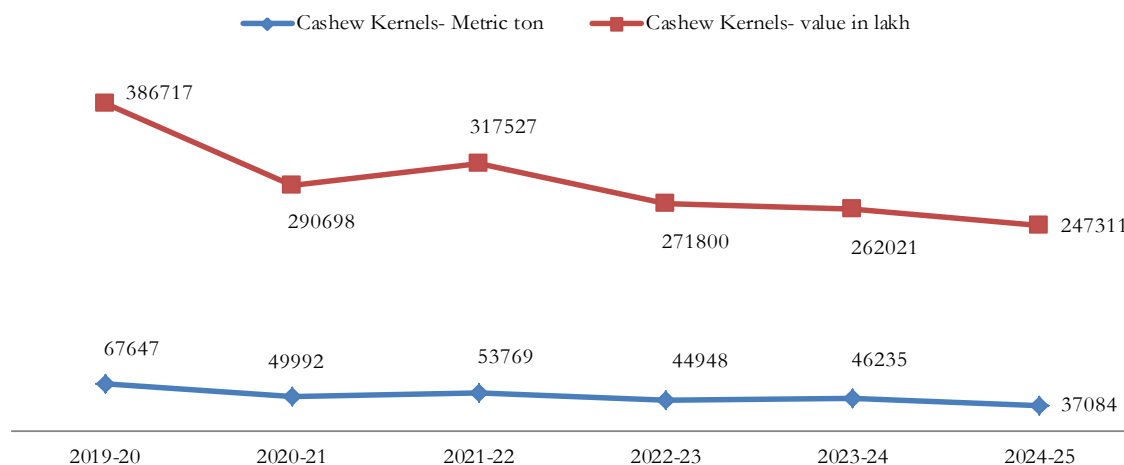
Productivity in the cultivation of cashew across major producing states is provided in **Fig 4.6.4**. Productivity has fallen considerably in 2024-25. Among the states compared, productivity is highest in Maharashtra and lowest in Tamil Nadu. As a whole, productivity in cashew cultivation in Kerala

Figure 4.6.4 Productivity in major cashew producing states of India



Source: Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD), Government of India

Figure 4.6.5 – Export of Cashew Kernels from India (since 2019-20)



Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI)

has fallen in the reference period.

Cashew Kernels are graded into white or scorched wholes, pieces, splits, butts, depending on the shape, size and colour of the kernel. The Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act 1963 prescribes 33 different grades of cashew kernels. W-180, W-210, W-240, W-320 and W-450 are some of the popular grades of cashew produced in India.

According to the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI), the export of cashew kernels from India, in terms of quantity, has been decreasing since 2019-20. In 2024-25, the total quantity of export of cashew kernels from India was 37,084 MT, registering a decrease of 19.79 per cent compared to cashew kernel export of 46,235 MT in 2023-24. The export of cashew kernels from India, in terms of value has been on decrease since 2021-22. In 2024-25, the total value of export of cashew kernels from India was Rs.2473.11 crore, indicating a decline of 5.6 per cent compared to 2023-24. Details are provided in **Figure 4.6.5**.

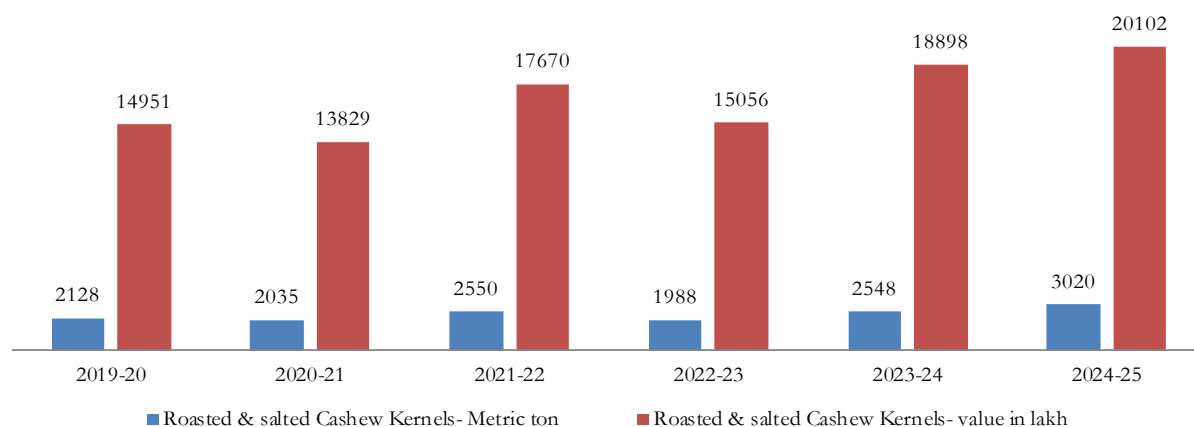
During 2024-25 a major portion of cashew kernels are exported to the UAE, i.e., 10034.38 MT; subsequently, the main exports are to the Netherlands, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Spain. Kuwait, Qatar, and the USA are also the major markets of Indian cashew kernels.

Export of roasted & salted cashew kernels from India has been fluctuating since 2019-20.

Compared to 2023-24, Export of roasted & salted cashew kernels from India in 2024-25, increased 18.5 per cent in terms of quantity and 6.4 per cent in terms of value. In 2024-25, a total of 3,020 metric ton of roasted & salted cashew kernels had been exported from India, worth Rs.201.02 crore. A quick look is provided in **Figure 4.6.6**.

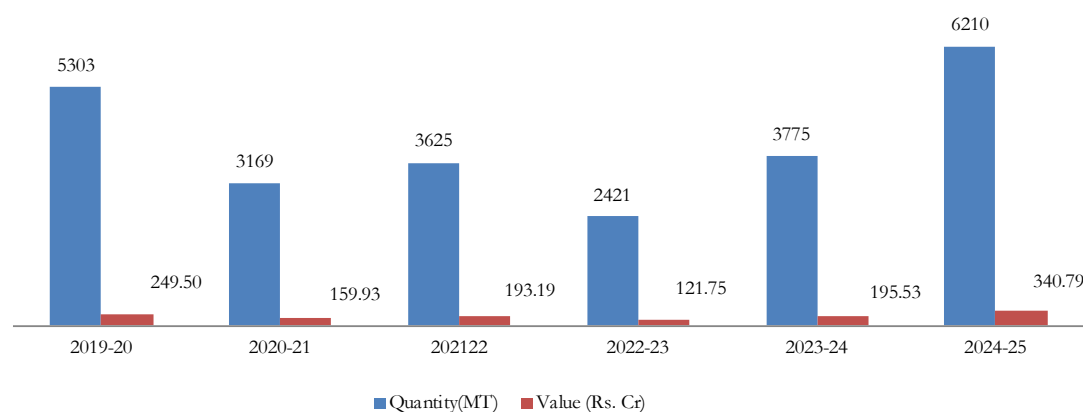
The domestic production of cashew nut in India is not sufficient to cater to the cashew processing industry's current requirement or installed processing capacity of about 20 lakh MT. Hence, India imports raw cashew nut from other countries. India had imported a total of 11.41 lakh MT of Raw Cashew Nut (RCN) in 2024-25 valued at Rs 13,742 crore. In 2023-24, it was 12.51 lakh MT valued at Rs. 11,633 crore. Compared to 2023-24 import of RCN by India has declined in terms of quantity (8.77 per cent). The average import price of raw cashew nuts in FY 2024-25 was Rs. 120.38 per kg; compared to the previous year's price of Rs. 92.96 per kg, it shows an increase of 29.49 per cent. Ivory coast, Tanzania, Guinea Bissau, Benin, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal are the major sources of RCN import. (Cashew Export Promotion Council of India-CEPCI). Large variations over the years in the export and import of raw cashew nut are primarily due to the activities of traders in the processing industry. There are large fluctuations in the international prices of raw cashew nut and cashew kernel. Moreover, market conditions in other processing countries affect international trade.

Figure 4.6.6 Export of Roasted & Salted cashew kernels from India (since 2019-20)



Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI)

Figure 4.6.7 Import of Cashew Kernel into India (since 2019-20)



Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI)

India is also importing cashew kernels. The quantity of cashew kernel import was 6210 MT valued at Rs 340.79 crore in 2024-25, it includes wholes, broken and others (Cashew Export Promotion Council of India - CEPCI). There's been a huge increase in terms of quantity and value compared to 2023-24. The import of low processed, low quality, finished/semi-finished kernels to India from competing countries by misdeclaration and misusing certain policy norms is a concern to the Indian cashew industry. Details are provided in **Figure 4.6.7**.

Export of cashew nutshell-liquid from the country in 2024-25 was 8497.61 MT (valued at Rs.60.79 crore). In comparison to the export of 2023-24, there was a decrease in terms of quantity of 35.73

percent and value of 21.26 per cent, i.e., the export was 13222.27 MT and the value was Rs.77.21 crore (Cashew Export Promotion Council of India - CEPCI).

Cashew Sector in Kerala

The cashew industry is a major traditional agro-based industry in Kerala. Cashew kernels are obtained through processing (roasting or steaming, shelling and peeling) of raw cashew nuts. The cashew processing industry in Kerala is clustered in Kollam District in Kerala, which is traditionally known as the global cashew trading capital. Cashew processing in Kerala has been a labour-intensive industry and has a long history of employing a large number of women workers. It is estimated that the number of working cashew

processing units is about 100 where approximately 1 lakh workers are employed. About 65 per cent of the cashew exporting and processing units officially registered with the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI). Cashew processing is concentrated mainly in the private sector. The co-operative sector has limited presence in cashew processing.

There are two public institutions engaged in the cashew processing industry in Kerala, namely Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd (CAPEX) and Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC). The Kerala Cashew Board (KCB) is engaged in the import of raw cashew nut for these two public institutions. Kerala State Agency for the Expansion of Cashew Cultivation (KSACC) is engaged in promotion of cashew cultivation and adoption of innovative technologies to enhance area, production and productivity of cashew.

According to Cochin Port Trust, the quantity of cashew kernels exported from Cochin Port in 2023-24 was 22,753 MT, showing a growth of 4.09 per cent as compared to the export of 21,858 MT in 2022-23. In 2024-25 the export of cashew kernels was 15495 MT, showing a decline of 31.9 per cent as compared to 22753 MT in 2023-24. This is 41.8 per cent of the total cashew kernel export from India (37,084 MT).

In Kerala the production of raw cashew nut increased from 80,000 MT in 2014-15 to 88,180 MT in 2017-18. Subsequently production of raw cashew nuts has shown fluctuations annually. However, has declined as a whole in recent years to reach 64,920 MT in 2024-25. The area under cultivation of cashew has increased from 84,500 hectares in 2014-15 to 1,10,510 hectares in 2024-25. Mismatch between area and production is attributed to replantation and gestation period for production. Significant share of area under cashew cultivation have not been replanted. A major reason limiting improvement in production/productivity in cashew cultivation is the fact that nearly 70 per cent of the cashew trees in the State are aged, local varieties, which start yielding late in the season. Climate change effects such as the coincidence of excessive rainfall and high relative humidity have also adversely affected cashew cultivation. Details are provided in **Table 4.6.8**.

The challenges in the expansion of cashew cultivation in Kerala include the pressure on land,

Table 4.6.8 Production of raw cashew nut in Kerala – 2014-15 to 2024-25, in hectares and MT

Year	Area (in 1000 ha)	Annual growth, in %	Quantity (in MT)	Annual growth, in %
2014-15	84.50	-0.4	80,000	-0.2
2015-16	87.00	2.9	72,000	-10.0
2016-17	90.87	4.5	83,980	16.6
2017-18	92.81	2.1	88,180	5.0
2018-19	96.65	4.1	82,889	-6.0
2019-20	98.82	2.2	69,624	-16.0
2020-21	103.21	4.4	73,105	5.0
2021-22	106.52	3.2	71,760	-1.8
2022-23	108.59	1.9	74,630	4.0
2023-24	110.26	1.5	76,380	2.2
2024-25	110.51	0.23	64920	-15

Source : Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD), Government of India

and the erstwhile shift to cash crops like rubber (particularly due to the absence of plantation status to cashew). Many of the cash crops have a long gestation period and to be economic, the activity has to be continued for a relatively longer period of time. Hence, an immediate large shift to cashew from other cash crops is not possible.

In the last decade, Kerala has initiated steps to expand the area under cultivation of cashew, cashew production, and productivity. Though positive changes are visible, there is further scope for improvement. A trend of more farmers accepting cashew as a remunerative crop is visible.

Agencies in Cashew Sector

Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC) and Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Co-operative Society (CAPEX) are the two State Government agencies involved in the processing of cashew in the State. Kerala State Agency for the Expansion of Cashew Cultivation (KSACC) and Kerala Cashew Board (KCB) are the other two State Government agencies in the sector. Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI) and the Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development (DCCD) are the other agencies involved in cashew promotion. The details regarding the outlay from State Annual Plan and expenditure incurred in 13th five-year plan and

Table 4.6.9 Plan outlay and expenditure of State Government agencies in cashew sector, 13th Five-Year Plan, 2024-25 and 2025-26(in Rs crore)

Sl no	Agency	13th Five Year Plan			2024-25			2025-26 (as on 31-10-2025)		
		Outlay	Exp	%	Outlay	Exp	%	Outlay	Exp	%
1	Kerala Cashew Board Ltd	115.20	100.10	86.89	40.81	40.81	100.00	41.00	41.00	100.00
2	Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation	98.00	239.55	244.4	3.05	1.47	48.20	3.05	0.80	26.23
3	Kerala State Agency for the expansion of Cashew Cultivation	30.80	13.39	43.47	6.50	3.25	50.00	6.31	2.20	34.87
4	CAPEX	25.00	61.02	244.1	3.00	0.93	31.00	3.00	1.05	35.00
Total		269.00	414.06	153.93	53.36	46.46	87.06	53.36	45.05	84.43

Source: Plan Space, State Planning Board

financial year 2024-25 and 2025-26 are provided in **Table 4.6.9**.

Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC)

Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Ltd. (KSCDC) was formed in 1969 as a company fully owned by the Government of Kerala. KSCDC currently operates 30 factories, of which 20 are private factories run by KSCDC based on agreement. Modernisation of facilities and purchase of cutting machines have increased the productivity from 85 MT per day to 115 MT per day. KSCDC has achieved this productivity without any labour reduction.

The number of working days and turnover has fallen since 2019-20. The first and second waves of the covid-19 pandemic have adversely affected the operations of KSCDC during the financial years of 2021-22 and 2022-23. But from 2023-24 onwards, the working days and turnover are increasing gradually. The turnover for 2022-23 was 93.49 crores, but coming to 2023-24 and 2024-25, the turnover is showing an increasing trend, i.e., 134.31 crores and 166.62 crores, respectively, and with the increasing trend of turnover, the loss of the firm is also reducing. KSCDC currently provides employment to around 9000 workers; the majority of them are women who depend on this job as their sustenance. Details are given in **Table 4.6.10** and **Appendix 4.6.27**.

KSCDC is marketing its value-added products and trying to sell more products directly to the end

customers which are giving it better margins. The agency has launched new products such as gift hampers (250-gram tins, platinum and premium boxes), assorted premium cashews and jumbo cashews. These products have received good response from customers. KSCDC has also started outlets to increase the sales. It supplies grafted saplings in grow bags, at a discounted price. Details regarding performance of KSCDC can be found in **Appendix 4.6.28**.

Due to the presence of the covid-19 pandemic, the working days provided to workers during 2020-21 and 2021-22 were 89 and 96, respectively. Even though there was an acute shortage of raw cashew nuts across the globe in 2022-23, KSCDC provided 71 working days to the workers. In 2023-24 & 2024-25, KSCDC provided 123 and 127 working days, respectively, to the workers. KSCDC has also developed new value added products

Table 4.6.10 Sales turnover of KSCDC, in Rs crore

Period	Turnover	Cost of raw material	Cost of human power	Profit / Loss
2019-20	173.13	120.13	75.38	-44.56
2020-21	88.31	80.88	62.12	-89.15
2021-22	112.24	76.39	61.64	-77.83
2022-23	93.49	83.61	52.54	-94.52
2023-24	134.31	103.16	57.79	-105.86
2024-25*	166.62	112.17	79.30	-81.15

Source: KSCDC, Kollam Note: * Provisional

like Cashew Vanilla Milk shake, Cashew vita cardamom/Chocolate/Pizta/Vanila and flavoured cashew including chilly garlic/salt& pepper/ Red chilly etc, which have good acceptance from customers. KSCDC is also trying to increase the sale of CDC-branded cashew packets named 'Kerala Cashew' and value-added products like cashew soup, cashew powder, cashew vita, and cashew apple soda. KSCDC has rebranded its retail products as 'Kerala Cashews' for better acceptance; the products with "brand value" command a premium price and also sell better.

Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd. (CAPEX)

CAPEX was set up at Kollam in 1984 as an apex body to take care of the operations of factories of 10 primary co-operative societies under Government of Kerala. The State Government created the framework for CAPEX by purchasing the dormant cashew factories. Its major function includes procurement, management of processing through co-operative societies and marketing. It procures raw nuts, distributes the same to the primary societies and gets them processed, and markets the kernels. These are done with the aim of bringing down the processing costs and providing continuous employment and fair wages to the workers.

In 2024-25, CAPEX provided employment to 3592 workers. About 95 per cent of workers are women workers. CAPEX had provided 155 working days in the financial year 2023-24 and 165 working days in the financial year 2024-25. Various efforts had been taken by CAPEX to reduce the loss from Rs.16.41 crore in 2015-16 to Rs.7.58 crore in 2024-25. Turnover of the firm is also steadily increasing year by year, i.e., in 2022-23, Rs.53.87 crore; in

2023-24, Rs.54.37 crore; and in 2024-25, Rs.56.71 crore. Details regarding sales and turnover of CAPEX are given in **Table 4.6.11**.

CAPEX acts as a model employer by providing employment opportunities to the closed private factories, thereby assuring wages and other benefits as per the existing law (ESI, PF, and bonus etc). CAPEX is making bulk/wholesale sales, which are done through e-tenders, and also expanded the retail sales of branded cashews named "Capex Cashew" through various government channels like Kerala Police Canteens, Consumerfed, Supplyco, Shipyard Canteen, PSU's, supermarkets, own outlets, etc. CAPEX launched value-added products like cashew butter, cashew powder, jam, pickles, and cashew apple syrup. Online sales are done through ONDC, the Kerala government platform 'Kshoppe,' and through the CAPEX website.

During the first four years of the 14th FYP, CAPEX provided more employment to workers, increased the number of working days per year, and reduced the loss as a result of partial mechanization and modernization. About, 90 per cent of the shelling and 30 per cent of the borma work are mechanized. The introduction of solar panels reduced the cost of electricity significantly, and the basic amenities of all the factories have been improved a lot. Computerization in the manufacturing unit and implementation of proper safety measures improved the working environment. The introduction of six more value-added products and the increasing sale of consumer products in the market are remarkable achievements of the firm. One of the significant achievements during the period is the appointment of 252 new workers in the factories of CAPEX.

Table 4.6.11 Sales turnover of CAPEX, in Rs crore

Year	Working Days	No. of Workers	Total Sales Turnover	Raw material cost	Cost of human power	Profit / Loss
2019-20	206	4209	85.19	50.87	32.75	-16.95
2020-21	142	4130	46.89	44.74	24.44	-17.56
2021-22	179	4100	63.15	42.40	29.24	-22.24
2022-23	93	3970	53.87	43.65	20.34	-11.04
2023-24	155	3797	54.37	44.14	25.28	-18.87
2024-25 (Provisional)	165	3592	56.71	36.24	26.95	-7.58

Source :CAPEX

Note: * Annual audit in progress

Details regarding the functioning of CAPEX are given in **Appendices 4.6.29** and **4.6.30**.

Kerala State Agency for the Expansion of Cashew Cultivation (KSACC)

KSACC was constituted by the Government of Kerala in 2007 to promote cashew cultivation and to ensure adoption of innovative technologies to enhance area, production and productivity of cashew. KSACC started the project 'Cultivation of Organic Cashew and Establishment of Raw Nut Bank' from 2007-08.

In 2024-25, the agency distributed 5,09,995 grafts among farmers and institutions, which is estimated to cover around 2009.09 hector. In 2025-26 (till Sept) a total of 3,15,000 grafts have been distributed and the production of grafts saplings by the Govt. nurseries is progressing. There are Two Model Cashew Gardens in Kerala, One is located in the premises of Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation and the other is at the Open Jail at Nettukaltheri in Thiruvananthapuram. Through its scheme KSACC supports farmers for undertaking normal density, high density and ultra-high density cashew farming. Support includes supply of grafts and assistance to ensure growth of saplings, and training among others. An area of 10 Hectare has been covered under the 'pollination support through bee keeping' programme. It benefitted 28 farmers who were provided with 180 honey bee colonies and 19 equipment units. The agency also undertook about 15 training programmes for farmers. The agency has also initiated activities for GPS/GIS based field level monitoring and management of farms. Details of cashew farming supported by KSACC are provided

in **Appendix 4.6.31**. Climate change, dry weather, low rainfall, and damage of crops by wild animals are some of the issues faced by the cashew farmers supported by KSACC.

Kerala Cashew Board Limited (KCB)

KCB was established in 2017 by the State Government as a special purpose vehicle with the main objective of procuring and supplying Raw Cashew Nuts (RCN) at reasonable price to the cashew processing units in Kerala, thereby ensuring regular employment and wages to the workers. KCB supplies RCN to Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation Ltd (KSCDC) and CAPEX which ensures that the 40 factories under these two agencies are able to operate continuously during the year and provide employment to the workers. KCB also ensures that both KSCDC and CAPEX benefit from the most competitive purchase prices of RCN. In 2024-25, KCB imported 13,030.08 MT of RCN from various countries. In 2025-26 (till August 25) KCB has imported 15,768.25 MT of RCN from various countries. Details regarding the import of RCN by KCB are given in **Table 4.6.12**.

The major challenge faced by the Board is that of lack of adequate finance for procurement of RCN during peak season. The repayment from KSCDC and CAPEX are only about 50 to 60 per cent of the cost incurred and the rest is financed by the Government of Kerala by way of working capital loans to bridge the gap. The cash credit facility from Kerala Bank is also utilised for the purchase of RCN.

Table 4.6.12 *Import of Raw Cashew Nut from various countries, in Rs lakh*

Sl no	Year	Quantity (in MT)	Total Value in Indian Rupees (Rs in lakh)	Government Support to KCB (Rs in lakh)
1	2018-19	6668.005	7821.19	1730
2	2019-20	13634.721	12589.04	0
3	2020-21	10836.065	10407.71	5330
4	2021-22	9956.420	10547.95	3730
5	2022-23	9880.487	10800.17	6085
6	2023-24	13976.586	12540.19	7655
7	2024-25	13030.076	12903.05	4081
8	2025-26 (till Aug 25)	15768.254	20421.53	4100

Source – KCB

Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI)

The Cashew Export Promotion Council of India (CEPCI) was established by the Government of India in the year 1955, with the object of promoting exports of cashew kernels and cashew nut shell liquid from India. The Council serves as an intermediary between importers of cashew kernels and domestic exporters who are members of the council.

Directorate of Cashew nut and Cocoa Development (DCCD)

Directorate of Cashew nut and Cocoa Development (DCCD) functioning at Cochin is the subordinate office of the Department of Agriculture, Co-operation and Farmers Welfare of the Government of India. It is the nodal agency for accelerating cashew and cocoa development programmes in the country. Its activities are spread across the country.

With the financial support of DCCD, the KSACC conducted 7 days field study tour with the participation of 44 farmers. As part of field visit, the participants visited cashew research stations such as CRS Madakathara, CPCRI Kasargod, CTC Shimoga, AHRS Ullal, DCR puttur, PCK Muliyar, Cheemeni and CPO Adhur and obtained useful insights and innovative information for their future programmes.

Challenges and the way forward

Raw cashew produced in the State is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the cashew nut factories. The State needs to improve the aggregation mechanism to ensure enhanced utilization of domestic produce. It may also need to revisit the price fixed for procurement of raw nuts by the Price Fixation Committee to ensure that the interest of cultivators and processors are balanced. The raw cashew nuts grown in India and made available to the cashew factories constitute hardly one-third of the total requirements of the cashew factories. The adoption of high yielding varieties, scientific farming techniques, greater support in terms of extension services, and commercial scale of production can bring remarkable improvement in the production of raw cashew nut in the State.

As a result of good demand for cashew nuts in the global market, the cashew processors

are compelled to import around 50 per cent of raw nuts. The cashew industry mainly depends on African countries (about 90 per cent of raw material is coming from African countries). The cashew nut market is known for its volatility, with prices subject to fluctuations influenced by factors such as weather conditions, global demand, and geopolitical events. High cost of cashew imports is adversely affecting the profitability of the industry. The prevailing import duty of 2.5 per cent on the import of raw nuts makes the raw material costlier and adversely affects the industry. A 50 per cent US tariff on Indian cashew sector exports is expected to lead to severe disruption, potential loss of market share (to competitors like Vietnam and African nations), a drop in export volume, and job losses, impacting Kerala's economy. This may also result in increased supply of cashew nuts in the internal market, leading to fall in the price of cashew.

In recent years, the cashew market has seen a rapid shift in the consumption pattern across India, primarily owing to flavoured assorted cashew products occupying an increased share in the retail market space. With increasing health consciousness, consumers are choosing to snack healthy, owing to which the demand for flavoured cashews is rising in India. Accordingly, the demand for roasted, salted, flavored, and coated with spices and honey, is increasing.

Focus areas for the development of the cashew sector in future include development and adoption of modern technologies (in processing and value addition), reduction of processing cost (through mechanisation), and development of new value-added products from cashew including the use of cashew apple. Greater efforts to develop new markets and marketing strategies which can retain the identity of 'Kerala Cashew' should also form part of strategies for the future.

CHAPTER

05

SERVICE SECTOR

SERVICE SECTOR

5.1 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology sector plays a major role in Kerala's development. The Government of Kerala has recognised the sector's potential and has undertaken several initiatives to strengthen its global competitiveness. The State has implemented information and communication technology projects, including e-governance initiatives and e-literacy programmes, to support sectoral growth. Efforts have also been made to ensure that the benefits of technological development reach all sections of society.

Kerala has emerged as an important Information Technology destination in India. This progress reflects the availability of skilled human resources and innovative government initiatives. Quality of life, supportive government policies, and cost effective operations have made Kerala an attractive destination for investors. The State has high levels of mobile and telephone penetration and wide access to broadband and mobile internet. High literacy levels and strong school education have contributed significantly to computer literacy. Kerala's presence in the national Information Technology sector is notable, considering the relatively smaller size of its economy. The State has potential to emerge as a hub for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning, blockchain solutions, data analytics and cyber security, cloud computing, information technology enabled services,

animation, gaming, and virtual and augmented reality. The hub and spoke model adopted in the Information Technology sector has supported decentralised regional investment. Kerala aims to achieve the highest coverage of high speed fibre connectivity through the Kerala Fibre Optic Network project.

Start-ups play an important role in the growth of the electronics and Information Technology sector. Kerala's focus on supporting fast growing start-ups through multiple policy initiatives has helped build a dynamic and inclusive start-up ecosystem. The ecosystem has received international recognition. The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2025 reported a 147 per cent increase in ecosystem value in Kerala in 2025, indicating a rise in start-up formation. The report highlighted Kerala's presence among the top 10 global ecosystems for affordable talent, the top 15 Asian ecosystems for value for investment, and the top 35 Asian ecosystems in performance. The report also identified Kerala's strengths in advanced manufacturing and robotics, artificial intelligence, big data and analytics, and life sciences. Strong government support, skilled technical talent, and high digital adoption were identified as key strengths of the ecosystem.

Major agencies supporting Information Technology development in Kerala include the

Box.5.1.1 Major Highlights of the Information Technology Sector

- The Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON), launched to achieve state's mission to make internet a universal right, has 1,13,525 active connections (as on 31st August 2025). KFON has also entered the content space through its own OTT platform, which already serves 1,350 customers. The platform offers 29 digital services and over 350 TV channels, including Amazon Prime Lite, SonyLIV, Zee5, and Discovery Plus. With plans starting at Rs444, KFON is evolving from a connectivity network into a full-fledged digital ecosystem connecting, informing, and entertaining Kerala.
- KFON achieved the 'Infrastructure Initiative of the Year - India' award at the Asian Telecom Awards 2024.
- KSITM won the prestigious National elets Digital Transformation Award 2025 for e-District Kerala project under Digital public Service Excellence Category.
- KSITM won the ET Government Digitech Award 2025 for the KFi (Kerala Public WiFi project.)
- About 2,986 Akshaya centres are functioning across the State providing e-services to population and giving employment to 10,518 persons.
- The e-SEVANAM & m-SEVANAM services were launched in 2021 with 500 plus services and 50 plus department. Currently, it provides 917 services of 81 departments in a single platform.
- With the commissioning of Phase III, Techno Park has become one of the largest IT parks in India with 768.63 acres of land, and 12.72 million square feet of built-up area.
- The total number of tech start-ups in Kerala's Startup ecosystem increased from 4,681 in 2023-24 to 6,227 in 2024-25.

Kerala State Information Technology Mission, Kerala Start-up Mission, Kerala University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology, Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala, Technopark, Infopark, Cyberpark, Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Limited, Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited, International Centre for Free and Open Source Software, K SPACE, and the Centre for Development of Imaging Technology.

Performance of Agencies in the IT Sector

The Government of Kerala provided an amount of Rs 507.14 crore in the Budget (2024-25), for the development of the IT sector and the expenditure incurred was Rs 206.09 crore (40.64 per cent). In 2025-26, the outlay earmarked for the sector was Rs 517.64 crore. The details of the Plan outlay and expenditure for the last 3 years (2023-2026) are given in **Table 5.1.1**.

Kerala State Information Technology Mission (KSITM)

The Kerala State IT Mission is an autonomous nodal agency responsible for implementing

IT initiatives on behalf of the Department of Information Technology, Government of Kerala. KSITM aims to promote digital innovations. Its primary role is to provide managerial and technical support to various projects undertaken by the Department. The KSITM is involved in a wide range of activities, including the development of ICT policies, the establishment of guidelines and standards for e-governance, and the facilitation of ICT services for Government entities. Its main objective is to deliver high-quality digital services to citizens, with a focus on a "Citizen First" approach.

Key accomplishments of KSITM

Today, e-Governance is an important tool for good governance by achieving transparency, reliability, and accountability in rendering services. Kerala has been a forerunner in e-Governance and mobile governance by promoting and developing core infrastructure and e-literacy programmes.

Public Wi-Fi: The Public Wi-Fi project has set up 2023 Wi-Fi hotspots across the State to provide free internet to the citizens of the State. The District administration has identified hotspot locations which include bus stands, tourist places, parks, public places, Janasevanakendras and

Table 5.1.1 Plan outlay and expenditure, in Rs crore

Sl No	Name of Department/ Scheme	Annual Plan 2023-24		Annual Plan 2024-25		Annual Plan 2025-26	
		Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure	Outlay	Expenditure (up to December 2025)
1	Kerala State IT Mission, Akshaya, IT Cell	131.62	54.24	121.43	57.57	138.28	47.86
2	Technopark	26.60	12.07	27.47	13.73	21	0.35
3	Info Park	35.75	5.27	26.70	10.70	21.6	1.57
4	Cyber Park	12.83	2.50	12.80	2.50	11.5	0
5	Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K)	20.60	5.76	18.95	9.47	16.95	5.93
6	Kerala Start-up Mission	90.52	34.00	90.52	41.26	90.52	31.67
7	Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd	201.09	36.55	119.91	44.65	24.71	0
8	C-DIT	6.00	0.81	6.00	1.77	7.32	2
9	International Centre for Free and Open Source Software	7.99	6.35	7.35	3.67	7.45	3.61
10	Kerala University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology	26.00	15.02	23.51	11.75	25.81	8.15
11	KSPACE			52.50	9.02	52.5	4.08
12	KFON					100	7.43
Total		559.00	172.59	507.14	206.09	517.64	112.65

Source: Annual Plan of corresponding years; Plan Space

Government offices. The expansion of this service to new areas is under consideration.

E-Office: E-Office is now operational in 100 per cent of the Government offices including all departments in the Secretariat, Directorates, Commissionerate, all Collectorates, Sub-Collectorates, RDOs, all Taluks Offices, 1542 village sub-offices and 200 public sector entities. This is also being used in the High Court and various sub-courts, two universities in the state, Kerala Legislative Assembly and the Kerala Lok Bhavan (formerly Raj Bhavan).

Core infrastructure for e-Governance in the State consists of Kerala State Wide Area Network (KSWAN), Secretariat Wide Area Network (SECWAN), State Data Centre, State Service Delivery Gate way (SSDG) and KFON.

KSWAN is the backbone of the State Information Infrastructure (SII) connecting all Districts

and 152 Block Panchayats and 63 Mini Civil Stations/revenue towers across the State. Around 4,000 offices of Government departments are connected to KSWAN through wireless and a larger number through leased lines and LAN. KSWAN aims to establish a state-of-the-art Optical Fibre Communication-based network architecture in the Government Secretariat with a vision to improve the quality and availability of ITeS at its administrative headquarters. It also provides seamless integration with both State Data Centres (SDC1 and SDC2) providing various Government-to-Government services (G2G) and Government-to-Citizen (G2C) through a secure intranet. A Network Operating Centre (NOC) and Departmental Wide Area Network (DWAN) have been established. The integration of the KSWAN project with KFON has been taken up while ensuring continued services at District Headquarters (DHQs) and Mini Points of Presence (PoPs).

The State Data Centre has about 4000 virtual servers, about 560 applications and about 500 servers set up by various departments for various Government purposes. State Data Centres (SDCs) are at the heart of the e-Governance framework of the State, hosting various applications and websites of the Government entities and providing associated services. Currently, the storage capacity of the State data centre is 2500 TB. Expansion of the server farm area works of 4000 sq ft area at the State Data Centre-2 located at Technopark is completed. As part of cloud infrastructure upgrades, 10 servers were added. To enhance the security measures new firewalls are implemented in the Disaster Recovery Site, and procurement of new firewalls is in process for State Data Centres. To ensure and enhance the availability and recoverability of data, a new backup solution is being implemented at the State Data Centre.

e-District is a State Mission Mode project under the National e-Governance plan, aimed at delivering high-volume services at the District level and enabling online access to various services through Akshaya centres, streamlining the application and approval process for citizens. The total number of applications received and processed has crossed 10 Crore. Among others, e-District currently offers 23 revenue certificate services and 13 Forest and Wildlife services online across the State, allowing citizens to apply for certificates through Akshaya Centres or the public portal and receive digitally signed certificates. Utility payments for KWA and BSNL can also be made through the e-District portal.

e-Government Procurement (e-GP) has been rolled out in the State, mandating all Government departments/boards/universities/organisations to adopt e-tendering for all tenders. Government of Kerala's e-tender portal has been recognised as one of the best-performing State portal by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. A self-sustaining revenue model for the eProcurement Portal, by collecting registration and processing fees from bidders, is being implemented.

Akshaya is an innovative project launched in 2002 to bridge the digital divide. It works on public public-private participation mode. In the initial stages, the objective of the project was to make at least one person in a family e-literate. Gradually

focus of *Akshaya* shifted to a citizen service-centric mode. *Akshaya* acts as the enrolment agency for *Aadhaar* enrolment. As on August 31, 2025, a total of 2,986 *Akshaya* centres (1265 are women entrepreneurs) are functioning across the State giving employment to 10,518 persons. With support from various departments and coordination by the E&IT Department, Akshaya had organised 16 camps for the retrieval of 1,690 certificates for 878 survivors of the Wayanad landslide. The details of *Akshaya* centres in Kerala are furnished in **Appendix 5.1.1**

Aadhaar - Kerala has achieved 100% Aadhaar generation, positioning itself among the top three states in the country for Aadhaar enrolment and updates. UIDAI has approved KSITM as the Authentication User Agency and e-KYC User Agency for offering the Authentication and e-KYC services offered by UIDAI.

Video Conferencing (VC) technology is being utilised by all Government Departments, Boards and other Government organisations for conducting meetings with their sub-offices across the State. The management of VC sessions, upkeep of VC equipment and studios are done with the support of Keltron and SIDCO. Using the VC infrastructure, KSITM is able to conduct around 10,000 VCs every year. KSITM hosts and manages an average of 30 video conferences per day. KMEET, a dedicated Meeting Management System has been developed. Steps are underway to integrate the Video Conferencing Console with the KMEET to provide a robust VC console.

Digi Locker is a secure digital storage service that allows citizens to store and access important documents online. Currently, it is integrated with various government services, enhancing accessibility and convenience for users. The following services are linked to Digi Locker.

- SSLC, VHSE, HSE, Ration Card, Driving Licence, Vehicle Registration, e-District Revenue certificates (25 types), PSC Certificates as Issued Documents.
- Several Universities and self-governing educational Institutions have published Certificates for selected years in the National Academic Depository (NAD) Digi Locker.

e-SEVANAM & m-SEVANAM: Kerala e-Service portal, e-SEVANAM, launched as a good

governance initiative, has used technology to aggregate almost all online services (G2C and G2B) of the Government of Kerala, in a single platform. In 2021, e-SEVANAM & m-SEVANAM were launched with 500-plus services and 50-plus departments. Currently, it has expanded to include around 917 services of 81 departments in a single platform.

Government Email - The establishment of a robust government email infrastructure has been a critical component of Kerala's digital transformation. More than 4500 new government email IDs have been created across various departments, providing government employees with professional communication tools that enhance efficiency and accountability. As part of Meity's policy, more than 70,000 active emails of the State have been migrated to the Zoho Platform for providing enhanced security, better integration capabilities, and improved user experience for government personnel. However, the new policy may lead to a situation where the State Government has to incur the additional cost of maintaining the existing emails and creating new emails.

Capacity Building - Under capacity building programs such as the Post Graduate Diploma in e-Governance (PGDeG) and the Virtual IT Cadre initiative, more than 15,000 government employees have received comprehensive training in digital governance and information technology. The PGDeG course for this year has commenced with 15 government officials, ensuring continuous skill development among government personnel.

Unified Registry - Unified Registry project aims to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of social welfare schemes in Kerala by establishing a centralised platform for beneficiary identification and selection. The database currently holds data for approximately 3.45 million citizens, primarily sourced from the Public Distribution System (PDS) database, as well as social security and welfare pension records.

Kerala Artificial Intelligence Initiative - The Kerala Artificial Intelligence Initiative (K-AI) aims to enhance public service delivery and streamline government processes through the strategic application of AI technologies. Two workshops have been held involving stakeholders. More than 50 use cases have been identified.

Nammude Keralam (Digital Kerala Initiative), a holistic approach for comprehensive digital transformation has been initiated in August 2025 to make government administration more transparent, efficient and citizen-centric. It is structured around 4 pillars, namely Sevana Keralam (Service Kerala), Sadbharana Keralam (Good Governance Kerala), Bhavi Keralam (Future Kerala) and Janakeralam (People's Kerala).

Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology

The university was set up by the Government of Kerala under the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act 2021 and started functioning from the Techno City campus. IIITMK has been subsumed into this University.

The university is envisaged to become a unique centre of excellence of global repute by conducting education, research and extension activities in areas of digital technologies, science and humanities. The University offers master's and doctoral-level programs in cutting-edge areas aligned with Industry 4.0 and 5.0, including Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Connected Systems, AI Hardware, Signal Processing, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, Geospatial Sciences, and Ecological Informatics.

The placement season of 2024 at Digital University Kerala continued to build on the momentum of previous years, attracting several reputed companies from diverse sectors. This year, more than 50 top organisations participated in the recruitment drive, offering a wide range of roles across domains like Data Science, Cybersecurity, AI/ML, Business Analytics, Finance, and Engineering. In 2024, about 61 per cent of the students were successfully placed. The university's dynamic curriculum, coupled with continuous industry engagement and comprehensive placement support, continues to create a robust talent pipeline that caters to the evolving demands of the digital economy.

The Women Incubation, Start-Ups and Entrepreneurship (WISE) Scheme implemented by Digital University intends to convert and translate innovative and creative ideas of young minds in various science and engineering disciplines to achieve excellence in research, products, processes and services to maximise its impact on industry and

society. Through the programme, opportunities are given to new women entrepreneurs to launch their own businesses. Currently, 5 start-ups are supported under this programme. Under this scheme, DUK has set up Think Lab, which is a network of makerspaces where members can learn about digital technologies in a hands-on environment, turn their ideas into working prototypes and solutions. The Think Lab program is structured to encourage a rapid prototyping mindset with ease of access to the makerspace. Some of the niche areas of assistive technologies for the targeted group can also be benefited.

The University is constructing the Digital Science Park, announced in the 2022 budget. It aims to capitalise on the advancements in the Digital Sciences and Technology Sector, thereby creating numerous new industrial prospects. The park will initially support industry and business units, as well as technology start-ups in areas like Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, electronics, smart hardware and sustainable materials. Digital Science Park's office has started functioning at Technopark. Works are progressing. The University is also actively involved in the implementation of the India Innovation Centre for Graphene (IICG) project and the 'Graphene-Aurora Program'.

The Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management - Kerala (IIITMK) has, over the period 2021-2025, solidified its position as a primary catalyst for technology-led economic development in Kerala. Functioning at the intersection of academia, industry, and public policy, the institute has demonstrated a potent model for translating public investment into tangible economic outcomes. Key achievements (2021-2025) include the incubation of 170+ electronics startups through Maker Village, the execution of high-impact R&D projects valued at over Rs50 crores in areas like medical imaging and neuromorphic computing, the training of over 1,700 professionals in cybersecurity, and the stewardship of infrastructure projects to bring digital transformation. Maker Village acts as a critical funnel, channelling national funds into Kerala's startup ecosystem. It has enabled about 380 startups to avail about Rs 86.22 crore in grants from various sources. It has also provided training to over 1,700 individuals in cybersecurity.

Technopark

Technopark was set up as an autonomous organisation fully owned by the Government of Kerala to create a global standard infrastructure and to provide total support required for the development of high technology industries. It was formally dedicated to the Nation on November 18, 1995. Since then, Technopark has been growing steadily both in size and employee strength. With the commissioning of Phase III, Techno Park has become one of the largest IT Parks (Including Phase I, II, III) in India with 768.63 acres of land and 12.72 million square feet of built-up area. With the launch of the Technocity project in Kazhakuttam, the largest integrated IT Township in 389.74 acres of land, the Kazhakuttam-Kovalam (NH 66) has become the first IT Corridor in Kerala.

Technopark has been instrumental in providing essential support facilities such as a water distribution network, power infrastructure, sewage and solid waste treatment plants, wide roads for smooth traffic flow, sprawling landscapes, club facilities, auditoriums, and other recreational amenities. These features have attracted numerous IT companies from around the world to establish their business on this campus.

In the financial year 2024-25, the number of companies in the Technopark has risen to 500, indicating a growth rate of 2.04 per cent when compared to the previous year's figure of 490. Technopark plays a crucial role in employment generation in the IT sector. In 2024-25, Technopark generated an employment of 80,000 IT/ITeS professionals compared to the last year's figure of 75,000, marking a growth of 6.67 per cent. Technopark's contribution to the State economy is shown in **Table 5.1.2**. Details of growth and physical achievements of Technopark are given in **Appendix 5.1.2** and **5.1.3**, respectively.

Technopark has 5 campuses, which are spread over 768.63 acres under various phases of development. The details of the extent of land in its 5 campuses are shown in **Table 5.1.3**.

The built-up space in Technopark has increased from 97 lakh square feet in 2018-19 to 127 lakh square feet in 2024-25. The Embassy Taurus project is under construction in Phase III. The 15 lakh sq ft IT building Niagra at Embassy Taurus

Table 5.1.2 Technopark's contribution to Kerala's Economy

Particulars	Achievements 2021-22	Achievements 2022-23	Achievements 2023-24	Achievements 2024-25
Total turnover (in Rs crore)(Annual)	18,000	20,000	26,000	29,000
Total export (in Rs crore)(Annual)	9,775	11,630	13,255	14,575
Total investment (in Rs crore) (Annual)	5,600	5,600	5,800	5,825
Total Employment (Nos) (Cumulative)	64,000	71,000	75,000	80,000
No of Companies (Nos) (Cumulative)	465	479	490	500
Total land (acres)	766.86	768.63	768.63	768.63
Total built-up space (lakh square feet)	106	112	127	127

Source: Technopark

Tech Zone was completed and inaugurated in January 2024. Taurus Downtown will develop a city centre for techno park, comprising 59.81 lakh sq. ft of IT SEZ and non-SEZ space. The project includes 36.13 lakh Sq. ft of IT space and 23.65 lakh sq. ft of non-IT space across three towers, offering world-class office spaces. On completion, Taurus downtown is expected to generate 30,000 direct employment and 90,000 indirect employment. The project also features 175 key business hotel rooms and 300 key serviced apartments.

There has been an increase in the number of companies working in Technopark during the last 5 years. In 2019-20, there were 450 companies in Technopark. It increased to 500 in 2024-25. It shows growth of 11.11 per cent over the period. Over the six years, exports in the IT sector in Kerala show a positive sign. Revenue generated through Export by Technopark has increased from Rs.7,890 crore in 2019-20 to Rs.14,575 crore in 2024-25, showing a growth of 84.73 per cent in 5 years. The expansion of the Technopark can also be examined in relation to the employment opportunities created in the past years. The number of employees has increased from 62,000 in the financial year 2019-20 to 80,000 in the financial year 2024-2025.

The Techno city (Technopark Phase IV) project, launched by Technopark in 2009, is a flagship initiative that is broadly divided into two

segments: the IT Integrated Township and the Knowledge City. Infrastructure facilities like water supply, power distribution, road network, etc, are developed. The major projects in the Techno city that make it a destination next for IT/ITES/ Emerging Tech/ Space Tech/ Aerospace growth cluster are

- Country's first Digital Science Park
- Kerala University of Digital Science and Innovation Technology campus.
- First IT building, Kabani in the Technocity campus is commissioned with a built-up area of 2 lakh sq. ft and is currently home to 20 organisations.
- TCS IT/ITES campus focuses on IoT, Blockchain, Data Analytics and AI.
- KSpace (Space Park) and MSME Centre.
- M/s Suntec Business Solutions will commission their first IT building of 3.10 lakh sq. ft soon, in their 10 Acre campus at phase 4.
- Emerging Technology Hub (by Kerala Startup Mission).
- Unity Mall (One District One Product).

The Government of Kerala has transferred 18 hectares of land to M/s Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd, out of which, 10 per cent of the land is available for the operation and maintenance of Kollam Technopark. The world-class 1,00,000 sq ft IT building Ashtamudi is completed. The Arterial Road work is also completed. The

Table 5.1.3 Land available with Technopark

Phases	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Techno city	Technopark, Kollam	Total Area (In acres)
Area, in acres	198.43	86	90.02	389.74	4.44	768.63

Source: Technopark

streetlights on the campus are fully solar-based. It is expected to have 700 direct employments in this campus on full occupancy. Smart Business Centre is operational, and 17 companies are already working from there.

INFOPARK

Infopark was established in the year 2004 with a vision to foster the growth of the IT sector in the State. Over the course of 21 years, the institution has achieved remarkable success in meeting its targets. Since its inception in 2004, Infopark and its co-developers have constructed 10.2 million square feet of built-up space and have provided employment to over 73,500 IT professionals through 582 IT/ITeS companies that have taken space in its Parks. Notably, the export figures for the fiscal year 2023-24 amounted to Rs.11,417 crore, which increased to Rs. 12,065 crore in 2024-25, marking a growth of 5.67 per cent.

Infopark is spread over 323 acres, of which 241.11 acres are under various phases of development. The details of the extent of land transferred to Infopark are shown in **Table 5.1.4**.

The physical achievements of Infopark are furnished in **Appendix 5.1.4**. The major indicators of physical performance of Infopark for the last three years are given in **Table 5.1.5**.

Major Achievements of Infopark in 2024-25

- M/s Caspian's first building was completed
- M/s Geojit, UST, and Brigade – World Trade Centre Tower III commenced construction.
- 'i by Infopark' at Ernakulam South Metro Station is completed and operational.
- Fourth-floor fit-out at Indeevaram (Thrissur) completed.

- AVGC-XR Arena is established and operational.
- GCC-based companies such as NOV, TNP, and MSC commenced operations at Kochi.

Table 5.1.4 Extent of land transferred to Infopark (in acres)

Phases	Kochi Phase I	Kochi Phase II	Thrissur	Cherthala
Area	100.39	125.72	6.00	9.00

Source: Infopark

CYBERPAR

Cyberpark Kozhikode was established along the lines of Technopark in Thiruvananthapuram and Infopark in Kochi. It was set up to bridge the IT infrastructure gap along the west coast, starting from Kochi to Kasaragod. The objective of Cyberpark is to provide cost-effective and top-of-the-line infrastructure to the IT/ITeS investors and thereby encourage, promote and boost the export of software/software services and create employment opportunities in the Malabar region. It is the responsibility of Cyberpark to interface between Government and Industry, interact with potential investors, strengthen the IT/ITeS base, hold promotional campaigns, and develop human resources for IT and ITeS. Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) holds the ownership of the entire area of 42.50 acres of land at Kozhikode Cyberpark.

Cyber Park provides a unique business model with a quality IT space in terms of smart business centres. IT/ITeS companies could establish their

Table 5.1.5 Major indicators of physical performance of Infopark

Particulars	Achievements 2022-23	Achievements 2023-24	Achievements 2024-25
Total Export (in Rs crore.)	9,186	11,417	12,065
Total Employment (Nos)	65900	70,000	73,500
No of Companies (Nos)	572	580	582
Total land (Acres)	323.00	323.00	241.11(Operational), Others (81.89)
Total built up space (million square feet*).	10.2	10.2	10.2

*Including common facilities

Source: Infopark

operations in Cyber Park and commence business operations either immediately or design their office space as per their specifications and investments after obtaining SEZ unit approval. Cyber Park, in association with KSITIL has leased out 5 acres of SEZ land from KSITIL in a 42.50 acre campus and has developed the first IT SEZ building *Sahya* (3 lakh sq.ft).

Major Physical Achievements

- The existing building (3 lakh sq. ft. built-up space) is fully occupied. Currently, 80 IT companies are operational in the SEZ facility “Sahya.”
- A smart business centre with an approximate area of 12,391 sq ft in the non-SEZ area has been assigned to Kerala Start-up Mission for supporting the startup companies in the Malabar region. There are 22 companies operating from this facility, employing approximately 130 IT employees.
- Total employment has increased to 2300, and there has been an increase in the export revenue, which has been recorded as Rs.130 crores in FY 2024-25
- Provided training opportunities for recent graduates in Kerala IT & ITeS companies, as part of the ‘IGNITE’ Internship Program.
- For the promotion of marketing initiatives of the Malabar region, a special initiative named Calicut Innovation & Technology Initiative (CITI 2.0) has been formed. It includes Malabar Chamber of Commerce (MCC), Calicut Forum for IT (CAFIT), CREDAI, Calicut Management Association (CMA), UL Cyberpark, KSITIL, and NIT Calicut. The Government Cyberpark is also part of it.

The physical achievements of Cyberpark are given in **Appendix 5.1.5**. The major physical

performance of Cyberpark for the last 3 years is given in **Table 5.1.6**

Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL)

KSITIL is a public limited company formed for the creation of the infrastructure for IT/ITeS in the State. The business model of the company is to acquire land and develop basic infrastructure facilities like electricity, water, road and compound wall in the area, obtain SEZ status and other such Government approvals that may be required and then allot land to private developers for development of either IT SEZ or IT parks. Several initiatives have been taken up by KSITIL to ensure efficiency and sustainability in managing projects. It includes the implementation of Project Management Software (PMS), GScore-Digital Performance Appraisal System, and Meeting Management Software.

KSITIL is executing 18 major projects across Kerala with a total outlay of around Rs 700 crore. This includes projects worth around Rs 458 crore from KIIFB and projects worth around Rs 237 crore from other state entities like Digital University, IIITMK and Infopark. It has completed 2 Lakh Sq.ft IT space in Technology Innovation Zone, Kochi. It is marketing land assets owned by KSITIL in the Cyberpark campus for attracting investors. It has also completed 45,417 sq.ft IT Space of the building space above KMRL Metro station at Ernakulam South, Kochi. KFON and KSPACE are also separated from KSITIL and are working as separate entities.

Kerala Fibre Optic Network Limited (KFON)

The State has been a pioneer in the country in making investments towards building core digital infrastructure to deliver e-Governance services. KFON’s main objectives are providing a core network infrastructure that is accessible

Table 5.1.6 Physical performance of Cyberpark

Particulars	Achievements 2022-23	Achievements 2023-24	Achievements 2024-25
Total export (Rs crore)	105.00	121.00	130.00
Total investment (Rs crore)	1.42	0.11	0.68
Total Employment (Nos)	2,078	2,200	2,300
No of Companies (Operational)	85	83	80
Total land (acres)	42.5	42.50	42.50
Total built-up space (lakh square feet)	3 lakhs	3 lakhs	3 lakhs

Source: *Cyberpark*

to all service providers, connecting Government offices, educational institutions and hospitals with a reliable intranet, provide free internet to economically backward households, commercialisation of KFON infrastructure with value added services. KFON have the licenses of Infrastructure provider (IP) Category I, Internet Service Provider (ISP) Category B and National Long Distance License (NLD). Details regarding the performance of KFON (as on 31/03/2025) are provided in **Table 5.1.7**.

Current trends in the sector include a growing demand for fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connections, the integration of smart city and e-governance projects, and the convergence of telecom and IT services. With digital transformation becoming central to governance and service delivery, KFON is poised to play a crucial role in enabling the state's long-term vision of universal connectivity and digital empowerment.

As per recent data (as on 31 August 2025), the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) has 1,13,525 active connections, including 14,194 BPL connections, 73,134 commercial connections (Paid home), 3,034 SME connections and 23,163 Government Office connections. The agency has successfully installed the Meta Replicated Model at its Network Centre in Kochi. KFON has entered

Table 5.1.7 Status of KFON operations.

Deliverable	Completed as on 31/03/2025
Backbone(Km)	7,720
Access(Km)	22,524
PoP = Nodes(Nos)	375
NoC & DR- Network Centre	1
End Offices- Discovered	27,494
FREE Internet to BPL households	6,601
Commercial FTTH connections	52,941
Dark Fibre Lease – Customers	9
Dark Fibre Lease – Fibre Km	5,173
Count of ILL Connections	49
SME Connections	194
Count P2P Connections	10
LNP on Board	3,768

Source: *Kfon*

the content space through its own OTT platform, which already serves 1,350 customers.

KSPACE – PARK

Kerala Space Park is one of the ambitious initiatives of the government of Kerala to make Kerala a production hub for space, aerospace and defence-related products and services, utilising the human resources, both experienced and fresh graduates of the State. KSPACE was established as a society under the Travancore- Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Registration Act 1955, as per the G.O. (Ms) No.44/2022/ITD/ dated December 29, 2022. Kerala, home to the three major centres of ISRO, viz, VSSC, LPSC, and IISU, as well as the prestigious IIST, has great potential to play a significant role in the fast-growing Indian Space Economy. Kerala aerospace ecosystem involves over hundred small and medium-scale space-tech industries. Many existing startup firms have joined the ecosystem. KSPACE's vision is to attain at least 10 per cent of the Indian space economy by 2040 through industrial clusters, incubation centres and partnerships.

Major initiatives and achievements of KSPACE in 2025-26

- For setting up an Advanced Manufacturing Technology Centre with support from MSME (Government of India), KSPACE has leased 9.79 acres of land from Technocity. This facility is envisioned to provide (i) advanced manufacturing support to local industries and R&D institutions, (ii) Skill up training to ITI, Diploma and Engineering graduates and (iii) Business consultancy to new entrepreneurs.
- The agency has prepared a draft Kerala Aerospace Industrial Policy 2025, which has been submitted to the government.
- KSPACE has executed MoUs with ISRO centres (VSSC, LPSC, IISU), IIST, ICTAK, ASAP Kerala, DUK, STPI, ATL and others.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE (ICFOSS)

The Government of Kerala has established the International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) in collaboration with Free Software Organisations in India and abroad. The primary objective of ICFOSS is to promote the development and application of free software and free knowledge. As a nodal agency, ICFOSS is responsible for various activities related to free

and open source software, including consultancy, research and development, academics, studies and service, training, publishing, certification, international cooperation, and collaboration. ICFOSS has successfully conducted numerous training programs, workshops, seminars, research programs, projects, malayalam computing activities, student internships and projects, summer camps, faculty development programs, and fellowship programs, all based on free and open source software

ICFOSS has different areas that use FOSS-based project. The main areas include Assistive Technology, Open IoT, OpenSDI, Language Technology, Natural Language Processing and Drone Technology. For these, ICFOSS has a well-equipped training centre with qualified trainers for supporting the FOSS migration activities. ICFOSS also provides incubation support to Startups working in FOSS domains.

Achievements of ICFOSS in 2024-25 are listed below.

- Assistive Technologies: ICFOSS manufactured and handed over to the CEO, Smart City 200 innovative braille devices ICFOSS has also entered into collaboration with NISH and SCTIMST for the production and supply of assistive technologies.
- ICFOSS successfully completed On-Job Training for 18 Additive Manufacturing Technician and 7 Electronics System Design and Repair students from National Skill Training Institute (Women). It also conducted an adaptive product development internship and an Electronic Internship for Kerala Technical University student.
- Developed and deployed a PoC model for medicinal plant leaf detection system using Drupal CMS, trained on ViT model with 125 plants, and created a database with 222 classes of medicinal plants.
- Developed an Annotation Tool with Flask, HTML, CSS, JS for Malayalam, featuring PDF upload, skew correction, thresholding and annotation.
- E-governance and consultancy: ICFOSS provided consultancy support to Ksheerasree web portal of Dairy Development Department, Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence(KASE - as part of India Skills Competition 2024),

Kerala Bhasha Institute, Chief Minister's Public Grievance redressal Cell and Viloppilli Samskrithi Bhavan

- Outreach Programmes:
 - i) ICFOSS Participated in public events and exhibitions like a) 8th Space Applications Adoption Workshop b) Ente Keralam Expo c) Professional Connect at Kerala Legislative Assembly d) KSPACE Aeroexpo
 - ii) Demonstrated open SDI and GeoNode to Rebuild for inter-departmental data management.
- Open Hardware: a) MoU signed with IIT Kanpur for open source drone-related activities b) MoU signed with IIHR Bangalore for the development of open hardware /open drone / open IoT/ML-related solutions collaboration c) MoU signed with IIT Thirupathi for open source Hardware collaboration.

KERALA START-UP MISSION (KSUM)

Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) serves as the nodal agency of the Government of Kerala responsible for promoting, supporting start-ups, thereby creating a technology entrepreneurial culture in the State and creating a vibrant and dynamic environment for start-ups, fostering innovation, and facilitating the growth of entrepreneurial ventures. KSUM plays a multifaceted role in building and nurturing the start-up ecosystem across various sectors, from technology and healthcare to social innovation and rural entrepreneurship.

KSUM implements the Start-up Programmes through Government Support, and it is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of Kerala. KSUM is the nodal agency for implementing the Government Schemes: Youth Entrepreneurship Development Programme (YEDP) and Technology Innovation Zone (TIZ) through the State's Budget.

Youth Entrepreneurship Development Program

The primary goal of the Mission is to ascertain and cultivate entrepreneurial abilities within the youth and student population of Kerala, through strengthening the startup ecosystem by promoting technology-based entrepreneurial activities, entrepreneurial infrastructure & environment, industry institute linkages, R&D and addressing the

ecosystem development challenges in the enterprise market, product knowledge, idea & culture. KSUM has divided this scheme into eight sub-components or strategic pillars, which serve as the foundation for creating a holistic and sustainable approach to fostering entrepreneurship, inclusive growth and an innovation-driven ecosystem. Each pillar addresses a specific area crucial for the development of start-ups, from ideation to scaling and to their sustainability. These strategic focus pillars are transforming Kerala as one of the emerging startup ecosystems globally.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (IEDC) -Promotion of Technology and Entrepreneurship among the students is taken up by Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) since 2014-15 as an important traction of the pipeline for start-ups. And as part of the same establishment of IEDCs at various Engineering Colleges, Polytechnic Colleges, Professional Colleges and Arts & Science Colleges are in progress. IEDCs act as the focal point of KSUM efforts to drive venture creation for Students in emerging technologies among students. The IEDCs are established within various academic institutions to provide students with the platform to develop their entrepreneurial skills, generate ideas, and turn them into viable business models. IEDC has 453 Institutions and has a network of more than 1,00,000 students.

INCUBATION

The goal of the incubation program is to help idea-stage startups progress from concept to prototype by refining customer-centric solutions, strengthening business fundamentals, and preparing them for early-stage funding and growth. The goal of the incubation program is to guide startups from the prototype stage to achieving early market.

TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION ZONE (TIZ)

The Technology Innovation Zone is the global innovation incubator hub for many technology sectors. TIZ will create world-class infrastructure facilities for multi-sector technology incubators to incubate their start-ups and to support home grown enterprises. TIZ is being established in the 13.2 acres of land at KINFRA Hitech Park, Kalamassery. The Zone comprises of built-up

start-up modules, high-end fabrication labs, R&D lab facilities, commercial office spaces, dormitories, Small Office/Home Office (SOHOs), and malls. TIZ will create a total built-up area of approximately 5 lakh square feet of facilities. The infrastructure for TIZ will be built in different phases. Currently, Phase I is operational.

Major cumulative physical achievements of KSUM for the last 3 years are given in **Table 5.1.8**

Achievements of KSUM in 2024-25 & 2025-26

- Kerala's start-up ecosystem has received significant recognition in the 2025 Global Start-up Ecosystem Report (GSER). It was highlighted for creating a start-up ecosystem that supported more than 6,400 startups, 63 incubators, and facilitated \$665 million (Rs 58 billion) in funding, creating 65,000 jobs and engaging more than 1,00,000 students annually.
- Kerala ranked top 10 in Asia for "Affordable Talent," a category that measures the ability to hire and retain tech talent.
- The State also made it into the Top 15 in Asia for start-up ecosystem performance and ranked highly in categories such as "Bang for Buck" and top 35 in Asia Ecosystem in Performance
- Under the Student Start-up Pipeline Programme, 91 student teams (200+ students) successfully completed the program, of which 5 teams registered their startups, 4 teams developed products, 28 teams developed prototypes, 41 teams completed business plans and 9 teams completed prototype plans.
- Under the Research Pipeline programme, in 2024-25, 80 research projects were supported of which 15 patents were filed, and 10 startups were formed.

Major physical Achievements during FY2024-25 and FY2025-26 are highlighted in **Table 5.1.9** below

Centre for Development of Imaging Technology (C-DIT)

C-DIT has been functioning as an Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) solutions provider in the Government sector. The major programmes undertaken by C-DIT are:

- Developed Software for the successful conduct of the Online examination for the Kerala Engineering and Pharmacy courses (KEAM) of the year 2024 .

Table 5.1.8 Physical achievements of KSUM from 2022-23 onwards

Sl.No.	Particulars	Cumulative achievement during 2022-23	Cumulative achievement during 2023-24	Cumulative achievement during 2024-25	Cumulative achievement 2025-26(till August)
1	Number of tech start-ups in Ecosystem	4318	4681	6227	7100
2	Incubators/Accelerators (nos)	58	61	61	61
3	Employment creation (no)	43180	46800	63000+	65000+
4	External investment (Rs crore)	5325	5375	5790	6057
5	Ranking of Ecosystem	Best performer	Evaluation in progress	Evaluation in progress	Evaluation in progress
6	Incubation Space (lakh sq.ft)	5.47	5.58	5.58	6.3

Source: KSUM

- Software for the online examination system for Kerala Public Service Commission developed by C-dit, has been customised with innovative features for the online recruitment process of a host of agencies in the public sector.
- Web and Social media communication projects for various organisations were undertaken.
- The Malayalam computing Team under C-Dit has developed a new text mining tool for Malayalam and has facilitated the design and

Table 5.1.9 Physical Achievements of KSUM during FY2024-25 and FY2025-26

Sl. No	Component	FY2024-25	FY2025-26
1	Entrepreneurship Pipeline Creation		
	No. of Ideas supported under IEDC till date	754	755
	No. of student startups registered from IEDC till date	150+	150+
	No. of Startups Supported	5	2
	Total No of Women Startups in Kerala	2607	2975
	Total No of Women-led Startups in Kerala	280	330
	No. of Women Startups benefited from various programmes year	101	120+
	No. of Women Startups received Mentorships this year	47	21
	No. of Women Startups received Funding / Investments this year	4	0
	No. of Women participated National & International Exposure year	11	0
	No. of Rural & Social Programmes Conducted	10+	6
2	Early Stage Financing		
	No. of Startups supported under Innovation Grant	68	48
	Total Amount released under Innovation Grant (Cr)	5.22 Cr	0.8 Cr
	No. of Startups supported under Seed Loan	3	0
	Total Amount released under Seed Loan	0.225 Cr	0
3	Infrastructure & Coworks		
	No. of Leap Centres established	13	17
	No. of startups operating from Leap Centre	250	250+
	% of Occupancy of KSUM	80%	80%

4	Fablabs & Knowledge labs		
	No. of Service & Design Projects	538	466
	No. of Fab Communities associated with	4	4
	Total no of students trained	120+	174
	No.of research projects under development	4	4
5	Investments & FoF		
	No. of Investor Connects Made	368	180
	No. of Startups raised external Investments	55.9 Cr	8 Cr
	Total amount of external investment raised till date	5790 Cr	6057 Cr
	No. of Kerala Startups raised external Investments through Fund of Fund	21	24
	Investments in Kerala Startups by FoF	160 Cr	224 Cr

Source: KSUM

launch of new Unicode fonts in Malayalam.

- With the technical support of C-DIT live telecast of the Lottery draws and the weekly news magazine Navakeralam have continued.

WAY FORWARD

The IT sector in Kerala is undergoing changes that provide immense potential for business and economic development. To stay competitive as an IT destination, the IT sector in Kerala is now focused on moving up the value chain to focus more on recent advances, which add more value and greater revenue. Industry-linked research, with the active participation of educational institutions, can provide a foundation for greater achievements by the IT sector in the near future. The State has to consolidate its position as an attractive investment destination by focusing on emerging areas in the IT sector and diversifying from established IT/ITeS activities. Kerala must keep pace with rapid changes in the national and global IT sector. The State continues to draw benefits from its gains in digital empowerment and IT awareness of the population.

both infrastructure and talent, the State is paving the way for a more inclusive IT ecosystem that can drive positive social change and economic growth for years to come.

Kerala has always targeted an inclusive IT ecosystem. The future of such an inclusive IT ecosystem lies in decentralisation, empowerment, and equity. By investing in both physical and human capital across social and geographic boundaries, Kerala is working towards an IT sector that is not only innovative and competitive but also deeply inclusive and socially responsible. This holistic approach to technology development ensures that the benefits of IT advancements are accessible to all members of society, regardless of their background or abilities. By promoting diversity and inclusion in the tech sector, Kerala is creating a more equitable and sustainable future for its citizens. Through continued investment in

5.2 SCIENTIFIC SERVICES AND RESEARCH

Science, technology, and innovation play a crucial role in economic transformation, social progress, and overall development. The science and technology sector has witnessed rapid global advances in recent years due to increased investment, international collaboration, and digital transformation. Kerala has made notable progress in this sector through a strong focus on innovation, digital development, and inclusive growth. The State has expanded the sector through science parks, incubators, and research institutions, which support start-ups and strengthen the innovation ecosystem. The Government promotes research and innovation to ensure that scientific progress benefits all sections of society.

Kerala's innovation driven development strategy is positioning the State as an emerging hub for science and technology in India. The Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, along with its research and development institutions, secured the 27th position among Indian government institutions and 1,161st position globally in the Nature Index 2025 published by Springer Nature.

Agencies and institutions in Science and Technology Sector in Kerala

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of Kerala, builds capacity within academic and research institutions in the state, carry out research and development through R&D centres, identify and facilitate projects and programs in the biotechnology sector, conserve and sustain biological resources, and

augment laboratory and scientific infrastructure in educational institutions and research centers. It also works to nurture young talents and promote their involvement in science and technology projects, while fostering grassroots innovation and rural technology development for the benefit of the masses.

The major institutions coming under the Science and Technology sector in the state are the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE), Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) and the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC).

Outlay and Expenditure of agencies under Science and Technology sector

The details of outlay and expenditure of Science and Technology sector from 2021-22 - 2025-26 are given in **Table 5.2.1**.

A. Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) focus on the promotion of excellence in science and technology through learning, research and development with the participation of academia, industry, and research organisations. Kerala Biotechnology Commission (KBC) is also functioning at the Council Headquarters to support and facilitate various schemes and programmes related to biotechnology. Kerala State Council for Science, Technology, and Environment (KSCSTE), has eight research

Table 5.2.1 Outlay and Expenditure of agencies under Science and Technology Sector from 2021-22 - 2025-26 (Rs in lakh)

Year	KSCSTE			RCC			IAV		
	Outlay	Expenditure	%	Outlay	Expenditure	%	Outlay	Expenditure	%
2021-22	8,164.00	6,033.55	73.90	7,100.00	4,682.11	65.94	5,000.00	2,400.00	48
2022-23	8,977.00	5,184.53	57.75	8,100.00	8,099.99	100	5,000.00	3,043.00	60.86
2023-24	9,077.00	3,696.23	40.72	8,100.00	2,999.76	37.03	5,000.00	2,128.35	60.98
2024-25	8,723.00	4,308.02	49.39	7,300.00	3,612.37	49.48	5,000.00	2,065.78	41.32
2025-26	10,083	2,064.71*	20.47	7,500.00	1,279.97*	17.06	5,000.00	1,435.00*	28.70

Source: Plan Space Kerala, Accounts *Expenditure as on November 13, 2025

and development (R&D) centres that focus on specific identified domains to conduct research, foster innovation, and drive advancements in the field of scientific and technological progress in Kerala. The R&D centres under the council are Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC), Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Kerala School of Mathematics (KSoM), Srinivasa Ramanujan Institute for Basic Sciences (SRIBS), Malabar Botanical Garden Institute for Plant Sciences (MBGIPS) and Institute of Climate Change Studies (ICCS). KSoM has upgraded into a center of excellence and became an independent autonomous institution under Department of Science and Technology, Government of Kerala from April 2025.

I Major Achievements of R& D Centres

CWRDM –Centre for Water Resources Development and Management undertakes research projects on hydrology, watershed development, wetland management, water management for agriculture, forest and urban hydrology, groundwater development, water quality management, ecology and biodiversity and advanced waste water treatment technologies.

- During 2024-25 CWRDM has carried out 35 plan projects, 17 externally funded initiatives, and 21 consultancy assignments and secured two copyrights and one industrial design registration.
- The centre produced 42 research papers, 35 book chapters, 7 popular articles/AIR programmes, 41 conference presentations, and submitted 98 technical and project reports.
- CWRDM has received the Central Board of Irrigation and Power -CBIP national award

2024 for R&D contribution in water resources sector.

- It prepared Kerala's Water Budgeting guidelines under the Navakeralam Mission, developed a water-budget framework, and trained officials in selected blocks and panchayats.
- CWRDM has conducted 9 Water Resource Management and Training Projects (WRMTP) training, 25 sponsored trainings, and 12 workshops/awareness programmes benefiting over 1,000 participants.
- Over 140 master's students completed dissertations or training, and the centre supported 12 PhD scholars and 2 post-doctoral researchers.
- CWRDM received QCI-NABET accreditation as an accredited Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) agency in the category of River Valley projects.
- CWRDM became a partner of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET), Venice which is affiliated to the Council of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP).
- A comprehensive carbon audit report prepared by CWRDM for the Kattakada LAC region was officially released.
- CWRDM has been granted an Indian patent for the invention of a tertiary nanocomposite that effectively removes nitrate contaminants from polluted water.

JNTBGRI– Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute was established to conserve tropical plant genetic resources and develop sustainable utilisation methods, and it maintains a 300-acre conservatory garden preserving wild tropical plant diversity of the country.

- During 2024-25, JNTBGRI established a Bamboo Museum with support from National and State Bamboo Missions, showcasing bamboo accessions, crafts, a pavilion, and a new bamboo craft centre for skill training and income generation.
- A field conservatory for Northeast Indian flora was created with 81 plants representing 19 species, including six International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-listed threatened species.
- The institute developed a bio-repository of 41 Andaman plant species, storing leaf tissues at -80°C and preserving voucher specimens in its herbarium.
- *Nepenthes khasiana*, a pitcher plant that is native to India and is endangered, is successfully maintained in the institute's carnivorous plant conservatory.
- A new Centre of Excellence in Phytochemical Nanotechnology was established at the Puthenthoppe campus of JNTBGRI.
- During the period 36 new species were added in the aquatic plants conservatory and total income generated through plant sales is Rs. 41940/- for 232 plants. 2500 plants were collected for Arboretum and 11 species were added as new accessions, and 4 are new additions to Palmetum.
- A total of 637 accessions of wild ornamentals and threatened plants were collected, with 243 added to living collections and 153 planted in the threatened species park, while 27,628 saplings are ready for distribution.
- JNTBGRI has carried out first therapeutic investigation and metabolic profiling of the lesser-known edible wild mushrooms *Agaricus flocculosipes* and *Amanita hemibapha*.
- Nine new medicinal plant species were added to the medicinal garden, selected species were multiplied, and conservatories for Northeast flora and Andaman plant documentation were strengthened.
- Enriched the Bamboosetum with seven new accessions of which two are new species of JNTBGRI Bamboosetum.
- The institute has generated an income of Rs. 36,53,382/- through the central nursery plant sales & distribution.
- During 2024-25 upto 31/08/25, 49 research papers have published and 26 papers were presented by the institute.

KFRI – Kerala Forest Research Institute aims to be a world-class center of excellence in tropical forestry, focusing on forest ecology, biodiversity, and sustainable resource management, and it undertakes research and consultancy programmes for national and international agencies on biological conservation and natural resource management.

- The Centre for DNA Barcoding and Timber Forensics of KFRI has completed 12 projects, providing crucial legal evidence to confirm the species identity of seized logs. KFRI also developed an AI-based machine learning algorithm for forensic applications and created a Simple Sequence Repeat (SSR) database for teak to help prevention of timber theft.
- The institute has established India's first Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) system for invasive species and conducted risk assessments in protected areas like Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, identifying 71 invasive plants.
- KFRI established an ex-situ conservatory for IUCN Red Listed species and a biorepository for plants in the Southern Western Ghats.
- It also launched a participatory program to plant 5,000 Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) saplings with tribal communities and facilitated the rejuvenation of the Bharathapuzha and Anjarakandy rivers.
- As the technical hub of the National Bamboo Mission, the Bamboo Technical Support Group distributed over 2 lakh bamboo seedlings and established 40 hectares of bamboo plantations.
- The Kerala Forest Seed Centre (KFSC) has collected and distributed 12.55 tons of certified seeds across 61 species, trained 450 personnel, standardized seed handling for 13 species, and set up a pioneering Seed Museum for the medicinal plant sector.
- KFRI has developed a rapid and efficient Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP)-based molecular tool and a LAMP-PCR diagnostic assay for the on-site detection of sandalwood spike disease, which are both crucial for early detection and disease control.
- KFRI has developed Biotechnology and Molecular Diagnostics with DNA barcoding for quality assurance in Ayurveda raw drugs.
- KFRI promoted sustainable forestry through the production of high-quality planting materials (QPM), genetic repositories, clonal forestry, biodegradable coir fibre root trainers

(CRT), and community-based conservation approaches.

- KFRI has acquired state-of-the-art infrastructure to support its research and development in centre for timber forensics, advanced tissue culture facility, GIS-based mapping tools and field-based participatory research models.

NATPAC - National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) undertakes R&D, extension, consultancy and safety studies in transportation planning, traffic and highway engineering, road safety, rural roads, inland water transport, tourism planning, transport economics, intelligent systems, and geomatics, and in 2024–25 completed 25 Plan projects, 34 consultancy projects, multiple road-safety programmes, training materials, and seven need-based studies.

- NATPAC has been approved as a network institute under the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) Outreach Programme.
- The Centre has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on research in various sectors with the IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), Palakkad, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, ASAP (Additional Skill Acquisition Programme) Kerala, IIT Bombay and RASTA Center for Road Technology, Bangalore.
- NATPAC has published 32 research papers in international and 7 in National Conferences, 11 papers in refereed journals, one book chapter and 25 papers presented in 36th Kerala Science Congress.

KSoM– KSoM is an advanced research institute in Mathematics which started in 2008 as a joint venture of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India and the Science and Technology Department, Government of Kerala. KSoM was re-established as an autonomous institution under the S&T Department in April 2025.

- KSoM published nine research papers in refereed journals, organised three national scientific meetings, and conducted 29 outreach activities during 2024-25.
- The institute convened an international conference on Transcendence, Arithmetic and Diophantine Explorations in January 2025.
- KSoM conducted workshops on Dynamics

in December 2024 and on Sieve Methods and Applications in June 2025.

- The integrated MSc-PhD programme is among the best in India; with students securing placements secured placements to pursue doctoral research at IISc Bangalore, TIFR Mumbai, and IIT Jammu. KSoM awarded PhD degrees to three students in 2024-25.

MBGIPS - Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences focuses on collecting, conserving, and developing sustainable utilisation protocols for aquatic and lower plant groups of the Malabar region.

- The institute has carried out biochemical profiling of *Crinum Malabaricum* and related *Crinum* species found in India and their bioactive compounds were identified.
- Initiated the establishment of a cryobank at MBGIPS for long-term preservation of pollen grains of economically and ecologically important aquatic plants, ornamental plants and spores of pteridophytes.
- 12 species of plants were collected across India, with ecological and habitat evaluation surveys conducted.
- A multi-location ex-situ conservation reserve was established for endangered plants, including project target species.
- 32 species were introduced and 1,910 plants propagated in the Medicinal Garden.
- New introductions included 15 carnivorous plants, 30 bamboo species, 20 ginger, and 15 traditional plants.
- Documentation and identification of native and naturalised flowering plants on the MBGIPS campus were completed.
- Conservation of the critically endangered *Nymphoides macrosperrum* was integrated into the aquatic conservatory, along with seed development studies.
- In 2024–25, MBGIPS published 18 research papers, conducted 9 workshops/seminars, and awarded 5 PhDs.

SRIBS - Srinivasa Ramanujan Institute for Basic Sciences promotes fundamental research across chemistry, biology, physics, mathematics, and computer science, with a vision to foster curiosity-driven inquiry and build collaborations with leading global centres of theoretical research.

- During 2024-25 SRIBS has received eight Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from industry

and stakeholders at the Government's R&D Summit 2025, paving the way for future collaborative projects.

- The institute designed a paid internship programme that engaged over 15 students, resulting in high-quality research publications and generating additional revenue.
- The institute was recognised with the Second Best Stall Award at the Kerala Science Congress National Science Expo 2025 and received Best Paper Awards in Physics and Mathematics.
- SRIBS aligned National Quantum Mission (NQM) of Department of Science and Technology (DST) to advance research in quantum technologies with applications in chemistry, materials science, and drug discovery.
- During 2024-25 SRIBS has published 24 research papers, conducted 30 workshops/seminars and one patent was filed.
- SRIBS entered into national and international collaborations, including the Festschrift Symposium at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai, and invited lectures at Université de Lorraine, France.

ICCS -The general objectives of Institute for Climate Change Studies Kerala are focussed research on State specific impacts of climate change on various sectors and zones of the State and propose appropriate action for climate change management and adaptation strategy in collaboration with other Institutes, Universities and Line departments.

- ICCS has prepared and released Annual Climate Statement of Kerala for the year 2024 during the 37th Kerala Science congress on February 2025.
- ICCS has developed the models to evaluate the impact of climate change on Periyar, Pamba, Chaliyar and Bharathapuzha river basins of Kerala.
- The institute has evaluated the climate dynamics and climate change aspects of Kerala and measured the background high altitude aerosol properties for aerosol – cloud – precipitation interaction.
- ICCS has assessed the dynamic coastal environment of Kerala by decoding the oceanic climate change signals and the associated risks.
- In 2024-25, the institution has published six papers in referred journals, two book chapters and eight papers in conferences.

IACB - Institute of Advanced Crop Breeding (IACB) is being developed as a specialised autonomous institute under KSCSTE to address issues related to climate change and crop productivity emphasizing technology integration, holistic genomic approaches, and molecular mapping for precise crop identification. This initiative reflects recognition of the importance of agriculture and the need for innovative solutions to enhance crop resilience and yields.

II. Schemes and Programmes of KSCSTE

KSCSTE is implementing various schemes and programmes focusing on science popularisation and promotion, research and development, ecology and environment, technology development and transfer, and science programmes for women. The schemes and programmes implemented by KSCSTE and achievements during the year 2024-25 are discussed below.

1. Human Resource Development in Science and Technology

i. Science Research Scheme (SRS)-Research projects in emerging areas of science and technology are supported under the Science Research Scheme by providing financial assistance for implementation. A study has conducted on the spatiotemporal patterns of lightning in Kerala, identifying high-risk areas and seasonal trends, which can inform disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies. High-quality, low-defect graphene and its nanocomposites were developed for energy storage super capacitor devices which exhibiting superior charge storage capacity and excellent cycling stability.

During the year 2024-25, 76 papers in conferences/seminars, 40 papers in refereed journals and 10 books/book chapters were published, and two PhDs were awarded under the programme. Under S R S of KSCSTE, one new species was founded and 12 outreach programmes were conducted.

ii. Research Fellowship programme - The objective of the programme is to motivate and assist highly dedicated postgraduate students in pursuing careers in science. In 2024-25, as part of this programme, 33 PhDs were awarded, 48 papers were presented in conferences/seminars, 59 publications in refereed journals, three book chapters and one book were published and two patents were filed.

- iii. Partnering Academic Industry Research (PAIR) - The project KSCSTE-THEJU-CUSAT joined research programme has completed under the PAIR programme.

2. Ecology and Environmental Programmes

KSCSTE has documented three studies during the review period- the Neritic Jellyfishes in the Kerala Coast, Vector Ecology and Disease Transmission Dynamics and Metamorphic Evaluation of Madhurai Granulite Block. During 2024-25, one PhD was awarded, 8 papers were presented in conferences/seminars, 13 publications in refereed journals, five book chapters and one book were published.

As part of Green Kerala Initiative, JNTBGRI, KFRI, and MBGIPS produced a total of 1, 04,736 plants of the IUCN red listed Rare Endangered and Threatened (RET) species and propagate them for planting.

3. Science Popularisation

Kerala Sasthra Puraskaram 2023 was presented to Dr. S Somanath, former Chairman, ISRO on 7th August 2025. Two candidates were awarded the Kerala State Young Scientists Awards (KSYSA) in 2024. During 2024-25, one PhD was awarded, 24 papers were presented in conferences/seminars, 17 publications in refereed journals and two book chapters were published as part of this programme. The Kerala Science Congress is an annual event conducted by the KSCSTE for promoting research and education in science and technology as well as providing an interactive platform for academia and R&D. The 37th Kerala Science Congress was organised at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur during 07 – 10 February 2025. Its focal theme was “Technology Transformation for a Green Future”. 892 papers were presented in the event and 1117 science aspirants were benefitted from this Congress.

KSCSTE has served as the nodal agency for conducting National Children’s Science Congress (NCSC) in Kerala and organised 14 district level and state level children’s Science congresses for children aged 10-17. Two international, three national and two regional conferences/seminars/workshops were conducted under the scheme for promoting Seminars, Symposia & Workshops (SSW).

4. Technology Development and Transfer

- i) Intellectual Property Rights Information Centre - Kerala (IPRIC-K)

IPRIC-K is Kerala’s Nodal Agency for all Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related services and matters. During 2024–25 and till 31.08.2025, 57 IPR awareness programmes were organised and sensitised around 6,000 people. It has facilitated the filing of 24 patents, 4 industrial designs, 19 trademarks and two copyrights. 5 patents were granted during the period. During the period IPR Cells were established in 7 Higher Education Institutions and 5 patent clinics were also conducted. The council has prepared the draft policy on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) (revising the 2008 policy of the State).

5. Support for Women in Science and Technology

- i) Back-to-Lab Research Fellowship Programme is to provide Post-Doctoral Fellowship to women in Kerala who are having break in their research career, to come back to the main stream. During 2024-25 (upto August 2025), 17 research papers, 20 communicated papers and 7 books/book chapters have been published by women researchers. Under the Back-to-Lab programme two patents were filed, invented one new finding and participated in 10 international and 9 national conferences. The programme supported 44 women scholars across 39 institutions so far.

- ii) STARS (Students with Talent and Aptitude for Research in Science) programme is to encourage talented girl students to pursue higher education in Basic or Applied Sciences. The programme has attained 30 academic and 36 R&D achievements during 2024-25 (upto August 2025). 146 scholarships were awarded under the scheme Prathibha Scholarship.

III. Grant in aid to S&T Institutions

- i. Sophisticated Test and Instrumentation Centre (STIC) is a grant in aid support organisation of KSCSTE with the activities in the areas of testing, calibration, material characterisation, skill development, consultancy and training. The facility is unique in nature and first of its kind under the Govt. of Kerala. Calibration and Testing Services (CTS) division has facility to undertake calibration in Electrical, Thermal and Mechanical areas and is accredited by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration laboratories (NABL) under the Quality Council of India. During

2024-25, this division has carried out calibration of 7,060 instruments and during 2025-26, upto 31.08.2025, 2,693 instruments were calibrated. During 2024-25, the laboratory has generated a total income of Rs. 2,86,11,240/- and during 2025-26 upto 31.08.2025, the revenue was Rs. 1,06,99,817/- from the services provided to its customers. Under the food technology development and testing project of KSCSTE, the food and water quality analysis laboratory has become fully functional with NABL accreditation.

ii. Integrated Rural Technology Centre (IRTC) is a multidisciplinary R&D organisation addressing socially relevant issues such as energy conservation, green energy promotion, natural resource management, local-level interventions and technology transfer, and has developed into a major hub for livelihood training, waste management and technology dissemination through its Centre of Excellence in Waste Management and specialised divisions in Energy, Environment, Geospatial Science, Pottery, and training units in mushroom cultivation and aquaculture.

iii) M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) & CAbC (Community Agro biodiversity Centre) is a centre, which works to popularise cultivation practices that synergise the principles of ecology and economics covering project.

- The MSSRF has strengthened agro biodiversity conservation by establishing a rice diversity block for 10 traditional varieties, conservation plots for 30 wild and cultivated tubers across four farmer fields, and supported 10 school nutrition gardens.
- Wild biodiversity conservation efforts expanded from 28 tree species to include 42 additional tree species, 7 climbers and 12 medicinal plants, alongside completing data collection for a study on Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) dynamics in Wayanad.
- A one-week tailoring and bag-making training programme empowered 30 women affected by the Chooralmala landslides.
- During 2024-25, as part of this programme, three papers were presented in conferences/seminars, 9 publications in refereed journals and three book chapters were published.

IV) Biotechnology Development

Kerala's biotechnology sector is gaining prominence and experiencing growth. Academic

institutions and research organisations are actively involved in healthcare, agriculture, and marine biotechnology. Biotechnology Development programme undertakes Young Investigators Programme in Biotechnology (YIPB), Industry Linked Biotechnology Research Scheme (IBRS), Biotechnology Innovation for Rural Development (BIRD), Biotechnology Training and Workshop Programme (BTW), Kerala Biotechnology Re-entry Fellowship (K-BIREF) and Chief Minister's Career Advancement Programme in Biotechnology (CAB).

- Kerala Biotechnology Commission, KSCSTE has supported the establishment of two premier centres of futuristic importance under the Government of Kerala; the Centre of Excellence in Nutraceuticals (CoEN) and the Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM).
- The KBC had initiated steps in updating / revising the biotechnology policy of the State and the first stakeholders' meeting for gathering inputs on the draft Kerala Biotechnology Policy in the area of Human Resource Development conducted on July 28, 2025.
- The DBT Skill Vigyan Program has trained 287 students under the student and technician training programmes and 51 faculty members are participated at the 15 partnering institutions significantly enhancing human resource development in biotechnology during 2024.
- The Kerala Biotechnology Commission (KBC), KSCSTE, in collaboration with Kerala Life Sciences Industries Park (KLIP) Limited and KSIDC, served as the State Partner for Global Bio-India 2024 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

B. Institute of Advanced Virology

The Government of Kerala founded the Institute of Advanced Virology in 2019 to develop solutions for viral infections through vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics. IAV has established eight specialised departments (in General Virology, Viral Vaccines, Anti-Viral drug Research, Viral Applications, Virus Diagnostics, Viral Epidemiology, Vector Dynamics and Public Health, Virus Genomics, Bioinformatics and Statistics and Clinical Virology), six BSL 2 level laboratories of Phase I A building, a molecular diagnostic facility, a core instrumentation facility and the administrative departments.

Major achievements and initiatives

- In 2024-25, IAV was working on building 14 BSL-2 level research laboratories in Phase I B building of which 8 are made fully functional. It has also set up an 80-seater seminar hall in Phase IB and began constructing BSL-3 laboratory and Transgenic Experimental Animal Facility.
- The Advanced Molecular Diagnostic Facility expanded its virus-testing capabilities and became the first Kerala government molecular lab to receive NABL accreditation.
- A state-of-the-art Mobile Virus Outbreak Investigation Unit was launched for state wide outbreak response.
- An Innovation & Translation Facilitation Centre was created to support startups, industry R&D, collaboration, and hands-on training.
- High-end research instruments, including Fluorescent Activated Cell Sorter (FACS), Confocal Laser Scanning Microscope, Spectrophotometer, Automated Protein Purification System, Protein Crystallisation Robot, Elispot Reader, Fermenter, Gas Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry were installed.
- Two departments (Virus Genomics, Bioinformatics and Statistics, Clinical Virology) began operations and initiated nine research projects focused on diagnostic and therapeutic development.
- Virus Like Particles (VLP) and pseudovirion-based Nipah assay systems were developed for safer research and sero-surveillance.
- A cost-effective rapid assay for detecting protective antibody response in Rabies-vaccinated humans and animals was developed.
- Doctoral programmes in virology were started, with eight students currently being mentored.
- Short-term, industry-oriented virology training programmes were launched with ASAP Kerala, completing three batches.

C. Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), Thiruvananthapuram

The Regional Cancer Centre (RCC), Thiruvananthapuram, is Kerala's premier government-supported comprehensive cancer care institution and ranks among the top three of India's 28 Regional Cancer Centres. It collaborates with leading international organisations such as WHO, International Agency for Research on Cancer (France), International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna), National Cancer Institute (USA), Institute for Cancer Research (UK), University of Leeds (UK), Health Research Foundation (Japan), and a host of other reputed organisations. RCC's vision is to become a global leader in cancer control by providing high-quality, affordable care, promoting awareness, training professionals, conducting socially relevant research, and guiding statewide cancer control activities. Kerala also has two other cancer centres—Malabar Cancer Centre and Cochin Cancer Research Centre and the details of these are covered in the Health section of this volume.

RCC-Profile

In 2024-25, a total number of 14,770 new cases and 2, 47,684 review cases were registered in RCC. The number of daily average patient visit was 863. Annually, it had 12,652 in-patient admissions. **Appendix 5.2.1** provides the profile of the centre for the last three years upto 31/8/2025 and hospital statistics is given in **Box 5.2.1**.

Cases Registered in RCC

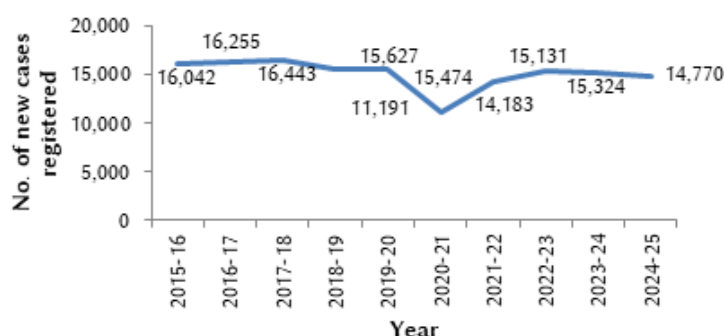
In 2023-24, the new cases registered were 15,131 and that in 2024-25 was 14,770, indicating 2.38 per cent decrease from the previous year. The details regarding cases registered in RCC in the last 10 years show that the highest number of new cases registered was in 2017-18 (16443). The lowest was in 2020-21 (11,191) which was 27.67 per cent lower than the previous year and it may be attributed to Covid-19 pandemic. New cases registered in RCC from 2015-16 to 2024-25 is given in **Figure 5.2.1**.

Box 5.2.1 Hospital statistics 2024-25

• IP Bed strength	: 298
• Operational bed	: 286
• Average OP Per day	: 825
• Average admissions per month	: 1054
• Bed occupancy rate	: 76 per cent

Source: RCC, Thiruvananthapuram

Figure 5.2.1 New cases registered in RCC from 2015-16 to 2024-25



Source: Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Out of the total 14,770 new cases registered in 2024-25, 13,083 cases (88 per cent) were reported from within the State, and rest were from other States. During the period no patients were registered from outside the country.

Cases Registered in Speciality Clinics

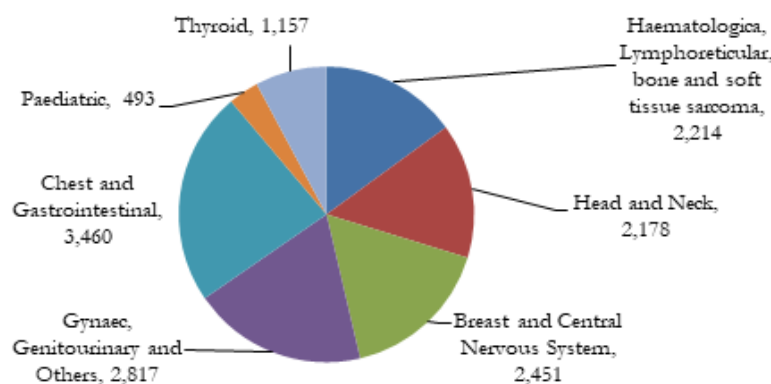
The data shows the rate of Gynaec, Genitourinary and Pediatric incidences of cancer to human body parts are slightly increasing than the previous year. Over 70% of the women report for diagnostic and treatment services at an advanced stage of disease, resulting in poor survival and high mortality rates. The highest per cent of new cancer cases registered were Chest and Gastrointestinal clinics (3,460 cases) in 2024-25 followed by Gynaec, Genitourinary (2,817 cases) and Breast and Central Nervous System speciality clinic (2,451 cases). The lower number of cases was registered in Pediatric clinic (493 cases). **Figure 5.2.2** gives the incidence of cancer to human body parts detailed as per cent of new patients registered in speciality clinics in 2024-25.

The number of new cases registered in speciality clinics for the last three years upto 31/08/2025 are shown in **Appendix 5.2.2**.

Cases Registered (Age and Gender-Wise)

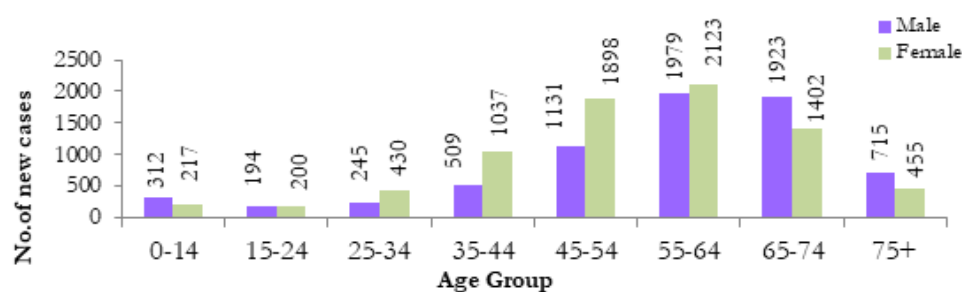
The details of age and sex-wise number of new cases registered in 2024-25 reveals that people in the age group of 55-64 are more prone to cancer diseases (28.24 per cent of male and 27.35 per cent of female). 65-74 age group also shows more number of male cancer patients (27.44 per cent) while in 45-54 age group shows the increased number of female cancer patients (24.45 per cent). During 2025-26 (upto 31/08/2025) also, the data shows a trend of increasing male cancer patients in the age group 65-74. Details of age wise new cases registered in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 5.2.3**. **Figure 5.2.3** illustrates age and sex-wise new cancer patients registered for treatment in RCC in 2024-25.

Figure 5.2.2 Speciality clinic-wise number of new patients registered in 2024-25



Source: Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Figure 5.2.3 Age and gender-wise new cases registered in 2024-25



Source: Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Central and State Government Schemes

Both Central and State Governments have initiated various schemes to ensure free or subsidised treatment for cancer patients. Details are given in **Table 5.2.2**.

Initiatives of RCC in 2024-25

RCC supports patients through multiple assistance schemes. In 2024–25, the free drug bank provided full or partial support to 752 patients, and 968 members of the Cancer Care for Life scheme received investigations and treatment. Under the Akshayapathram free-food programme, 2,510 vulnerable in-patients were supported. Additionally, 44 new patients received financial assistance from the Indian Cancer Society Support Scheme.

Cancer detection activities

In 2024–25, RCC conducted 74 cancer detection and 26 awareness programmes, identifying 12

cancers, 283 oral pre-cancers, 274 benign breast lesions, and 53 cervical pre-cancers. The early cancer detection clinic screened 3,654 people, detecting 450 cancers and 491 pre-cancers through its screening and early detection initiatives.

Research and Development Activities

RCC is a leading centre for cancer research, conducting basic, epidemiological, and clinical studies in collaboration with reputed national and international institutions. It plays a major role in public cancer control, human resource development, and oncology education, offering a wide range of KUHS-affiliated graduate, postgraduate, and post-doctoral programmes. In 2024–25, RCC acquired advanced research equipment and supported around 30 PhD scholars, 60 super-speciality specialisation residents, and 50 postgraduate residents. It conducted 79 cancer education and 172 detection programmes, and managed 219 research projects, including 32

Table 5.2.2. Central and State Government schemes, 2023-24 and 2024-25

Scheme	Patients enrolled (new cases)		Amount disbursed (Rs)		Total Amount spent (Rs)
	2023-24	2024-25	2023-24	2024-25	Up to 31 August 2025
Central Government Schemes					
Prime Minister's Relief Fund	481	136	4,94,06,266	5,84,53,268	38,34,39,982
State Government Schemes					
Cancer Suraksha Scheme	123	0	1,29,56,149	0	66,34,17,199
Karunya Benevolent Fund	3,380	1,231	15,39,41,679	1,85,08,038	2,69,06,52,241
Thalolam	1	0	22,899	0	42,47,776
Scheduled Tribe Patient Fund	45	45	16,46,305	29,92,511	4,80,82,436
Snehasanthwanam for Endosulfan Victim	1	0	1,81,887	70,423	53,10,633
KarunyaArogyaSurakshaPadhathi (KASP)	5,780	4,157	70,42,75,677	73,11,19,961	3,69,74,12,429

Source: Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

extramural, 25 industry-sponsored and 162 in-house studies. During the year, RCC secured two patents, awarded 10 PhDs, and produced 157 publications. About 600 postgraduate students undertook project training, and 167 participants received training in cancer control.

Major achievements in diagnostic and treatment facilities during 2024-25

- During 2024-25 the installation of surface guided radiotherapy system, anaesthesia workstation and catheterisation laboratory were completed.
- OT lights, OT tables, ICU ventilators, stereotactic immobilization devices, and in-vivo diode detectors, virtual desktop infrastructure components, defibrillators, and a central flow monitoring device system were installed.

Way Forward

The State aims to integrate science and technology into economic planning. This includes upgrading research infrastructure, promoting collaborative projects, implementing training programmes, and initiating measures to attract and retain skilled professionals in the sector. The efforts of the State Government towards promoting scientific temper, enhance skill development and digital literacy and strengthen Academia-Research-Industry linkages should continue to make the S&T sector vibrant and attractive. These activities are being pursued with greater commitment in recent years. With a wide range of programmes designed to meet the diverse requirements of the science and technology sector, the State is well positioned to make significant progress including the development of new institutions focused on specific areas of research.

5.3 TOURISM

Tourism is a fast growing economic sector that promotes cultural exchange, generates employment, supports heritage conservation, and contributes to economic growth. The sector plays an important role in Kerala's economy, and continues to be a leading tourism destination. The sector has advanced in recent years through progressive policies, innovative tourism products, and major infrastructure improvements that enhance visitor experience and support sustainable development. Kerala is one of the world's leading centres of Responsible Tourism.

The State has invested consistently in tourism by improving basic infrastructure at major destinations, creating unique tourist experiences, establishing information and facilitation centres, and supporting land-based and water-based tourism activities. Tourism growth in Kerala is reflected in the success of community based responsible tourism initiatives, increased use of digital and virtual marketing, the emergence of Kerala as a destination for meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions tourism, and the growing popularity of homestays, pilgrimage travel, and staycations.

Box 5.3.1 Kerala Tourism at a glance

Domestic Tourist Visits (Nos) in 2023	2,18,71,641
Domestic Tourist Visits (Nos) in 2024	2,22,46,989
International Tourist Visits (Nos) in 2023	6,49,057
International Tourist Visits (Nos) in 2024	738374
Total Visits (Nos) in 2023	2,25,20,698
Total Visits (Nos) in 2024	2,29,85,363
Total Revenue Generated in 2023 (Direct& Indirect)	Rs 43,621.22 crore
Total Revenue Generated in 2024 (Direct& Indirect)	Rs 45,053.61crore
Foreign Exchange Earnings in 2023	Rs 5,245.09 crore
Foreign Exchange Earnings in 2024	Rs 6,631.02 crore
Earnings from Domestic Tourists in 2023	Rs 28,717.46 crore
Earnings from Domestic Tourists in 2024	Rs 28,446.78 crore

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Kerala became the first State in India to launch a literary tourism circuit, the Malabar Literary Circuit, linking the birthplaces, homes, museums, and memorials of Malayalam literary figures across Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Palakkad districts. The State also conducted the first gender audit of the tourism sector in India, with the participation of UN Women India. A gender inclusive tourism policy has been introduced to support women entrepreneurs in homestays, tour operations, community leadership, and women friendly tourism centres. Tourism generated a total revenue of Rs 45,053.61 crore in 2024. Key performance indicators are presented in **Box 5.3.1**.

Financial Performance

The details of the Plan outlay and expenditure of the tourism sector from 2021-22 to 2025-26 are given in **Table 5.3.1**.

Table 5.3.1 State Plan outlay and expenditure in Tourism, Rs in crore

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
2021-22	320.14	260.84 (81.47%)
2022-23	362.15	248.58 (68.64%)
2023-24	362.15	258.47 (71.37%)
2024-25	351.42	202.03 (57.48 %)
2025-26 (up to November 19, 2025)	385.02	134.91 (35.04 %)

Source: Plan Space Kerala, Accounts

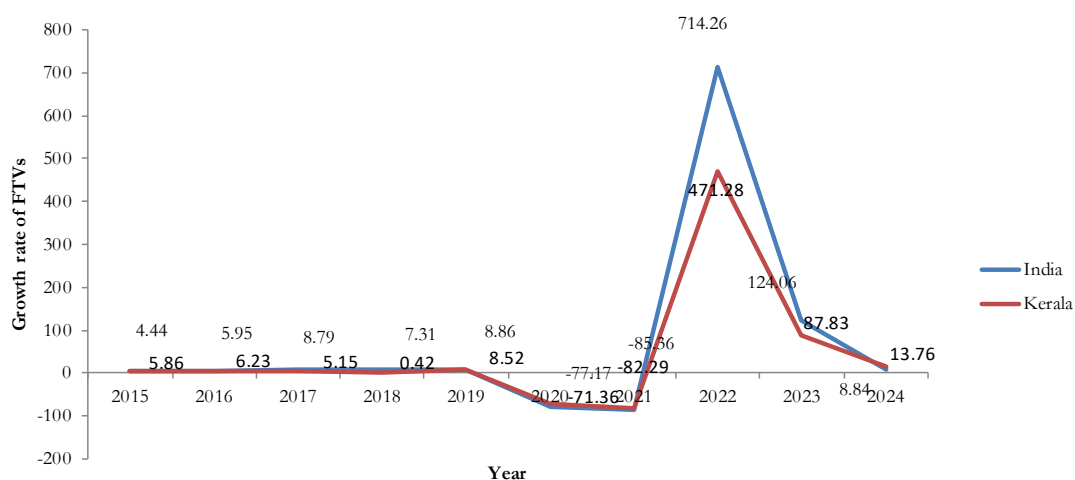
Foreign tourist arrivals and visits – India and Kerala

Foreign tourist data is recorded as both ‘arrivals’ (based on the use of a passport and various points of arrival) and ‘visits’ (stay at various tourist destinations, with the district often as a point of reference). The number of foreign tourists who arrived in India has increased from 95.2 lakh in 2023 to 99.51 lakh in 2024, registering a growth of 4.52 per cent over the previous period. The number of foreign tourists who visited Kerala has increased from 6.49 lakh in 2023 to 7.38 lakh in 2024, registering about a 13.76 per cent increase over the previous period. Despite this growth, the 2024 figures still show a 37.94% decline compared to the tourist numbers recorded in 2019. Despite global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, rising inflation, and worldwide economic slowdowns, foreign tourist arrivals continue to increase, reflecting a strong recovery in Kerala’s tourism sector. **Appendix 5.3.1** provides detailed data on foreign tourist visits in India and Kerala, along with annual growth rates since 2015.

Figure 5.3.1 compares the annual growth rates of the visits of foreign tourists in India and Kerala from 2015 to 2024, in per cent.

The month-wise data on the foreign tourist visits in Kerala in 2024 shows that the highest number of visitors was in the month of January and the lowest in June. Month-wise foreign tourist arrivals in India and foreign tourist visits in Kerala in 2023 and 2024 are given in **Table 5.3.2**.

Figure 5.3.1 Annual growth rates of the visits of foreign tourists in India and Kerala from 2015 to 2024, in per cent



Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Table 5.3.2 Month-wise foreign tourist arrivals in India and foreign tourist visits in Kerala in 2023 and 2024 , in number

Sl. No.	Month	No. of foreign tourists in 2023		No. of foreign tourists in 2024	
		India (Arrival)	Kerala (Visit)	India (Arrival)	Kerala (Visit)
1	January	8,91,084	68,157	9,81,609	95,250
2	February	8,93,352	71,919	10,32,301	94,028
3	March	8,24,549	53,703	8,93,021	63,380
4	April	6,25,772	35,198	6,72,684	43,350
5	May	6,18,086	28,966	6,22,189	32,178
6	June	6,67,720	29,787	7,22,615	30,205
7	July	7,86,486	57,038	7,99,842	52,986
8	August	6,64,155	60,934	6,61,322	55,792
9	September	6,66,946	41,625	6,91,247	45,622
10	October	8,32,233	53,751	8,40,330	59,255
11	November	9,48,631	69,902	9,73,941	79,390
12	December	11,01,914	78,077	10,60,621	86,938
Total		95,20,928	6,49,057	99,51,722	7,38,374

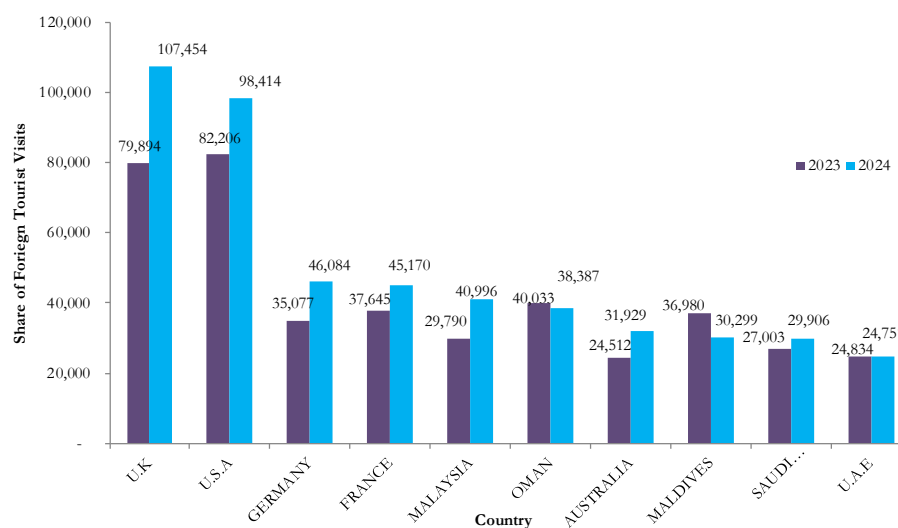
Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Source Market of Foreign Tourists

In 2024, the United Kingdom emerged as the leading source of foreign tourists to Kerala, accounting for 14.55%, followed by the United States of America (13.33%) and Germany (6.24%). The United States of America had been the leading source in the preceding two years. Other major contributors included France (6.12 per cent), Malaysia (5.55 per cent), Australia (4.32 per cent), and the Maldives (4.1percent). The Middle

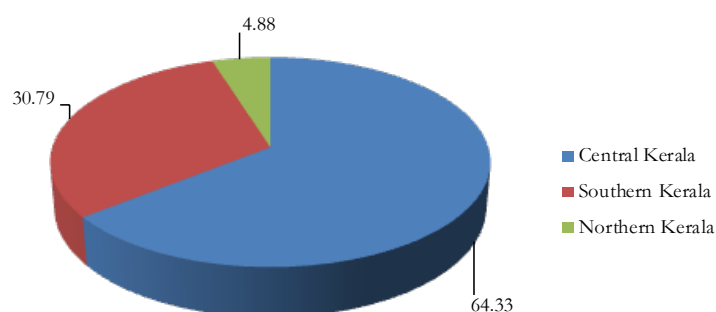
East countries like Oman, Saudi Arabia and UAE contributed significant shares of tourists to Kerala in 2024 also. Notably, over 73 per cent of foreign tourists to Kerala in 2024 came from the countries included in the top twelve source markets. **Appendix 5.3.2** provides the share of major international source markets for the past three years and up to June 30, 2025, while **Figure 5.3.2** shows the top ten contributing countries for 2023 and 2024.

Figure 5.3.2 Number of foreign tourist visits to Kerala from the top ten countries of the world during 2023 and 2024



Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Figure 5.3.3 Region-wise foreign tourist visits in Kerala in 2024, in per cent



Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Foreign Tourist Visits in Kerala - District-wise
Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram continued to receive the highest numbers of foreign tourists in recent years. In 2024, Ernakulam recorded 2.68 lakh foreign tourist visits compared to 2.79 lakh in 2023, while Thiruvananthapuram saw an increase from 1.48 lakh in 2023 to 1.71 lakh in 2024. Idukki (1,36,883) and Kasaragod (3,775) showed significant growth compared to previous years, whereas Pathanamthitta (735) and Palakkad (1,459) had the lowest foreign tourist visits in 2024. Details are provided in **Appendix 5.3.3**.

Region-wise details of foreign tourists' visits in 2024 show that 64.33 per cent of the total foreign tourists visited the central part of Kerala, about 30.79 per cent visited the southern part, and 4.88 per cent visited the northern part. While central Kerala continued to attract the highest share in 2024, only the southern region recorded growth compared to the previous year. In 2023, the distribution was 66.14 per cent for central Kerala, 28.58 per cent for the south, and 5.28 per cent for

the north. **Figure 5.3.3** presents the region-wise visits of foreign tourists in Kerala in 2024.

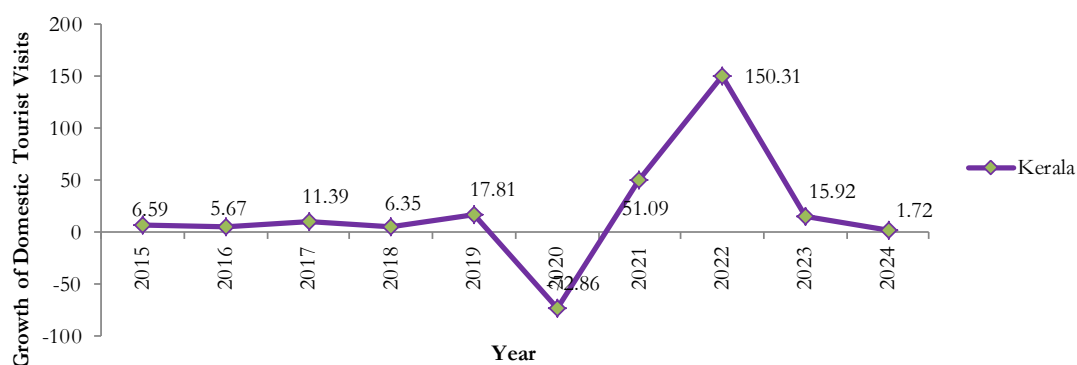
Domestic Tourists

In 2024, the number of domestic tourist visits to Kerala reached 2,22,46,989, reflecting a 1.72 per cent increase from 2,18,71,641 visits in 2023. The 2024 figure shows a significant rise of 21.01 per cent compared to the domestic tourist visits recorded in 2019. Overcoming the impact of COVID-19, the number of domestic tourist visits has reached a record high, marking the highest ever in the state's history. **Appendix 5.3.4** gives the details of domestic tourist visits to Kerala from 2015 to June 2025. **Figure 5.3.4** reveals the trends in the visit of domestic tourists in Kerala during the period 2015-2024.

Domestic Tourists visits – month-wise

The month-wise data on the visits of domestic tourists in Kerala in 2024 shows that the highest number of tourists visited in the month of December and the lowest in March. Details are given in **Table 5.3.3**.

Figure 5.3.4 Annual growth rates in the arrival of domestic tourists in Kerala from 2015 to 2024, in per cent



Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Table 5.3.3 Month-wise visits of domestic tourists in Kerala for the last three years

Sl. No.	Month	No. of Domestic Tourists Arrival		
		2022	2023	2024
1	January	12,33,862	18,28,815	18,28,659
2	February	11,62,035	15,70,857	16,10,571
3	March	13,98,917	15,36,602	15,98,077
4	April	16,11,134	19,27,700	19,10,342
5	May	19,10,617	21,73,589	21,80,234
6	June	15,79,028	16,46,080	17,29,298
7	July	14,32,307	16,68,625	16,42,864
8	August	14,80,642	18,94,539	16,54,286
9	September	15,72,294	17,21,809	17,93,165
10	October	17,39,286	17,95,778	19,01,199
11	November	16,82,632	18,74,362	20,46,840
12	December	20,64,660	22,32,885	23,51,454
Total		1,88,67,414	2,18,71,641	2,22,46,989

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

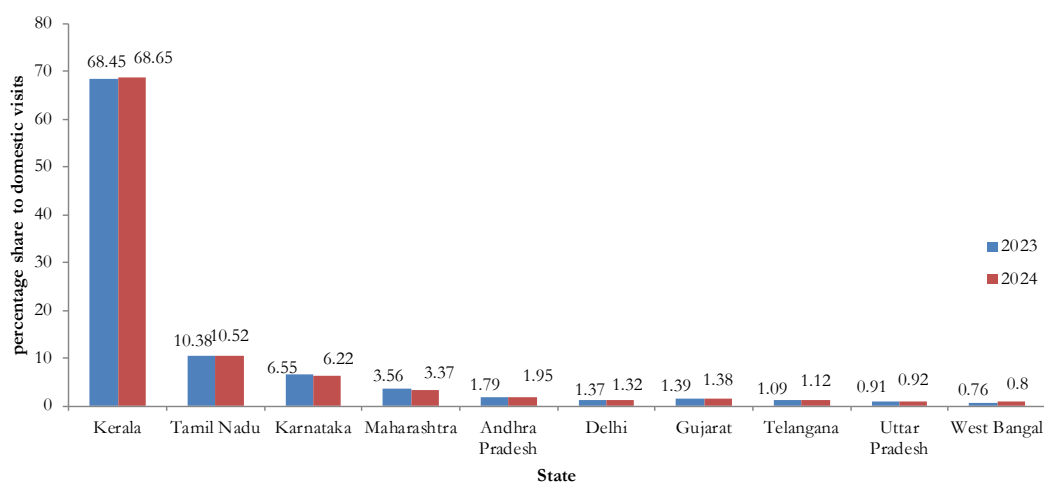
Source of Domestic Tourism

The data on domestic tourist visits in Kerala by State of origin reveals that about 68.65 per cent in 2024 and about 68.45 per cent of visitors in 2023 are from within the State. The other top nine states contributing to DTVs in Kerala were Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Delhi, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Collectively, these nine states accounted for approximately 27.6 per cent of the total domestic tourist visits in Kerala. Among out-of-state visitors in 2024, Tamil Nadu ranked first with 10.52 per cent, followed by Karnataka (6.22 per cent) and

Maharashtra (3.37 per cent), consistent with the previous year's pattern. **Appendix 5.3.5** gives the details on the state-wise share of domestic tourist visits in Kerala. **Figure 5.3.5** shows the state-wise share of domestic tourist visits to Kerala from the top 10 states during 2023 and 2024.

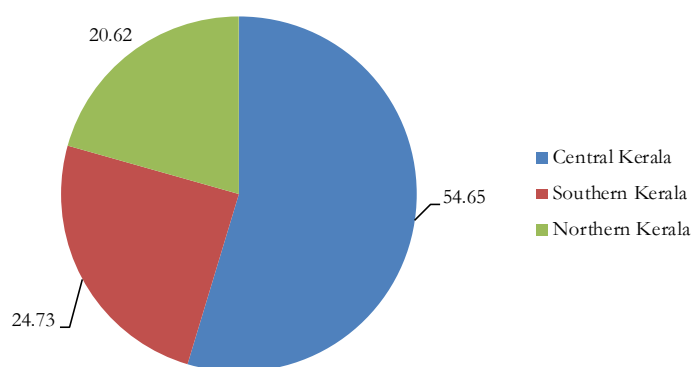
District-wise visits of Domestic Tourists

In 2024, Ernakulam district led with the highest number of domestic tourist visits, recording 43,29,536 visits (19.46 per cent). The following positions were occupied by Thiruvananthapuram (39,21,054), Idukki (38,30,186), Thrissur

Figure 5.3.5 Share of domestic tourist visits from the top ten States to Kerala during 2023 and 2024, in per cent

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Figure 5.3.6 Region-wise domestic tourist visits in Kerala in 2024, in per cent



Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

(27,75,175), and Kozhikode (13,34,089) districts, respectively. In 2023, Ernakulam and Idukki districts were in the top position. Kasargod attracted the lowest number of domestic tourists in 2024, followed by Pathanamthitta. Details are given in **Appendix 5.3.6**. Region-wise details show that a greater number of domestic tourists visited the central parts of Kerala in 2024. This trend has remained the same for the last five years. **Figure 5.3.6** illustrates region-wise domestic tourist visits in Kerala in 2024.

Impact on Tourism Earnings

Total earnings (both direct and indirect) from tourism in 2024 were Rs 45,053.61 crore, showing an increase of 3.28 per cent over 2023 (Rs 43,621.22 crore). The foreign exchange earnings from foreign tourists increased in 2024 compared to 2023. Direct foreign exchange earnings and direct earnings from domestic tourists

in 2024 were Rs 6,631.02 crore and Rs 28,446.78 crore, respectively. In 2023, the foreign exchange earnings were Rs 5,245.09 crore and domestic tourist earnings were Rs 28,717.46 crore. Details are given in **Appendix 5.3.7**. Details of earnings from tourism (Direct & Indirect) in Kerala from 2015 to 2024 are shown in **Table 5.3.4**.

Accommodation Units in Kerala

The total number of tourist accommodation units in the State as on August 31, 2025, is 9,423 with 1,21,982 rooms. As in the previous years, Idukki District has the highest number of accommodation units (1,963 units), followed by Ernakulam District (1,409 units). The data shows a trend of an increase in accommodation units in these districts compared to the previous year. Details are shown in **Appendix 5.3.8**. Kasaragod has the lowest number (130) of accommodation units.

Table 5.3.4 Total earnings from tourism (Direct & Indirect) in Kerala from 2015 to 2024 in Rs crore

Year	Total Revenue Generated Direct & Indirect	Percentage change from previous years
2015	26,689.63	7.24
2016	29,658.56	11.12
2017	33,383.68	12.56
2018	36,258.01	8.60
2019	45,010.69	24.13
2020	11,335.96	-74.81
2021	12,285.91	8.37
2022	35,168.42	186.25
2023	43,621.22	24.04
2024	45,053.61	3.28

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Box 5.3.2 Kerala Design Policy

Kerala's "Design by Future" Policy was launched in September 2024 as India's first comprehensive design policy for tourism infrastructure. It focuses on improving the aesthetics, functionality, sustainability, and cultural authenticity of public assets such as bridges, streetscapes, signage, and heritage structures. The policy supports eco-friendly tourism and aims to make public spaces more user-friendly. The policy is helping to create a design-driven economy, strengthen public-private partnerships, and position Kerala as a global centre for innovative and socially impactful design. Kerala Tourism Infrastructure Ltd. (KTIL) is the nodal agency responsible for integrating these design principles into new public tourism projects.

The achievements of the Design Policy include

- Beautification of the space under the railway overbridge area near SN College in Kollam, transforming it into a multifunctional public facility through innovative design.
- Preparation of DPR and design development of the Amboori-Kumbichal bridge project.
- Preparation of Destination Management Guidelines for several tourism locations across Kerala.

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala

Awards and acknowledgements during 2024 – 2025

The Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission Society received several international and national awards in 2024–25, including the Gold Award from the International Centre for Responsible Tourism (ICRT) India and Sub-Continent, for the Beypore Integrated RT Development Project in the "employing and upskilling local communities" category. It also earned the Central Government's Best Rural Tourism Village Awards 2024 for Kumarakom in the Agri Tourism category and for Kadalundi in the Responsible Tourism category.

Kerala Tourism got awards, including (1) Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award for Digital Marketing Campaign – WhatsApp Maya Holiday Heist – Online Contest, 2024, (2) TOFT Tigers Sanctuary Asia Award 2024 for the efforts in sustainable wildlife tourism. (3) Golden City Gate Award 2025 at ITB Berlin - Silver Star in the category Campaign International for 'Come Together in Kerala' campaign (4) Golden City Gate Award 2025 at ITB Berlin - Excellent Award in the Music International category for 'Shubha Mangalyam – Weddings in Kerala' (5) PATA Gold Award 2025 in most engaging social media campaign for Meme-led Makeover Campaign.

KITTS bagged the (1) 11th FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) Higher Education Excellence Award 2025 in the category excellence in creating employment & entrepreneurship (public), (2) Metro Expedition Tourism Award 2024 for best contribution in tourism-education category.

Major achievements of infrastructure development projects

Tourism in Kerala aims to build resilient world-class infrastructure in tourist centres, launch new tourism products, maintain existing products, and upgrade facilities, including capacity enhancement in the existing hotels. The development of tourist destinations is mainly entrusted to Kerala Tourism Infrastructure Limited (KTIL), Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC), Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Ltd (BRDC) and the District Tourism Promotion Councils (DTPCs).

Kerala Tourism Infrastructure Limited (KTIL) is engaged in preparing tourism master plans, developing strategies for new destination development, and providing consultancy services to both public and private sectors. The organisation has entered into joint venture agreements with major industry groups such as Taj and Oberoi Hotels of India. KTIL has formulated several key policy frameworks for the State, including the Design Policy for Kerala, the Heli Tourism Policy, and the Cruise Tourism Policy. As the State's designated nodal agency for centrally sponsored tourism projects such as Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), Challenge-Based Destination Development (CBDD) and Swadesh Darshan, KTIL identifies potential proposals, facilitates their approval, and coordinates their execution. KTIL has formulated Kerala Tourism Version 2.0 as an alternate model for development, further to the success of Kerala Tourism Version 1.0.

Bekal Resorts Development Corporation Ltd (BRDC) - During 2024–25, BRDC completed the construction of the Gateway Bakel Resort, the third resort in Bekal, and made it operational. The corporation also organised the Bekal Beach Carnival and initiated the construction of Café De Bakel. The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), under the Tata Group, expanded its presence in Bekal with the launch of a 151-room property in December 2024, featuring extensive facilities for destination weddings and MICE tourism. Also, a budget-friendly Ginger Hotel with 150 rooms is under development at Udma Pallam. These properties operate on land leased from BRDC, aligning with the corporation's strategy to promote Bekal as a premier destination for weddings and conferences. The BRDC property at Chembarika in Chemmanad Panchayath has also been handed over to new entrepreneurs.

Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) – KTDC has constructed a conference hall at Waterscapes, Kumarakom and hosted the G20 Sherpa meeting. Other major projects of KTDC in progress are the construction of caravan parks at Bolgatty Palace, upgradation & renovation of Tamarind Easy Hotel, Thrissur and Nalukettu, Palace Room & Island Resort at Bolgatty. The projects in the finishing stages are the renovation of 45 rooms at Rain Drops Chennai, Samudra Hotel phase III and the upgradation & renovation of Event Centre and International Marina at Bolgatty Palace.

Department of Tourism - The achievements in the form of Infrastructure project completion includes; renovation work of Shilavatika Park (Palakkad), construction of new Guest House (Ponmudi), Facade illumination of Historical Buildings-phase 2 under Travancore Heritage Project, night life tourism project and landscaping (Kanakakkunnu Palace), beautification of Kappil Beach (Varkala) and development of Perumathura Beach (Thiruvananthapuram), setting up of tourism awareness & information centre at Kayikkara Asan Smarakom, development of basic facilities and amenities at Gavi Eco Tourism, additional facilities for Ezhattumugham Prakrithi Gramam - phase II, beautification of Thadikkadav bridge, development of tourism destination and open gym at Manikyamangalam(Kaladi), maintenance of Eco-lodge at Peerumedu(Idukki), functional operation of Government Guest House(Peerumedu), Munnar accommodation complex, development

and renovation of Beypore- Tourism Phase 1(Beypore and Beyond), installation of floating boat jetty at Mammilikadavu, and Feroke old bridge, Kozhikode, renovation work of the statue at Beypore Port entrance, construction of tourist information cum joint director office building (Kozhikode), Oceanus Challium Beach phase 1and 2, pavement construction of Kadalundi Bird Sanctuary, renovation of Nehru Park at Swaraj round(Thrissur), Poonthanam Samskarika Nilayam Phase II and construction of Nila Heritage Museum(Ponnani).

Human Resource Development

The major institutions for HR development in tourism are Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies (KITTS), State Institute of Hospitality Management (SIHM), and Food Craft Institutes (FCIs). KITTS offers a range of skill development programmes in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality. Its academic programme includes: i) an MBA in Travel and Tourism, approved by the All India Council for Technical Education(AICTE); ii) a three-year BBA in Tourism Management; and iii) a three-year B.Com in Travel and Tourism—both undergraduate programmes affiliated with the University of Kerala. During 2024–25, 34 MBA students got placements in various airlines, airports, as well as in hospitality and allied areas. Students were also successful in getting international placements. Placement rate was 90 per cent for its postgraduate programmes.

During 2024–25, KITTS introduced new courses, and the processes for NAAC accreditation and UNWTO TedQual certification are in their final stages. Its library has been upgraded into a state-level learning resource centre for tourism. KITTS also received approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to conduct training for IFS officers for the first time, and it signed an agreement with the Forest Department of Kerala to carry out destination and safety audits in forest areas. KITTS has been conducting carrying capacity surveys to assess the environmental, social and infrastructural impacts of tourism, ensuring sustainable development and the protection of ecologically sensitive areas. This initiative responds to directives from the Kerala High Court and the National Green Tribunal to regulate tourist inflow and manage resources effectively. Varkala, Kovalam and Munnar have been selected for the pilot studies.

SIHM conducts courses such as BSc. Degree in Hospitality & Hotel Administration, Diploma in food production. It also conducts training programmes on different aspects of hospitality. The institute is affiliated to the National Council for Hotel Management & Catering Technology (Ministry of Tourism, Government of India) and the Degree is awarded by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. During 2024–25, SIHM Kozhikode recorded an increase of 31.4 per cent in the total revenue (Rs 3.98 crore) over the previous year. Women empowerment training programs were conducted at SIHM Kozhikode, in which 75 candidates participated. 59 students of SIHM were offered placements from the campus placement offered by various luxury hotels.

Destination challenge

The Destination Challenge project in Kerala Tourism is part of a strategic initiative to develop and promote specific tourism destinations through focused investment and infrastructure enhancement. The Destination Challenge approach emphasises public-private partnerships, responsible tourism, by leveraging Kerala's unique natural and cultural resources to enhance its appeal as a top experiential tourism destination. Children's and Adventure Park at Kaaramala, Tharoor, Mangalampuzha park renovation, Chengamanad, beautification of Pappinimedu viewpoint, renovation of Kodampalli Chira – Vengoor, Chembramkott Chira tourism project -Ayavana and Nedumkulam Kadavu are the completed projects under the destination challenge programme of the Tourism Department.

Responsible Tourism

The main objective of the Responsible Tourism Mission is to transform tourism into a tool for rural development, poverty alleviation and women's empowerment. It functions on the principles of responsible tourism, which include economic, social and environmental responsibility. The mission has now been reconstituted as the Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission Society (KRTM Society), an autonomous body under the Department of Tourism, and has been operating independently since 1 April 2024. Kerala RT Mission also serves as the State Nodal Agency designated by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, for the implementation of rural tourism, sustainable tourism and rural homestay initiatives. The following are the major activities and achievements of the KRTM Society.

The Model RT Village Project aims to develop selected locations into 100 per cent responsible tourism—practising destinations. Aymanam is the first Model RT Village and has received recognition both nationally and internationally. The project is currently being implemented in 15 additional Local Self Governments (LSGs).

The Beypore RT Integrated Development Project combines the STREET (Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible, Experiential, Ethnic Tourism) and PEPPER (People's Participation for Participatory Planning and Empowerment through Responsible Tourism) initiatives to promote Beypore as a responsible tourism destination. As part of the project, the Textile Art Fest was organised in February 2024 with participation from tourists, artists and artisans from within and outside Kerala. Two phases of the Beypore project have been completed, and the overall project is nearing completion.

The Experiential Tourism Packages of the KRTM Society offer tourists authentic experiences of village life, local culture, traditional stays, cycle trails, farming activities and festival-based tours. At present, 140 packages are operational, connecting 850 families to experiential tourism activities. The Kerala Agri Tourism Network links farmers and agricultural practices with tourism to generate additional income. A total of 952 individuals have been trained in two phases, and 452 units are currently operational, with 103 listed on the official RT Mission website. The Experience Ethnic/Local Cuisine Network supports local women in participating in tourism without requiring additional investment, and currently includes 2,800 families. Under the Women-Friendly Tourism Initiative, Kerala conducted a Gender Audit of the tourism sector in collaboration with UN Women India. Safety assessments have been completed in 78 destinations, and the first global women's conference on Gender-Inclusive and Responsible Tourism was held in Munnar in November 2024.

At present, a total of 25,015 individual and group units are registered with the RT Mission, of which 17,884 are women-owned or women-led. Through these initiatives, 50,030 people have been directly, and 1,00,060 people indirectly connected to tourism, linking a total of 1,50,000 families to income-generation opportunities. The KRTM Society supports these units by connecting their products and services to the tourism industry.

through both online and offline platforms, and currently operates five online platforms. Since the formation of the Responsible Tourism Mission, the registered units have collectively earned Rs 100.76 crore, including Rs 23.15 crore in 2024–25. The activities of the RT Mission have been widely appreciated and have received several national and international awards for exemplary responsible tourism practices.

Eco-tourism in Kerala

Ecotourism in Kerala was developed as part of the Participatory Forest Management for the benefit of the forest-dependent communities. The tourist visits to ecotourism destinations are mostly domestic. Thenmala has continued as a high-demand destination. In 2024, a total of 1,70,347 tourists visited Thenmala, which is a 5.52 per cent increase from the previous year. During 2024-25 upgradation of the Thenmala ecotourism project with an elevated walkway and suspension bridge, and the revitalisation of the musical dancing fountain have been completed. Bird Park at Munderikkadavu and a community park at Thoongampara ecotourism project are progressing.

Tourism Hubs

A comprehensive master plan is crucial to ensure sustainable development, efficient land use, environmental conservation, and the harmonious integration of tourism infrastructure with local communities. The state government has been allocating funds for the preparation of master plans for the development of Tourism Hubs across Kerala. Each tourism hub is envisioned as an integrated tourism nucleus that provides comprehensive information and essential infrastructure for a destination and its surrounding areas, benefiting local communities and boosting the local economy. These hubs aim to ensure seamless visitor experiences through well-planned facilities such as caravan parks, motels, information kiosks, food courts, amphitheatres for cultural performances, souvenir shops, organised vehicle parking, bicycle rental services, homestay booking counters, clock rooms, and other visitor amenities. They also focus on mixed-use developments combining leisure, culture, retail, and accommodation, along with accessibility to other destinations. Tourism hub will incorporate concepts such as pop-up markets, farm-to-table dining experiences, wellness zones, community-led workshops, climate-resilient infrastructure and responsible tourism initiatives.

Way Forward

Kerala's tourism sector is strengthening through year-round tourism initiatives, digital innovation, and eco-friendly practices, positioning the state to tap emerging opportunities such as wellness tourism, workations, and cultural experiences. Government-led infrastructure development is essential for tourism growth, as clean surroundings, adequate public toilets, efficient waste management systems, and well-maintained roads form the foundation of a safe, comfortable, and positive visitor experience. The Design Policy will further boost the economy by improving infrastructure, enhancing tourism appeal, and supporting creative industries. Faster policy implementation, stronger stakeholder cooperation, and greater technology adoption are helping tourism to drive economic growth, job creation, and sustainability. Enhanced participation of the private sector is necessary as it provides quality accommodation, hospitality services, restaurants, and other visitor-oriented facilities that enhance service standards and create employment opportunities.

Kerala's long-term vision focuses on clean, attractive, and well-managed tourism hubs across the state that emphasise experiential, smart, and sustainable tourism models. It makes each destination a unique experience, ensuring harmony with local heritage and aesthetics, thereby enhancing visitor satisfaction. Tourism workforce skills, including digital literacy and customer service, are essential for global competitiveness, which include digitally enabled visitor centres with mobile app integration, augmented reality-based heritage interpretation and eco-friendly mobility solutions. A dedicated state ecotourism policy with clear guidelines is also needed to ensure sustainable development and conservation of ecotourism sites.

5.4 EXTERNAL TRADE

Introduction

The year 2025 marks a far reaching change in the world trade network. The UNCTAD claim of 4 percent expansion of world trade in the first half of 2025 has been wrinkled by the 2.9 percent average growth forecast of the IMF for the year 2025-26 which is lower than the 3.5 percent growth rate in 2024. Attributable to the front loading and AI based investment global trade in the first half of 2025 was not much affected. However, in the second half the United States of America announced sizable tariffs against many of its trade partners that led to policy uncertainty in global trade. This departure from multilateral rule based fair trade system would affect both consumption and investment globally particularly low income economies and small enterprises. Over the last two decades, global trade has diversified from

north to south and now the global south accounts over 30% of global output, up from 18% in 1995 (UNCTAD, Trade and Development Report, October, 2025). This change requires constructive debate on an inclusive financial architecture and global governance.

External Trade in India

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has estimated that India's overall export increased from \$770.18 billion in 2022-23 to \$776.68 billion in 2023-24, with a growth rate of 0.84 per cent. The total export during the 2024-25 was \$820.93 billion registering a growth of 5.70 per cent over the 2023-24.

The Merchandise export in 2024-25 was \$437.42 billion as against \$ 437.06 billion in

Table 5.4.1 India's Overall Exports and Imports: 2018-19 to 2024-25, Value in US\$ Billion

Year	Exports			Imports		
	Merchandise Exports	Services Exports	Overall Ex-ports	Merchandise Imports	Services Imports	Overall Imports
2018-19	330.1	208	538.1	514.1	126.1	640.2
2019-20	313.4	213.2	526.6	474.7	128.3	603
2020-21	291.81	206.1	497.9	394.44	117.52	511.96
2021-22	421.80	254.4	676.2	611.89	144.79	756.68
2022-23	447.46	322.72	770.18	714.24	177.94	892.18
2023-24	437.06	339.62	776.68	677.24	177.56	854.8
2024-25	437.42	383.51	820.93	720.24	194.95	915.19

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry GoI

2023-24. Services export was \$ 383.51 billion in 2024-25, showing growth of 12.92 per cent over the previous period. Merchandise imports in 2022-23 was \$714.24 billion which decreased to \$ 677.24 billion in 2023-24 and further increased to \$ 720.24 billion in 2024-25. Services import was \$177.56 billion in 2023-24, which is increased to \$ 194.95 billion in 2024-25. (**Table 5.4.1**).

For the Financial Year 2024-25, under merchandise exports, the key sectors have registered a positive growth over the financial year 2023-24. These includes coffee 40.37 per cent, Tobacco (36.53 per cent), Electronic goods (32.47 per cent) Rice (19.73 per cent), Jute Mfg including Floor covering (13.35 per cent), Meat, dairy & poultry products (12.5 per cent), Tea (11.84 per cent), Carpet (10.46 per cent), Plastic & Linoleum (10.23 per cent), RMG of Textiles (10.03 per cent), Drugs and pharmaceuticals (9.39 per cent), Cereal preparations & Miscellaneous processed items (8.71 per cent), Mica, coal & other ores, minerals including processed minerals (6.95 per cent), Engineering goods 6.74 per cent, Fruits & Vegetables (5.67 per cent), Spices (4.78 per cent), Man-Made/yarn/Fabs/made ups etc 4.07 (per cent), Cotton yarn/fabs/markeups etc (3.19 per cent), Leather and leather products (2.06 per cent), Marine products (0.45 per cent).

Under merchandise imports, key sectors exhibited negative growth in 2024-25 as compared to 2023-24 viz, Coal, Coke & Briquettes (20.03 per cent), silver (-11.24 per cent), Fertilisers, Crude & Manufactured (-2.2 per cent), Newsprint (-2.71 per cent), Iron & Steel (-4.61 per cent), Dyeing/Tanning/colouring materials (-13.42 per cent) project goods(-18.45 per cent), Pearls, Precious and semi-precious stones (-24.41 per cent).

External Trade in Kerala

Kerala plays a major role in the export prospects of the nation by contributing marine products, tea, coffee and spices products exports. The external

trade in Kerala is mainly through Cochin Port. Coffee, tea, cashew kernels, seafood, coir products and spices are the major items of export through Cochin port. In 2024-25, the total traffic, coastal and foreign handled by Cochin Port was 377.45 lakh MT as against 363.15 lakh MT in 2023-24 registering a growth of 3.9 per cent compared to 3 per cent in the previous year. Out of the total traffic in 2024-25, total coastal traffic decreased by 0.36 per cent with 125.46 lakh MT as against 125.92 lakh MT in the previous year. Total foreign traffic increased by 6.22 per cent with 251.99 lakh MT in 2024-25 compared to 237.23 lakh MT in 2023-24. (**Table 5.4.2**).

Total export, both coastal and foreign, through Cochin Port was 89.93 lakh MT in 2024-25 as against 83.09 lakh MT in 2023-24, recording a positive growth of 8.2 per cent compared to 13.2 per cent positive growth in the previous year. Out of this, coastal export accounts for 57.75 lakhs MT in 2024-25 as against 56.91 lakh MT in 2023-24, which records a positive growth of 1.4 per cent. The foreign export increased to 32.18 lakh MT in 2024-25 from 26.18 lakh MT in the previous year, recording a growth of 22.9 per cent.

Export of merchandise through Cochin Port shows an increase in quantity traded and growth rates in 2024-25. The total quantity exported in 2023-24 was 83,09,890 MT. This has increased to 89,92,614 MT in volume of trade and a 8.2 per cent growth rate in 2024-25. A very positive growth is visible in the trade of coir products, which is 18.69 per cent in 2024-25. This is followed by spices and miscellaneous. Coir products, Spices and miscellaneous are in a better position in 2024-25. Coir products have improved from 2,96,137 MT of trade volume in 2023-24 to 3,51,471 MT during 2024-25. Spices shows a positive growth rate of 11.97 per cent in 2024-25. Details are given in **Appendix 5.4.1**.

Import through Cochin Port increased by 2.67 per

Table 5.4.2 Cargo handled at Cochin Port, 2022-23 to 2024-25, quantity in lakh MT

Traffic	Export			Import			Total		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Coastal	43.7	56.91	57.75	77.36	69.01	67.71	121.06	125.92	125.46
Foreign	29.65	26.18	32.18	201.84	211.05	219.81	231.49	237.23	251.99
Total	73.35	83.09	89.93	279.2	280.06	287.52	352.55	363.15	377.45

Source: Cochin Port Trust

cent in 2024-25 from 2,80,05,576 MT volume in 2023-24 to 287,52,829 MT in 2024-25. The import of fertilisers and raw materials grew by 17.31 per cent in 2024-25. The imported quantity of fertilisers and raw materials in 2023-24 was 189842 MT and 222711 MT in 2024-25. The import of Iron & steel increased by 11.85 per cent in 2024-25. The import of Iron, steel was 39,467 MT in 2023-24 and 44,143 MT in 2024 -25. Details of major items of import through Cochin port are given in **Appendix 5.4.2**.

Export of Marine Products

Export of marine products from India decreased from 17,81,602 MT in 2023-24 to 16,98,170 MT in 2024-25. However, the value of exports increased from Rs 60,523.89 to Rs 62408.45 crore for the corresponding year. This shows a negative growth

rate of 5 per cent in quantity exported and positive growth of 3.11 per cent value accrued.

Kerala's marine export decreased from Rs 1,96,807 MT in 2023-24 to Rs 1,79,660 MT in 2024-25, and value decreased from Rs 7231.8 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 6941.36 crore in 2024-25. This shows a decreased growth rate of (-)9.5 per cent in volume of export and (-)4.18 per cent in value generated. The details are given in **Table 5.4.3**.

Agency (MPEDA)

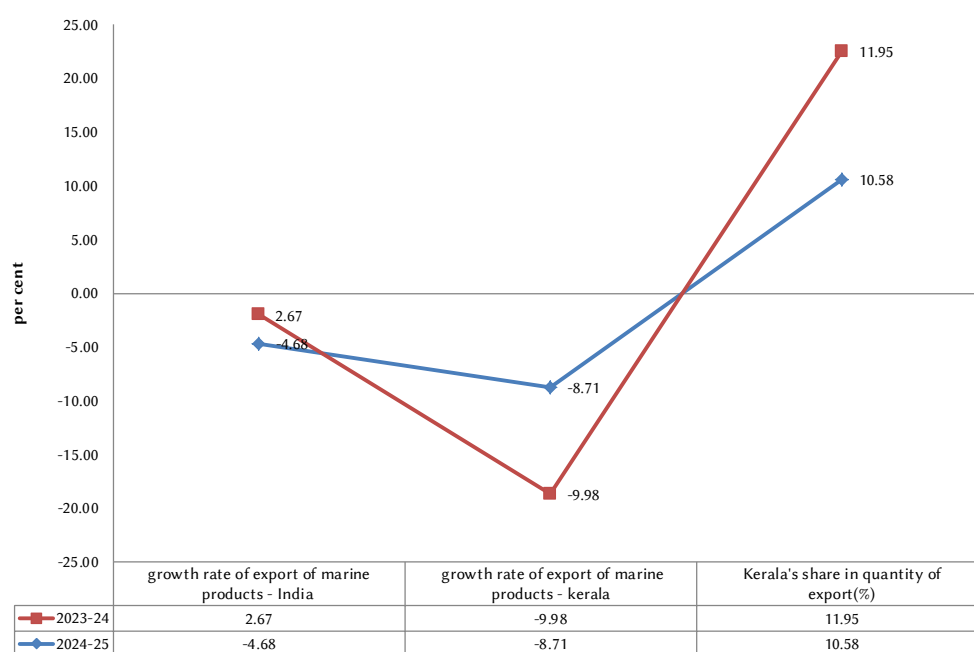
In general terms, the export of marine products in quantity and in value from Kerala shows a decreasing trend since 2023-24. The State of Kerala has a decisive share in the export basket of marine products from India in quantity terms. It was 12.6 per cent in 2022-23, 11.0 per cent in

Table 5.4.3 Export of Marine products in India and Kerala , 2020-21 to 2024-25, quantity in MT and value in Rs crore

Year	India		Kerala		Kerala's Share (in %)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2020-21	1149510	43721.00	157698	5623.12	13.72	12.86
2021-22	1369264	57586.50	182430	6971.56	13.32	12.11
2022-23	1735286	63969.15	218629	8285.03	12.60	12.95
2023-24	1781602	60523.89	196807	7231.84	11.05	11.95
2024-25	1698170	62408.45	179660	6941.36	10.58	11.12

Source: Marine Products Export Development

Figure 5.4.1 Trend in quantity of export of marine products India and Kerala 2023-24 and 2024-25



Source: Marine Products Export Development Agency (MPEDA)

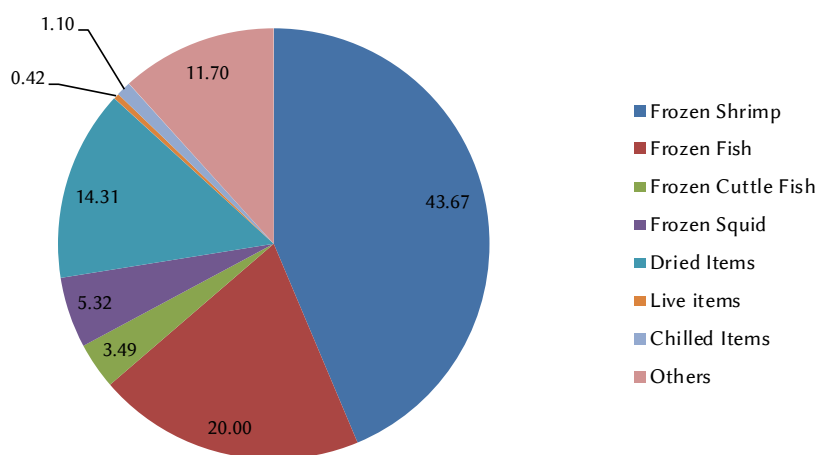
2023-24, and 10.58 per cent in 2024-25. During the last two years, we have seen a decrease in marine exports. The features associated with tariff barriers, non-tariff barriers including antibiotic rejection, biosecurity and sustainability issues, imposition on ban on wild caught shrimps imported from India due to non-implementation of Turtle Excluder Device by the USA etc. are the reasons for the decrease in marine exports. **Figure 5.4.1** depicts the trends in marine exports of the nation and Kerala, along with the share of the State in the national export of marine products.

The item-wise export of marine products from India in 2024-25 shows that frozen shrimp continued to be the top export item with a market share of 43.67 per cent in quantity and 69.43 per cent in value, followed by frozen fish with a share

of 20.0 per cent in quantity and 8.3 per cent in value. India exported frozen shrimp to the tune of 741529 MT valued Rs.43334.25 crore in 2024-25 (**Appendix 5.4.3**). **Figure 5.4.2** depicts the market share of item-wise export of marine products from India in 2024-25.

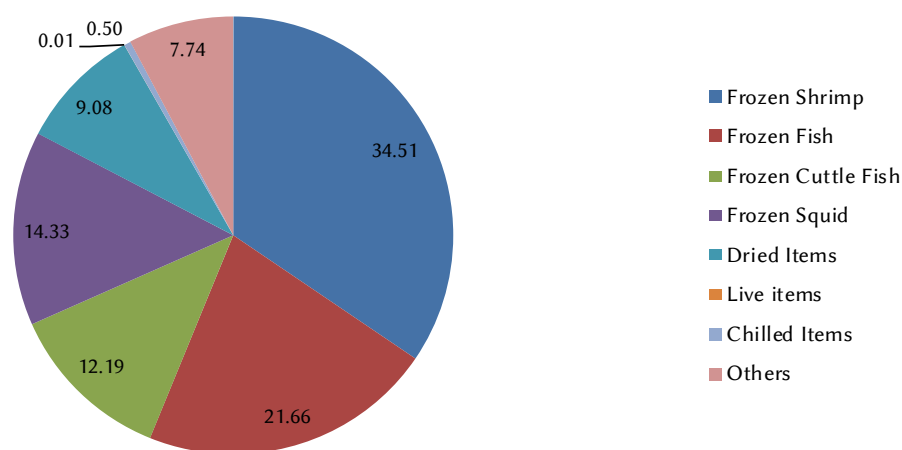
In 2024-25, 61992 MT of frozen shrimp was exported from Kerala, which accounts for 34.51 per cent of the total trade volume of Kerala. This is followed by frozen fish with 38915 MT of quantity and 21.66 per cent of total trade volume in 2024-25. In the value generated base, frozen shrimp held a 50.46 per cent in total value generated and frozen fish held 9.26 per cent of total value generated in 2024-25. **Figure 5.4.3** shows the market share of item-wise exports of marine products from Kerala in 2024-25.

Figure 5.4.2 Market share of item-wise export of marine products from India in 2024-25, in per cent



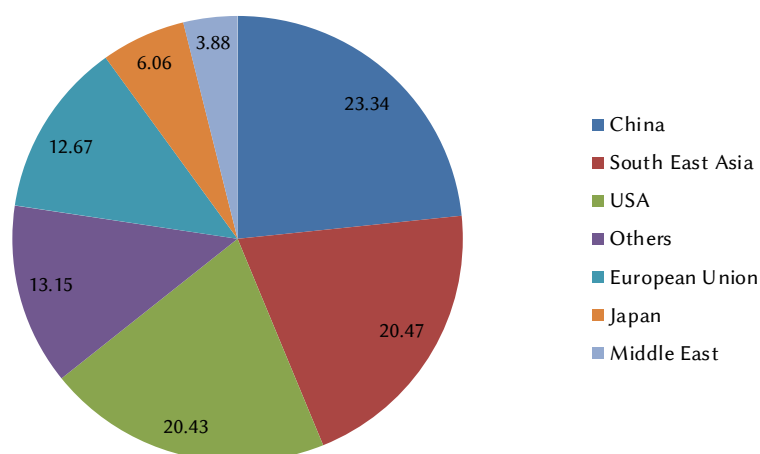
Source: Marine Products Export Development Agency (MPEDA)

Figure 5.4.3 Market share of item-wise export of marine products from Kerala in 2024-25, in per cent



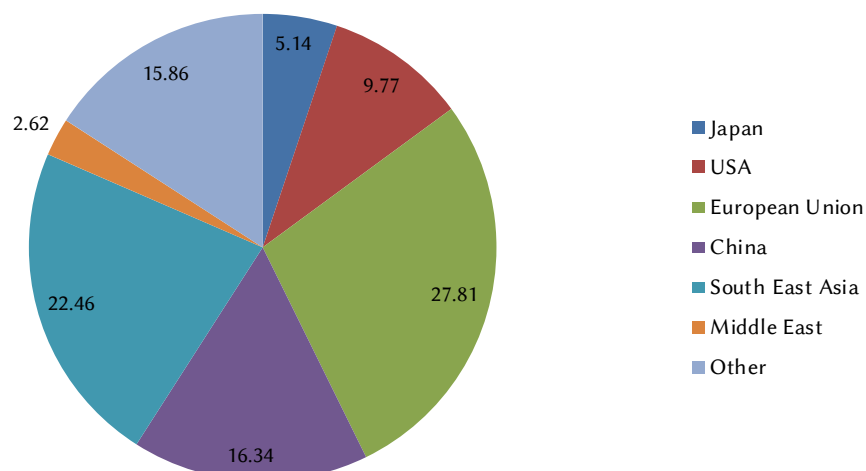
Source: Marine Products Export Development Agency (MPEDA)

Figure 5.4.4 India's major market-wise export of marine products in 2024-25, in per cent



Source: Marine Products Export Development Agency (MPEDA)

Figure 5.4.5 Kerala's major market-wise export of marine products in 2024-25, in per cent



Source: Marine Products Export Development Agency (MPEDA)

The largest export market for India's marine products in 2024-25 was China with 3.9 lakh MT of volume followed by South East Asia (3.47 lakh MT), USA (3.46 lakh MT), other countries (2.2 lakh MT), Japan (1.0 lakh MT) and Middle East (0.6 lakh MT). Major markets of India's marine products and their share are depicted in **Figure 5.4.4**.

The largest export market for Kerala's marine products in 2024-25 was European Union (49956 MT) followed by the Southeast Asia (40345 MT), China (29353 MT), Other countries (28497 MT), USA (17558 MT), Japan (9240 MT), and Middle East (4710 MT). Major markets of Kerala's marine products and their share are depicted in **Figure 5.4.5**.

Export of Cashew

India is among the largest cashew producing countries in the world. India exports cashews to more than 60 countries. As per the Cashew Export Promotion Council of India, the quantity of cashew export from India in 2024-25 is 37084 MT and the value is Rs 2473.11Crore. This was 46,235 MT and Rs.2620.20 crore in 2023-24.

Cashew cultivation spread along the coastal regions of peninsular India. Kerala has an important role in production, processing, and export of cashew. The export of cashew kernels from Kerala decreased to 15495 MT in 2024-25, from 22753 MT in 2023-24, registering a negative growth of 31.8 per cent over the same period last year (**Table 5.4.4**).

Table 5.4.4 Export of cashew kernels, 2017-18 to 2024-25, in Rs crore

Year	Kerala		India		Share of Kerala (in %)	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs crore)	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs crore)	Quantity (MT)	Value
2017-18	36,930	2,580.40	84,352	5,871.00	43.8	44
2018-19	29,062	1,892.60	66,693	4,434.00	43.6	42.7
2019-20	30,478	1,742.50	67,647	3,867.20	45.1	45.1
2020-21	*23,368	NA	49,992	2,907	46.7	NA
2021-22	*24,299	NA	53,770	3,175.20	45.2	NA
2022-23	*21,858	NA	44,948	2,718	48.6	NA
2023-24	*22753	NA	46,235	2,620.20	49.2	NA
2024-25	*15495	NA	37,087	2473.11	41.78	NA

Source: Cashew Export Promotion Council of India/* Cochin Port Trust

Table 5.4.5 Composition of Export of major Cashew items from India for 2023-24 and 2024-25 Quantity in kilograms and Value in Rs Lakh

Product	2023-24		2024-25	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Cashew kernel, whole	45,625907	258820	35996613	240572
Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried in shell	18,955753	17839	27466253	37631
Purified and distilled cashew shell liquid (CNSL), Cardanol	9,714102	6,119	7525914	5407
Cashew nut shell liquid (CNSL), crude	3,508170	1,602	971727	672
Cashew kernel, broken	608592	3,201	1087573	6739
Cashew nut, Roasted and/or salted	2,548121	18,898	3004567	20102
Total	80,960645	3,06,479	76052647	311123

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics

After Ivory Coast, India is the second largest producer and exporter of cashew nuts with a share of more than 15 per cent, followed by Vietnam in the world's cashew export. United Arab Emirates (UAE) continued to be the largest export market for Indian cashews followed by, Japan, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Qatar, Kuwait, USA, and Germany. India primarily exports Cashew Kernels with small quantities of Cashew Nut Shell Liquid. The composition of export of major cashew items from India is detailed in **Table 5.4.5**.

The export of cashew nuts kernel whole and Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried in Shell together contribute 63462866 kilograms of export volume and 278203 lakhs value in 2024-25. This was 64581660 kilograms in 2023-24 with the value of Rs 276659 lakhs. The export of cashew items Cashew kernel, whole, Purified and distilled cashew shell liquid (CNSL), Cardanol, Cashew nut

shell liquid (CNSL), crude from India shows an decreasing trend in both volume and value. Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried in shell, Cashew kernel, broken and Cashew nut, Roasted and/or salted shows an increasing trend in both volume and value in 2024-25.

Department of commerce

Import of Cashew kernel, whole & Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried in Shell together constitute 1146393023Kgs in 2024-25. This was 1254848433 Kgs in the previous year. For the same items, the value of import was Rs 1402432 lakhs in 2024-25 and Rs 1181836 lakhs in 2023-24 (**Table 5.4.6**). It shows a negative growth in quantity import of Cashew kernel, whole & Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried in Shell. Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Guinea Bissau, Benin, Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, etc. were the major import sources of raw cashew nuts.

Table 5.4.6 Composition of Import of major Cashew items from India for 2023-24 and 2024-25 Quantity in kilograms and Value in Rs Lakh

Product	2023-24		2024-25	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
Cashew Nuts Fresh/Dried In Shell	1251321856	1163263	1141577600	1374209
Cashew kernel, whole	3,526577	18573	4815423	28223
Cashew Nut Shell Liquid (CNSL), crude	5,132723	1842	11203770	3773
Cashew kernel, broken	247273	970	1259903	5179
Cashew nut, Roasted and/or salted	103567	718	128912	529
Purified and distilled Cashew shell liquid (CNSL), Cardanol	0	0	500000	169
Total	12,60,331996	11,85,366	1159485608	1412082

Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industry,

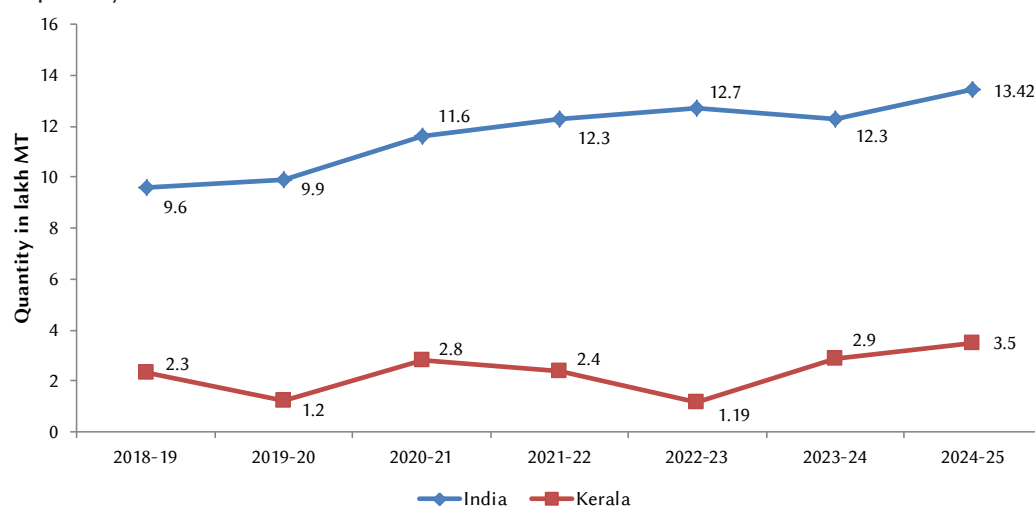
Export of Coir and Coir Products

The export of coir and coir products from India is 1342843 MT in volume and the value is Rs 4,34,345.15 lakhs. This is 8.9 per cent growth over the previous year's export of 1232097 MT of coir and coir products. The export of coir and coir products from Kerala through Cochin Port showed an increasing trend in 2024-25. The quantity exported through Cochin Port in 2024-25 was 351471 MT and recorded a positive growth of 18.68 per cent over the previous year. The export of coir and coir products through Cochin Port in 2023-24 was 296137 MT.

The available records of item wise export of coir products in 2024-25 show that exports of coir yarn,

handloom mat, tufted mat, power loom matting, coir geotextiles, coir rugs & carpets and coir pits from India registered growth both in terms of quantity and value, whereas, curled coir and coir other sorts showed a decline in terms of quantity and value. Handloom matting show growth in terms of quantity and decline in terms of value. Coir piths with export earnings of Rs 821264.4 lakhs constituted 61.15 per cent of the total export of coir products from the country. Tufted mats products, constituted 5.5 per cent in quantity and 16.73 per cent in terms of value. Coir fibre with an export value of Rs 52399.36 lakhs constituted 27.66 per cent in quantity of total coir products and 12.06 per cent in value respectively.

Figure 5.4.6 Export trend of coir and coir products from India and Kerala (through Cochin Port), 2018-19 to 2024-25, quantity in lakh MT



Source: Coir Board and Cochin Port Trust

In 2024-25, 121 countries exported coir and coir products from India. China topped among the exporting countries with 37.81 per cent in quantity and 22.1 per cent in value. The export trend of coir and coir products from India and Kerala is given the **Figure 5.4.6**.

Export of Tea

The export of tea from India in 2024-25 was 257874 MT and the value for export was Rs 750352 lakh. This shows increase from 250724 MT and a value of Rs 647638 lakhs in 2023-24. This shows 2.85 per cent growth in quantity exported and 15.85 per cent growth in value generated.

The major export market was the Russian Federation followed by Iran, Saudi Arabia, USA, and UAE. Export of tea from Kerala ports in 2024-25 is 81747 MT worth Rs 187097 lakhs from 87649 MT worth Rs 187766 lakhs in 2023-24 registering a growth of -6.73 per cent in terms of quantity and -0.35 per cent in terms of value. (**Table 5.4.7**).

Export of Coffee

In 2024-25, a total quantity of 3.88 lakh tonne of coffee worth Rs 15421.87crores was exported from India as against 3.83 lakh Tonne of coffee worth Rs 10380.04 crores in 2023-24. Italy, Germany, Russian Federation and the Belgium are the major importers of coffee from India. The export of coffee from through Cochin port in 2024-25 was 19402 MT registered a growth of -43.29 per cent over the previous year.

Export of Spices

In 2024-25, the export of spices and spice products from India was 17,99,267 MT valued Rs 39,99,448 lakhs as compared to 15,39,692 MT valued Rs 36,95,880.50 lakhs in the previous year. This registers an increase of 16.85 per cent in volume and an increase in value by 8.2 per cent. The export of spices from Kerala in 2024-25 was 1,35,193.37 tonnes and the value of export was Rs 7,85,153.72 lakh. This shows an increase in quantity traded by 13.2 per cent and value by 22.47 per cent over the previous year. (**Table 5.4.8**).

Table 5.4.7 Export of tea from Kerala and India 2020-21 to 2024-25, quantity in MT , Rs In lakhs

Year	India		Kerala	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2020-21	203791	531153	70398	156595
2021-22	200785	541577	64854	146841
2022 -23	228397	638581	69107	153179
2023-24	250724	647638	87649	187766
2024-25	257874	750352	81747	187097

Source: Tea Board

Table 5.4.8 Export of spices, India and Kerala, from 2018-19 to 2024-25, quantity in MT and value in Rs lakh

Year	Kerala		India		Kerala's share (per cent)	
	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (Rs lakh)	Quantity (in tonnes)	Value (Rs lakh)	Quantity	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2018-19	89,590.80	3,78,560.40	11,00,250	19,50,581.10	8.1	19.4
2019-20	1,00,195.80	4,05,421.30	12,08,400	22,06,280.00	8.3	18.4
2020-21	1,21,348.90	5,00,633.60	17,58,266	30,96,771	6.9	16.2
2021-22	1,23,547.93	5,66,643.60	15,30,661	30,32,432.40	8.1	18.5
2022-23	1,11,080.13	5,51,521.02	14,04,357	31,76,138.20	7.9	17.36
2023-24	1,19,433.95	6,41,092.88	15,39,692	36,95,880.50	7.75	17.34
2024-25	1,35,193.37	7,85,153.72	17,99,267	39,99,448.00	7.51	19.63

Source: Spices Board

The export basket of spices and spice products from India includes about 225 spices and its products. The exports of chilli, cumin, spice oil & oleoresins, mint products, turmeric, curry powder/paste, cardamom (small), ginger and pepper, Fennel and coriander altogether contribute more than 90 per cent of the total export earnings from spices. In 2024-25, the export of spices like coriander, other seeds, nutmeg & mace have shown a decrease both in quantity and value compared to the previous year. Garlic and mint products have shown increase in value despite decrease in quantity exported.

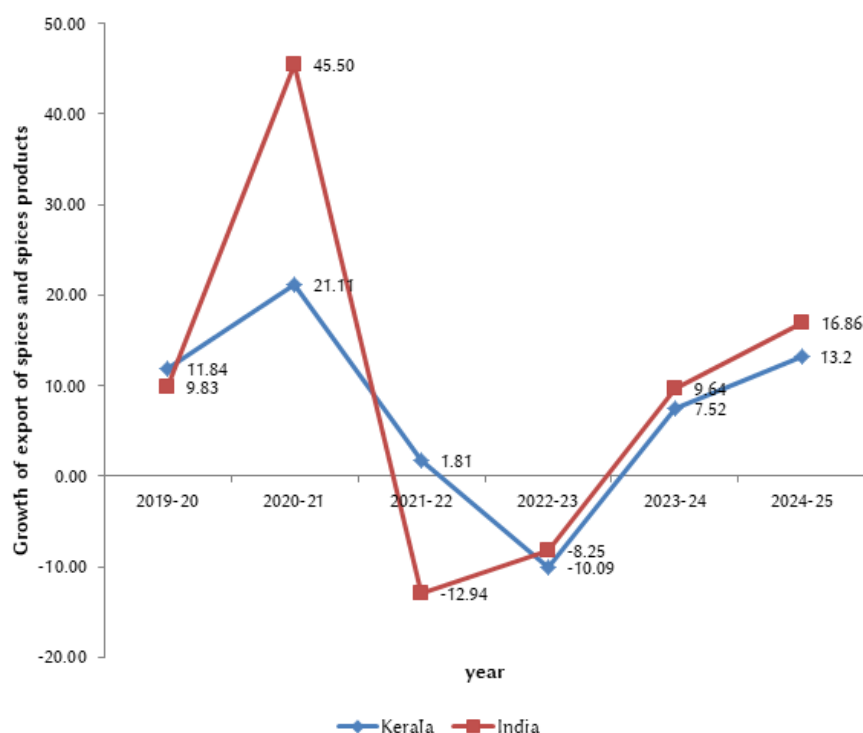
China is the largest importer followed by the USA, UAE, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Thailand, UK, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, , Sri Lanka, , Germany, Netherlands, Canada, Nepal, and the, which accounts for 74 per cent of exports of spices from India.

Kerala's export of spices and spice products, in quantitative terms, showed an increasing trend in 2019-20 and 2020-21. A decline was registered during the year 2021-22. The year

2022-23 registered a negative growth of (-)10.09 and registered a positive growth of 7.52 for the year 2023-24, In 2024-25, the export of spices registered a growth of 13.2. With regard to India's exports in spices shows negative growth for two consecutive years of 2021-22 and 2022-23 and then it shows a positive growth during the year 2023-24 (9.64 per cent). The growth of export of spices further increased to 16.86 in 2024-25. Figure 5.4.7 depicts the trend in the growth of exports of spices and spice products from India and Kerala.

In 2024-25, the export of individual spice like nutmeg/mace from Kerala showed a decrease both in volume and value as compared to the previous year. A total volume of 33403.21 tonnes of chillies valued Rs 97330.28 lakh was exported from Kerala in 2024-25 as against 28867.18 tonnes valued Rs 90629.2 lakhs in 2023-24. Export of mint oil 76.88 tonnes valued Rs 3475.50 lakhs in 2024-25 shows an increase from 29.01 tonnes valued Rs 644.62 lakhs from the previous year. The export of pepper increased to 16831.04 MT valued Rs 89290.03 lakhs in 2024-25 as against

Figure 5.4.7 Trend in the growth of export of spices, India and Kerala, from 2019-20 to 2024-25, quantity in MT and value in Rs lakh



Source: Spices board

15567.96 MT valued Rs 64981.96 lakhs in 2023-24. In the case of value-added products export of curry powder and spice oil & oleores products showed an increase in volume and value in 2024-25 in terms of quantity as compared to 2023-24. Export of curry powder in 2023-24 was 18662.98 tonnes valued Rs 50447.50 lakhs which rose to 22499.81 tonnes valued Rs 62234.21lakhs in 2024-25 recording an increase in volume and value of export. Export of spice oils & oleores products in 2023-24 was 10587.22 tonnes valued Rs 263676.67 lakhs which rose to 12347.54 tonnes valued Rs 303617.36lakhs in 2024-25 recording an increase in volume and value of export.

5.5 PUBLIC SERVICES

SURVEY AND LAND RECORDS

Effective land administration is central to good governance and involves protecting land rights while ensuring transparent and efficient services for buying, owning, mortgaging, selling, and transferring land. Strong land governance supports social equity, social harmony, and economic development. Accurate and secure digital land records are a basic requirement for sustainable development.

Resurvey operations have been completed in 922 villages out of 1666 villages by 2025. The work is being carried out using modern technologies such as continuously operating reference stations and real time kinematic rovers. These technologies have improved the accuracy and efficiency of land surveys. The continuously operating reference station (CORS) network includes 28 stations across Kerala and has transformed survey methods by improving speed and precision. The network supports data processing, storage, and distribution from all reference stations in the State. Kerala has established a dedicated control centre to support digital surveys. This centre ensures uninterrupted survey operations even when the main control centre of the Survey of India faces technical disruptions.

The Digital Land Survey of Kerala is an e-governance initiative aimed at modernising land administration. The project focuses on protecting land ownership, enabling user friendly transactions, and generating error free digital land records.

Objectives include conducting a comprehensive land survey, providing accurate land parcel maps including pre mutation sketches, and integrating revenue, survey, and registration systems through a single portal called ILIMS. The programme also aims to establish a conclusive titling system with records of rights and create a multipurpose cadastral database for government functions such as disaster management.

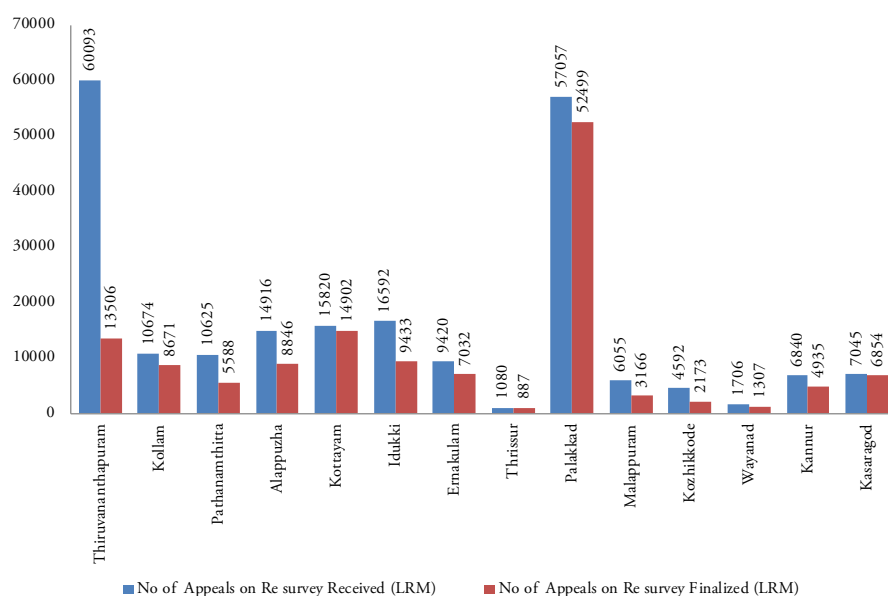
Details of resurvey from 2021 to 2025 (up to August 31, 2025) are given in **Appendix 5.5.1**. The Department also acts as the authority on resurvey appeals and Land Acquisition (LA) appeals. Out of 2, 22,515 appeals on resurvey, 1, 39,799 cases (62.83 per cent) has been finalized in 2024. **Figure 5.5.1** shows the District-wise details of resurvey appeals received and finalized. Details of resurvey appeals received and finalized during 2024 are shown in **Appendix 5.5.2**.

The Survey Department imparts training to IAS officers and officials of Revenue Department, Survey Department and Deputy Collectors. Details of training imparted are shown in **Appendix 5.5.3**.

Progress in the Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS)

Apart from the digital survey, an Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS) is being developed through the 'Ente Bhoomi' initiative to provide a single-window service for citizens in all land transactions. ILIMS will serve as a comprehensive, one-step online platform, minimizing manual intervention and integrating

Figure 5.5.1 District-wise number of Re-survey appeals received and finalized in 2024



Source: Directorate of Survey and Land Records

land services across the Registration, Revenue, and Survey Departments. Through ILIMS, landowners will have access to accurate, authentic, and continuously updated land mapping services, including spatial and textual data and land sketches. Key components like the digital land survey, ILIMS, the settlement system, and the Record of Rights (RoR) are crucial steps toward achieving the state's goal of 'conclusive land titling.' Testing of the ILIMS module is nearing completion, and its formal launch is anticipated shortly.

Digitisation of Legacy Land Records

The digitization of land records is a crucial step in modernizing land administration, with legacy maps serving as a reference layer for the Digital Land Survey. To support this process, all cadastral land records are being digitized and uploaded to the 'Ente Bhoomi' portal. This allows easy access for accurate and updated land information. In addition, the public can purchase legacy maps through the portal to meet their needs, ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in land transactions and management.

Details of digitalization of survey records are given in **Appendix 5.5.4**. The existing land records are scanned and kept in digital form. In 2023 and 2024 the number of Field Measurement Book (FMB) scanned are 11,583 and 2,78,973 respectively. In 2025, the number of Field Measurement Book (FMB) scanned are 3,19,444.

The Digital Survey Project in Kerala commenced by August 2023. Under the Digital Resurvey Project (Ente Bhoomi Project), field surveys have already been completed in 336 villages, and published Section 9(2) of the Survey & Boundaries Act 1961. Survey work is progressing rapidly in an additional of 185 villages. In this period, over 8.08 lakh hectares of land, covering 59.2 lakh land parcels, have been measured using advanced survey equipment such as RTK (Real-Time Kinematic) and RETS (Robotic Electronic Total Stations)

The Ente bhoomi portal is an initiative of the Government of Kerala intended to provide all land related services to the public through online. The "Ente Bhoomi" Portal, developed by the National Informatics Centre, is a key component of Kerala's digital survey programme, utilizing advanced survey infrastructure such as Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS), Real-Time Kinematic (RTK) Rovers, Robotic Total Stations, and Tablet PCs. By learning from past resurvey experiences, the programme ensures that survey records are meticulously prepared using an entirely IT-based approach. The "Ente Bhoomi" portal (<https://entebhoomi.kerala.gov.in>) serves as an end-to-end solution for managing all activities related to the digital survey. It offers several benefits, including access to legacy survey data for surveyors, eliminating the need for physical visits to collect records, and enabling paperless operations that contribute to environmental

sustainability. The portal also provides real-time information to landowners during field surveys, allowing them to access crucial details about their properties, while citizens can verify their records online without visiting Government offices. Additionally, the portal includes a complaint resolution feature for addressing land-related discrepancies and ensures easy future updates due to its digital format. Integration with other government departments further enhances collaboration and data sharing, making the system adaptable and efficient. The progress in the first two phases of “Ente Bhoomi” portal is given in **Appendix 5.5.5** and **5.5.6**.

REGISTRATION

The main objective of law of registration is to provide a conclusive proof of genuineness of document, afford publicity to transaction, prevent fraud, afford facility for ascertaining whether a property has already been transacted and afford security of title deeds and facility of providing titles in case the original deeds are lost or destroyed. It is also mandated to facilitate registration of documents and preserving evidentiary records relating to deeds, special marriages, chits, societies and partnership firms. It also has the specific duty of permanently preserving these records so that authentic certified copies can be made in the future. At present registration is the 3rd largest source of revenue to the State exchequer. The Department had successfully implemented e-payment system for the collection of registration fee. In 2024-25, the department collected a total of Rs 1456.64 crore as document registration fee. Out of this Rs 941.08 crore is for sale conveyance which is the major component. Details of documents registered during 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 5.5.7** and details of fees collected during 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 5.5.8**.

It maintains extensive records and indexes, and manages the preservation, recopying, and production of records for legal purposes. Permanent record preservation is vital for legal, administrative, and financial functions, with systematic procedures in place for recording, storage, repair, and archiving to maintain authenticity over time. The department provides essential services such as issuing certified copies, granting encumbrance certificates to facilitate safe and transparent transactions. Through consistent verification and accountability, the department upholds legal certainty, prevents fraud

and reinforces public confidence in document authenticity and ownership rights.

The major achievements under Registration during 2024-25 are as follows.

- Implemented E-stamp facility for all denominations related to non-judicial purposes.
- Installation of the new Android e-pos machines for enabling cashless payment has been completed in all Sub Registrar Offices in the State.
- The e-payment facility has been implemented for all Chitty related fees on the Coral website and the implementation of e-payment for all other services is nearing completion.
- A new project aimed to develop and deploy a comprehensive web application designed to manage online chit fund operations in the state of Kerala and to facilitate reliable access to financial services via Chit Fund/Kuries operations is in progress.
- The procedures for welfare related services (sale of welfare stamp, monthly subscription towards welfare fund etc.) have been made paperless and the payments thereof have been made cashless.
- The template based registration of document through Ente Bhoomi Portal has been successfully completed in Ujjar Ulwar village under Badhiyidukka Sub Registrar Office of Kasaragod District and this project will be expanded to other offices where digital survey has been completed and the system is optimized.
- The scanning of old registered deeds since 1968 in 4 districts, 1988 in 5 districts and 1998 in 5 districts has been completed. Conservation of old brittle volumes is also under process with the technical support of C-Dit.
- The document registration details since 1980 is available online through search facility to Citizens.
- The process of online registration has now available in the Ente Bhoomi portal. Integration with various other systems such as Relis, PAN validation permission has already done.

Revenue Department – e-governance initiatives

Under the aegis of Revenue Department, the State provides public service delivery and managing

a wide spectrum of high-priority services that directly impact citizen's lives. Ensuring simple, transparent, and cost-effective service delivery is fundamental to good governance and demands an efficient, citizen-centric administration. To achieve this, the department is committed to leveraging advanced digital technologies, strengthening IT infrastructure, and adopting forward-looking strategies that align with Kerala's vision for e-Governance excellence. The agencies comprises the Land Revenue Department (LRD), Directorate of Survey and Land Records (DSLRL), State Land Board (SLB), and Institute of Land and Disaster Management (ILDM), all working cohesively to safeguard public resources and deliver essential services.

The Revenue Department of Kerala, one of the oldest and most vital administrative arms of the State Government, plays a central role in land administration, disaster management, and citizen service delivery. As the custodian of public land and the primary agency responsible for maintaining land records, the Department serves as the foundation of governance, supporting every sphere of development—from infrastructure and environmental conservation to welfare and relief.

The Department's activities encompass land conservancy, land acquisition, land assignment, and land conversion. It also oversees critical citizen-centric functions such as land tax collection, social security pension (Cancer/ Leprosy/Tuberculosis) distribution, disaster relief, grievance redressal, and implementation of major government schemes. Every initiative aligns with the Department's guiding vision "Land for All, Record for All Land, and All Services Smart."

Towards Building a Sustainable Revenue Model: Digital Transformation and Financial Self-Sufficiency

Citizens can apply for social service pensions, submit grievances, and pay building taxes online. The www.revenue.kerala.gov.in portal enables any citizen worldwide to check land status, ensuring transparency for buyers and sellers. The revenue administration has achieved full e-office implementation, through dedicated internet connections, High-bandwidth KFON networks. The Electronic Mortgage Recorder is now fully operational, generating revenue for the government.

The important e-governance activities are collection of land tax, land conservation, revenue recovery, building tax and additional tax etc. The important Citizen e-services are relief, Covid Ex-Gratia Payment, Covid BPL Pension, Endosulfan Victim Compensation, Social Security Pension, Tharam Mattam, Online Mutation, Land Related Certificates, Revenue Mithram, Pravasi Mithram, Pattayam Module etc.

Other services

The Electronic Mortgage Recorder (EMR) is an online system that records loan details in the Revenue Land Information System, for a prescribed fee, when land is mortgaged to banks. This system enables banks to record the liability of the loan on the respective land parcel and also to remove the recorded liability when the loan is cleared. The module has been completed and is being used by various SLBC banks since 10.07.2024.

Aadhaar Linking of Land Parcel: It is an e-Governance facility for land parcel owners to link their land parcel with their Aadhaar number.

Tharam Mattam: An online facility introduced for citizens to apply for various provisions associated with the Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008 through the web portal, www.revenue.kerala.gov.in. The ReLIS portal now allows the public to search for and access land information without logging in Land Acquisition Management System (www.lams.revenue.kerala.gov.in).

Given Kerala's high population density, acquiring land for development activities is essential. Land acquisition for public purposes is crucial for community advancement and national development. The government's acquisition of land for infrastructure like roads, railways, healthcare, education, and drinking water greatly benefits society. To enhance the speed and efficiency of land acquisition processes, ensure transparency, and accurately compensate landowners and affected families, an online portal has been developed as part of the Land Acquisition Management System. This system provides real-time updates on the land acquisition process and allows landowners to raise issues and seek resolutions.

ILIMS-The Integrated Land Information

Management System (ILIMS) is a vital project of the State Government, which constitutes a comprehensive, unified system for land-related information by integrating the software applications of the Revenue (ReLIS), Survey ('Ente Bhoomi'), and Registration (PEARL) Departments. Numerous services, including land transfer, registration templates, assessment of land tax, auto-mutation, and fair value determination, will now be accessible through a single portal. This ensures efficiency, speed, transparency, and security in transactions for the public, while eliminating the need for visits to multiple offices.

Excise

The State Excise plays a crucial role in generating State Revenue. The Excise Department is responsible for enforcing laws related to liquor, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and medicinal preparations containing alcohol and narcotic drugs etc. The State has 69 Excise Circle Offices, 138 Excise Range Offices, 39 check posts and 19 special squads. 'Vimukthi' is one of the important programmes being implemented for the eradication of substance abuse. All the licensing services are now available online and have been successfully integrated with e-payment. It detects cases related to Abkari Act 1950, Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act 1985 and Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (COTPA) (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003. The Excise Department has implemented e-payment and e-licensing facilities.

The Government of Kerala launched the Vimukthi Mission in October 2016 to raise awareness among adolescents and youth about the dangers of drug abuse and promote a 'Lahari Muktha Kerala'. Major initiatives include anti-narcotic clubs in schools and colleges, 'Nerkkoottam' and 'Sraddha' committees, the 'Unarv' project, and student competitions.

Major highlights of Vimukthi Mission are as follows.

- Setup 14 de-addiction centres in 14 districts
- Each de-addiction centre is attached to District/Taluk Hospitals.
- Each de-addiction centre is staffed by a Medical Officer (MBBS), a Clinical Psychologist, a Psychiatric Social Worker etc.
- Separate de-addiction facilities for women

and children are available at the Neyyattinkara District Hospital in Thiruvananthapuram and the Government Beach Hospital in Kozhikode.

- Setup three zonal counseling centres viz; Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode Districts. These centres provide counseling both in person and over telephone.
- Toll free number 14405 is available for counseling with specific interventions for minor NDPS cases involving individuals under 21 years.
- Presently 5862 Anti-Narcotic Clubs in Schools and 890 Anti-Narcotic Clubs in Colleges.
- As a first step to eliminate the possibility of drug use among students at the college level, a committee named "Nerkkoottam" under the leadership of the Principal/Vice Principal and a committee named "Sraddha" in college hostels have been formed in all the colleges and hostels.
- In 2024-25, 1020 "Nerkkoottam" and 512 "Sraddha" committees were formed.
- The 'Laharimuktha Gramam' initiative focuses on integrating tribal and coastal communities into mainstream society while addressing health problems caused by drug use. The project includes sports training, library facilities, career guidance, and parallel education promotion.
- A key aspect of 'Laharimuktha Gramam' initiative is the "Parallel Education Promotion and Career Development (PSC Training)" project, led by the Vimukthi Mission. This project aims to provide career opportunities and employment to educated students from tribal and coastal regions, thereby integrating them into society.
- Government jobs have been secured for 38 individuals who participated in career development/PSC training conducted by the Excise Department/Vimukthi Mission through Janmaithri Excise Offices in Idukki, Palakkad, Malappuram, and Wayanad districts.
- Mini fitness centres have been established in Kollam, Idukki, Thrissur, Malappuram, Wayanad, and Kannur districts
- As part of the awareness activities, two handbooks have been prepared titled "Karuthal" for parents to create awareness and "Kavacham" to educate students. There are 75000 books of Kavacham & 75000 books of Karuthal have been already distributed. 50000 books of Karuthal & 50000 books of

Kavacham have been printed and distributed in districts in 2025.

- As part of the 5th phase of 'No to Drugs' campaign, district-level essay writing competition was organized for high school students, seminar and anti-drug pledge were organized for college students. A flash mob competition against drug abuse was organized at the district level for college students in all 14 districts.
- In collaboration with SCERT, a handbook titled "Thelivanam varaikkunnavar" has been prepared for children and 25,000 copies have been distributed to schools. An additional 3000 copies of the book have been printed and distributed in the 2025-26 academic year.

The Kerala Excise Department has a dedicated wing called the Excise Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EI&IB), which is crucial for enforcement activities related to liquor and narcotic laws in the State. The wing is responsible for collecting secret information regarding the manufacture of illicit liquor and illicit trafficking of drugs to facilitate timely action. Preventing illicit liquor production, sale, and trafficking, as well as enforcing laws related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances are its duties. It is also entrusted with ensuring the protection, augmentation, and collection of excise revenue and preventing leakage of the same.

In 2025, based on the information provided by the Excise Intelligence Bureau, 2822 cases were recovered and 2366 accused were arrested. A total of 1555 liters of spirit, 27,121 liters of wash, 620 liters of illicit liquor, 417 kg of cannabis, 214 cannabis plants, 1417 grams of intoxicated narcotic drugs, and 3497 kg of tobacco products were recovered.

The Excise Crime Branch is an investigative agency

with an investigation scope covering the entire State. The main duties of the Excise Crime Branch are to investigate important Excise/NDPS cases which are assigned by the Government of Kerala, Excise Commissioner and authorized courts and are found in the Excise Department, and to file charge sheets in the court in a time-bound manner and to take further action on the cases.

Since the formation of the Excise Crime Branch, the Excise Commissioner has assigned 135 cases for investigation, out of which final reports have been submitted to the courts in 113 cases. In 13 cases where final reports have been submitted, the accused have been convicted. The highest conviction rate (97%) among the investigative agencies in India is in cases investigated by the Excise Crime Branch.

The numbers of Abkari cases in the State were 19,016 in 2023 and 19,419 in 2024, it reduced by 14,356 in 2025. The highest number of cases is reported in Kottayam District (1474). With respect to NDPS cases in 2025, there is an increase in the rate (5.66 per cent) compared to previous year. The NDPS cases were recorded highest decline as compared to 2024 in Wayanad District (-) 26.09 per cent. In case of COTPA cases, an overall decrease of 20.93 per cent was recorded in the State. The highest number of cases is reported in Thiruvananthapuram District (7790). In 2025 (from January 01, 2025 to August 31, 2025), it registered 14,356 cases under Abkari act, 8,622 cases under NDPS Act and 57,949 cases on COTPA. It was 19,419 & 8,160 and 73,281 respectively in 2024. District-wise case details for the year 2023, 2024 and 2025 are in **Appendix 5.5.9**. Percentage change over previous year (i.e. 2023 and 2024) in number of cases detected by Excise Department under COTPA, NDPS, Abkari Act are given in **Appendix 5.5.10**.

5.5.1 Details of new initiatives, success stories and innovative projects of Excise Department

In connection with the Kerala Government's anti-drug campaign "No to Drugs", the Excise Department and Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA) jointly organized a drug awareness campaign on August 30, 2025. "Nashamukt Nyaya Abhiyan" is a project launched to create awareness among students and youth about legal awareness, cooperation and intervention in drug-related issues. This programme is organized by Vimukthi Mission and a joint effort of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA), Kerala Legal Service Authority (KeLSA) and the Government of Kerala. Kerala is the first State to implement this National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) scheme.

Source: KINFRA

The department seizes and destroys contrabands from various illegal sources. It includes spirit, arrack, Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), toddy, arishtam, ganja and ganja powder. District-wise details of contrabands seized and destroyed for the year 2025 (up to 31.08.2025) is given in **Appendix 5.5.11**.

Excise department conducts public awareness campaign for schools, colleges and for public. A total of 1, 07,577 awareness campaigns were conducted in 2025 (up to August 31, 2025). It was 91,504 in 2024. District-wise and sector-wise details are given in **Appendix 5.5.12**.

Gaps and challenges in the sector and the way forward

The Excise Department faces challenges such as insufficient staff, lack of vehicles, vast jurisdiction, outdated weapons, and poor communication systems. In contrast, drug and liquor mafias utilize modern weapons and communication technologies for their illegal activities. To address these issues, the department is working to provide modern facilities and upgrades.

Police

The Kerala Police Department is the law enforcement agency responsible for maintaining law and order and crime investigation in the state of Kerala. This has a reputation for being one of the best-managed state police forces in the country. It has different wings, such as the General Executive Wing, Crime Branch, Armed Police, State Crime Record Bureau, Training Wing, Special Branch and 11 specialized wings. The specialized wings include Forensic Science Laboratory, State Women Cell, Traffic and Road Safety Management Unit, Watch and Ward, Coastal Security Unit, Anti-Terrorist Squad, Temple Police, Tourism Police, Mounted Police Unit, Dog Squad, and Police Band. The general executive wing works among the people and it has headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram, North and South Zones, four police ranges and 20 police Districts and one Railway District. The police force plays a vital role in ensuring woman safety and cyber security, involvement in various social security portfolios like Community Policing, Student Police Cadet Project, Child Friendly Police Stations, usage of upgraded professional technologies etc. Current trends in policing include the rise of smart policing technologies like AI and predictive analytics, and the ongoing evolution of community and civilian-based strategies.

Gender Sensitive Schemes

The Department implements gender sensitive schemes. It has 14 Pink Control Rooms and 31 counseling centres. The Pink Patrol System aimed to prevent crimes against women, and Pink Control Rooms are functioning in all districts round the clock. Self-defense training was imparted to more number of women. Nirbhaya volunteers were entrusted for assisting the police stations to ensure security of women. In order to protect the women in public, private and digital space, Pink Protection Project has been introduced in the State. “Women Self Defence Training Programme” is a unique initiative of Kerala Police under the Community Policing Project. As a confidence building measure and to integrate the women in society to fight against atrocities with confidence, Janamaithri Suraksha Project (JMSP) has forwarded and implemented the project to provide self- defense training to women and young girls in all districts. There are 205 Nirbhaya Volunteers working along with the Police Department. Community policing under the “Janamaithri” project was expanded. Its initiatives, which are led by trained beat officers, include awareness campaigns for traffic rules (Subhayathra), drug abuse prevention (Navodayam), and women and child safety (Sthree Suraksha Sandesam). Details of gender sensitive schemes is given in **Appendix 5.5.13**.

Women Police Stations were set up in all Revenue districts except Wayanad. A woman Police Battalion was also established in the State. Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) has been established in the State. Public can request for emergency assistance by dialing to the Emergency Number 112. Swift and effective police assistance is ensured through this system. Janamaithri Suraksha Project is being implemented in all the Police Stations across the State. Among the total of 502 police stations, 485 have been converted as Janamaithri police stations. There are 6,500 men and 2,552 women in Janamaithri Suraksha Samithi. Details of community policing scheme is given in **Appendix 5.5.14**.

Child Friendly Schemes

In order to ensure the well-being of children, so many projects and programmes are implemented by Kerala Police. The “Hope” project was conceived as a collaborative effort of Kerala Police and Civil Society to enhance the confidence, self-worthiness and skills of children who fail/drop out

of schools before successful completion of XII standard. At least 50 Children are being selected from each District and brought back to the main stream by providing psycho social support and tuition on weak subjects etc. They are being trained in livelihood earning skill development also. This project, which rehabilitates student dropouts, expanded during the 2024–25 academic year. It enabled 1,426 students to resume their formal education and helped 4,364 students to pass public examinations. Children's Happiness and Innocence Rejoicing Initiative (CHIRI) project has been launched for ensuring the well-being of children, identifying and addressing their behavioral, emotional, interpersonal, learning and somatic challenges. The project aimed at developing a mental health support system with the collective intervention of relevant stakeholders responsible for the care and protection of children.

In order to create an invisible wall of protection around every child, Children and Police (CAP) activities are initiated in the State. Child Friendly Police Stations (CFPS) are Police Stations that demonstrate child friendliness in attitude, ambience, infrastructure, procedure and enforcement. They facilitate partnership, functions as Knowledge Hubs and perform as strict enforcers of Child related Laws. Now 141 Child Friendly Police Stations are functioning in Kerala. CAP house will be responsible for the supervision and overall coordination of the activities of CFPS. The Department has developed a three-tier mechanism at the State, District and Police Station levels for monitoring the juvenile justice issues. 'Koottu' is a prestigious child safety initiative by Kerala Police, setting up with the help of Bachpan Bachavo Andolan (BBA) to enable secure cyber space for children.

Student Police Cadet (SPC) Project

The Student Police Cadet (SPC) Project is a school-based initiative by Kerala Police, implemented jointly by the Departments of Home and Education, and supported by Departments of Transport, Forest, Excise and Local Self-Government. The project trains high school students in the fields of law, discipline and civic sense, and encourages students to develop empathy for vulnerable sections of society. It also strengthens commitment towards family, community, and the environment, enabling them to resist negative tendencies such as substance abuse, deviant behaviour, intolerance, and other

social evils. The Project was launched on August 2, 2010 in 127 High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools across Kerala. The SPC programme celebrated its 15th anniversary in August 2025 with various functions, including the release of a special e-magazine on the SPC's social welfare activities. Presently, there are 87,547 cadets in 1048 schools in which SPC is implemented. Out of 1048 schools, 542 are Government schools, 486 are aided schools and 20 are unaided schools. Details of schools with SPC are shown in **Appendix 5.5.15** and district wise details of SPC project implemented in schools is shown in **Appendix 5.5.16**.

The Kerala Police have established Digital De-Addiction Centres in 6 City Police districts i.e. Thiruvananthapuram City, Kollam City, Kochi City, Thrissur City, Kozhikode City and Kannur City for effectively dealing with the unhealthy behavioral deviations emanated among the children due to the excessive screen time and enhanced internet usage. The 'Kerala Police Blood Bank' is functioning in the State from 2021 onwards to cater the Blood requirements in emergency cases inside and outside the Department.

The Kerala Police made specific achievements focused on technological advancements, community policing, cyber-crime investigation, and infrastructure modernization. The Kerala Police collaborated with hackers to develop artificial intelligence (AI) tools for tracking offenders and removing harmful content from the dark web. The tools convert illicit videos and images into encrypted digital hash tags, which allow authorities to trace and remove them without accessing the original content. The Kerala Police Cyber dome, which received its ISO 27001 certification consecutively for at least four years, oversaw a specialized training program for officers. The training prepared them for the integration of new technology into "smart" police stations. A project began in 2024 to transform traditional police stations into smart, digitized facilities. This initiative, which started with 20 stations as models, prioritizes digital systems for handling complaints and using modern technologies for investigations. The electronic verification interface (e-VIP) was implemented to make the passport verification process completely paperless, reducing the time required from up to 20 days to just four days in several districts.

The Kerala Police has implemented several innovative and technology-driven initiatives focused on cyber-security, women's safety, and community engagement. AI-enabled Security Operations Centre (SOC) launched in March 2025, uses artificial intelligence to secure the police department's critical infrastructure. AI Tool for Fraud Detection is an initiative of Kerala Police collaborated with the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) to develop an AI-based tool to automatically analyze websites for threats. The application alerts users about fraudulent sites by examining factors such as IP series, source code, and trust scores. THUNA Citizen Portal is an online portal, introduced in late 2025, allows citizens to register complaints, track progress, and submit anonymous tips without visiting a police station. It also provides online services like requesting character certificates and permission for public events. In September 2024, the police department began rolling out a Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) communication system for law and order and traffic units in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, replacing the older analog system. The department established 'Economic Offences Wing' in the State for the investigation of cases involving economic offenses. To improve accountability, a public feedback system was also launched in March 2025. Citizens can rate police services by scanning a QR code at police stations.

NRI Cell

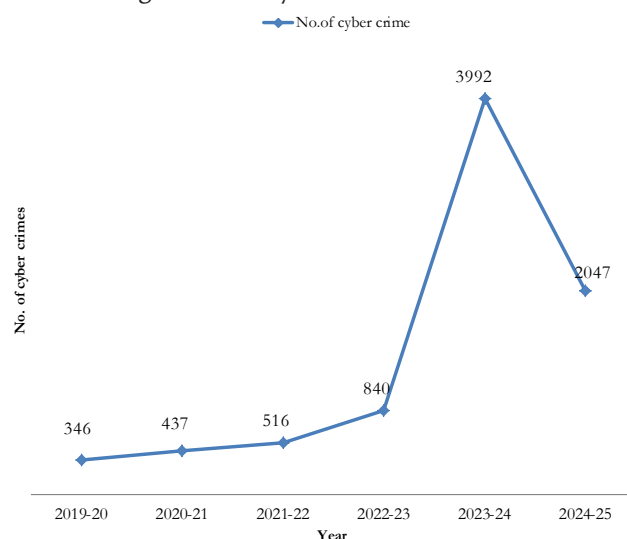
The Kerala Police's NRI Cell, located at Police Headquarters in Thiruvananthapuram, serves Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs) by investigating

complaints like visa fraud, recruitment scams, trafficking, and abuse abroad; NRKs can file complaints via email (spnri.pol@kerala.gov.in) or by calling their 24/7 helpline numbers. The cell, headed by a Superintendent of Police, aims to resolve grievances of NRKs and their families, acting on reports from individuals and authorities. The NRI Cell of Police registered 9 cases in 2024-25. Highest number of NRI cases is reported in Thrissur District (8). Details of cases registered in the State as per direction from NRI cell is shown in **Appendix 5.5.17**. The Cyber and high-tech enquiry cell had registered 885 cases in 2025-26 (up to August 2025), it was 2047 in 2024-25. **Figure 5.5.2** shows the trend of cybercrimes reported during the period from 2019-20 to 2024-25. Online cheating, social media abuse, hacking of bank accounts and e-mail ids, creation, publishing and sharing of child pornography, cyber offences done through smart phones, are the major cyber-crime cases reported during the period under report. The highest number of cases is reported in online cheating (1813 cases) during 2024-25. Details are given in **Appendix 5.5.18**.

Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council, (K-DISC)

The Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council, (K-DISC) is a strategic think-tank and advisory body constituted by the Government of Kerala. K-DISC aims at bringing out path-breaking strategic plans that reflect new directions in technology, product and process innovations, social shaping of technology and creating a healthy and conducive ecosystem for fostering innovations

Figure 5.5.2 Number of Crimes Registered in Cyber Cell from 2019-20 to 2024-25



Source: Police Department

in the State. K-DISC was set up with a vision of “A competitive and inclusive Kerala through creation of a healthy, conducive ecosystem for transformative and bold innovations through new directions in technology, product and process innovations”. The mission of K-DISC can broadly be classified as holistic and quality human development in Kerala, a knowledge centred, technology based local economy with global connect and enhanced inclusion, participation and self-reliance through cutting edge knowledge and technology. In order to achieve this, K-DISC has come up with a programme framework including competency development programmes based on design thinking, and active learning initiatives making Kerala ready for Industry 4.0, and programmes for enhancing inclusion, participation and self-reliance through livelihood strategies. The Innovation framework is modeled on a Quadruple Helix Innovation Ecosystem that brings together Academia, Industry, Government, and civil society. The following are some selected Projects Related to transitioning Kerala to a Knowledge Society,

1.Vijnana Keralam (Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission)

The KKEM program was reviewed in the 2024 and changes were recommended. Based on the recommendations of ‘Nava Kerala Sadas’ 2024, the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission programme has transitioned from its earlier project-based programme to a novel campaign-oriented movement and is rechristened as Vijnana Keralam, led by local self-government bodies with the participation of volunteers, to make it more popular. Vijnana Keralam, a public programme, addressing educated unemployment crisis faced by Kerala empowering communities, bridging skills, and driving Kerala’s journey to a knowledge economy. Educated unemployed persons constituting about 35% of Kerala’s population is the target group covered under the programme. Vijnana Keralam campaign intends to tap new opportunities for value creation and redistribution through new organizational forms linked with the digital platform Digital Workforce Management System (DWMS 2.0) designed in collaboration with Laboratory for Innovation Sciences, Harvard. The Vijnana Keralam programme will proceed mainly through four tracks.

a. Mobilization of job seekers and conduct of job fairs

The first track of Vijnana Keralam is mobilizing job seekers especially women,

fisherfolk, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and conducting job fairs. Through this, the aim is to provide employment to 3-5 lakh people by the end of 2025 implemented in coordination with fisheries, SC/ST and LSG departments, District Panchayat, Block Panchayat and Municipalities.

b.Skill Development Activities

The second track of Vijnana Keralam programme is job relevant skill development. It has two modes a).demand linked skilling is being undertaken with public educational institutions at the centre; b). mentor driven community-based skilling as an alternative to agency-based skilling. The programme aim is to provide job-oriented skill training to two lakh college, polytechnic and ITI students in the next year. Another important activity that is part of Vijnana Keralam is to provide skill training to students and educated job seekers and make them employable. A comprehensive programme is also aimed to be implemented as part of Vijnana Keralam, which will provide skill training/ apprenticeship to final year students studying in engineering colleges, polytechnics, ITIs and other higher educational institutions enabling exposure to actual practice essential for gaining employment at the end of their studies. Institution-based and online skilling initiatives are actively progressing, with 193 institutions functioning as Learning Centres. So far, 14,339 training programmes have been conducted for pilot students, including 5,276 through LinkedIn, 6,328 through Coursera, 1,316 Personality Development Programmes, and 1,419 Employability Training sessions. Thirty-seven academic coordinators have been deployed across all districts, and module development for Higher Order Thinking and Real-World Problem Solving has commenced.

c. Hyper-local job creation

The third track of Vijnana Keralam is hyper-local job creation. Presently, the following category of hyper-local jobs are being focussed viz., care worker, multi-level worker, construction worker and responsible tourism. Local jobs mobilized from micro, small medium and large enterprises in an area is known as hyper-local jobs. Vijnana Keralam programme intends to reduce the share of career break women and increase female work participation rate by mobilizing career break women with local body support and training

those who are willing to undertake to various hyper-local jobs.

d. Recruitment of skilled workers to Gulf and other international recruitment

The fourth track of Vijnana Keralam programme is the recruitment of skilled workers to Gulf and other countries. There has been a workplace transition in Gulf and in other countries emanating from migration of labour from other countries such as Bangladesh, Pakistan, Philippines etc. replacing the jobs of semi-skilled workers migrating from Kerala. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with NORKA to strengthen international employment collaboration. A total of 2,572 overseas job opportunities have been sourced from GCC countries. In summary, as on October, 2025, a total of 238069 placements have been achieved through DWMS, apprenticeships and campus placements and through Kudumbashree interventions.

2. Kerala Genome Data Centre (KGDC)

Steps have been initiated to establish the Government announced Kerala Genome Data Centre, intended to utilize Kerala's biodiversity to create a repository of genetic information of Kerala's fauna and use that information to make effective interventions in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and health. Its detailed project document has been approved by KIIFB. The steps to establish KGDC as a part of Science Park in collaboration with Digital University are progressing rapidly. The KGDC will set up a high-capacity data centre with investment support of KIIFB, capable of storing and processing this pivotal data, while also facilitating access for researchers.

3. Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM)

In collaboration with Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram the steps to establish a Center of Excellence for studying the unique micro biomes associated with animals, fish, organisms and humans are completed. The Centre of Excellence has been transferred successfully to Science Department after completion of initial phase and ensuring project financing through KIIFB.

4. Center of Excellence in Nutraceuticals (CoEN)

A Center of Excellence for preparation of nutraceuticals that can be effectively used for

health and well-being in the pharmaceutical sector, utilizing Kerala's health heritage and biodiversity, has been initiated with the assistance of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC). The Centre of Excellence has been transferred successfully to Science Department after completion of initial phase and ensuring project financing through KIIFB.

5. Carbon Neutral Coffee in Wayanad

The scheme has been introduced to address the problems of coffee farmers in Wayanad and to ensure better prices with the goal of carbon neutral coffee. A knowledge track with experts from international universities and national academic institutions, including the University of Delft in the Netherlands, are creating repository of best practices on production and processing of coffee to significantly reduce the amount of green waste, thereby giving coffee a new brand in the international market, storing coffee beans, processing them in a better form, and addressing the deficiencies in the existing value chain where middlemen charge higher prices and give lower prices to producers. The works for creating the park and commercial track have started by KINFRA and the Industries Department.

6. Kerala Medical Technology Consortium (KMTC)

Kerala Medical Technology Consortium intends to create an ecosystem for manufacturing medical devices by coordinating Kerala's improved IT technology infrastructure, improved research network and effective start-up systems. Kerala Medical Technology Consortium has been able to carry out effective activities to attract expert entrepreneurs to Kerala by communicating with leading industrialists and networks in this field globally. KMTC has mobilized over Rs. 328 crore in investments across nine strategic projects in diagnostics, nutraceuticals, medical electronics, and medical rubber. KMTC has laid a strong foundation for Kerala to become India's leading MedTech hub by 2032.

7. Intervention in the Energy Sector

Under the leadership of CSIR-NIIST, the works have been done to find bio-ethanol from sources other than food products. Using water hyacinth, widely found in backwaters and other areas in Kerala, cellulose and semi-cellulose are converted into various types of sugar products using accelerators and enzymes developed by

NIIST, and processing them to produce Ethanol has started. An innovative programme has been initiated in collaboration with College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram to produce biogas under high pressure and use it for transportation. Efforts are being made to develop a model high-through put biogas unit using agricultural and household waste. Preliminary prototypes of the plant have already been created.

Selected Projects Related to strengthening the Innovation Ecosystem of Kerala

8. Young Innovators Programme (YIP)

Young Innovators Programme (YIP) promotes innovation among students in school, colleges, University, Departments and research institutions in the State aged 13 to 37. Enrolment in this program has been steadily increasing since 2018 and the project is poised to have a wide student impact accordingly. The objective of the programme is to develop an ecosystem for identifying youth with bright minds for solving real world problems in identified themes, mentoring them, attaching them to domain partner institutions with scholarships and help them build a career around the innovations, researching, re-discovering, incubating and accelerating the innovation. YIP molding a generation of problem solvers with over 7,70,000 registrations over the past 7 years, YIP has generated 60,000+ ideas and supported 7 patent filings. Structured mentorship and training guide participants through ideation, prototyping, and scaling. YIP Clubs have been introduced across 142 schools.

9. One District One Idea (ODOI)

This is an innovative programme for the growth of micro, small and medium industrial enterprise clusters in Kerala. In contrast to the conventional programme for growth of clusters, new technology and market development activities are being undertaken to increase productivity and increase agricultural efficiency. Efforts are being made with the help of the Enterprise Development Institute of India (EDII) and the Digital University Kerala, to prepare action plans to move away from gradual growth of enterprises and ensure exponential growth. Out of 63 evaluated clusters, 27 have been shortlisted for targeted support. Prominent projects include the Kanhirode Cluster's integration with Vastra Gramam and NABARD-funded ventures in Kollam's cashew processing sector.

10. One Local Government One Idea (OLOI)

25 years of people planning system has contributed significantly to the functioning of local governments but many core issues of local governments remain to be addressed. In order to solve such complex problems, systematic work has been started in collaboration with the Department of Local Self-Government to bring together the research institutes across the country to make efforts for problem solving with their help. Activities for implementation of Hackathon as part of Garbage-free Kerala programme have also been undertaken as part of this programme. Significant outputs include implementing innovations in decentralized sewage treatment systems, enabling affordable electric waste-collection vehicles, and establishing Block level Innovation Clusters (BIC) in partnership with LSGIs.

11. Interventions in the Education Sector

Teach Math for Kerala Programme is an innovative educational programme for improving the proficiency of Math education in Children. The Manchadi program aims for a more result-oriented and problem-solving society in Kerala through wider and more explicit application of mathematical knowledge in real-life. Manchadi project promotes adaptive learning in Mathematics by children in schools modeled after globally proven techniques.

Operating in 104 schools, Manchadi has reached 5,802 students. Key achievements include its expansion to 2,100 classrooms across Kerala, integration into SCERT's curriculum, and extending Malayalam language enhancement through the "Malayalapaima" initiative.

12. Mazhavillu

The Mazhavillu Project is an innovative, child-centred approach to science education that emphasizes experiential learning and inquiry-based activities. It aims to instil a spirit of scientific inquiry and knowledge of the historical development of science, fostering a scientific temper in line with the Constitution of India. Recognizing the limitations of traditional teaching methods, the project seeks to address misconceptions in scientific understanding and challenge prevalent superstitions. Covering 1,131 students across 12 Model Residential Schools, the program emphasizes exploration and critical thinking. It has earned recognition at the 37th Kerala Science Congress for promoting scientific

inquiry - a directive principle enshrined in the Indian constitution.

13. Electric Vehicle Consortium

The Electric Vehicle Consortium consisting of VSSC, CDAC, Travancore Titanium Products Limited, and Trest Park is actively progressing. With the help of VSSC, the productions of Lithium Titanate batteries have started. This program has achieved significant progress in establishing the footprint of Kerala in the electric vehicle sector by developing battery management systems, drivetrain systems, and retro-fit techniques for the production of lithium titanate battery, a large-scale helpful system for start-ups and other enterprises. The Clean Energy Innovation and Business Incubation Centre (CEIBIC) supported 9 promising startups to scale their clean energy innovations this year.

14. Accelerated Adoption of Emerging Technology Solutions in Government

This programme aims to integrate new technologies like Machine Learning, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Augmented reality, Virtual reality, Data Analytics and Block Chain in Government departments. Some key project implemented include - Water Authority's consumer billing application, chat bot to run antibiotic policy, smart crop system to improve agriculture and insurance system, programme undertaken at Athiramala to reduce revenue losses in drinking water supply chain. Programme for Screening Diabetic Retinopathy using AI to make Diabetic Retinopathy investigation effective, Robot-based G-gaiter program for in-patient gait rehabilitation, Mapping system for patients to easily locate hospital facilities, Tissue Culture Traceability Programme, Drip-o programme for informing nursing stations whether drips are working as per requirement, Heka-Flow for providing oxygen to infants and sick adults as part of postnatal care Programme, Traffic Intelligence techniques to systematize traffic signal control systems are the main areas of work of the Emerging Technology Project and have been able to make significant progress in improving governance and delivery of services to citizens.

In 2024-25, 33 projects were initiated, with notable successes including the Blood Bag Traceability System and Wireless Infusion Monitor. Additionally, blockchain-based smart crop insurance, AI-driven healthcare solutions, and IoT

systems for continuous drinking water monitoring are in progress.

15. Innovation by Youth with Disability (I-YwD)

The Innovation by Youth with Disability Programme, which provides training in the process of innovation to the youth with disability is now in its third cohort with the support of NISH. This is a unique initiative that does not exist anywhere else in the world. I- YwD empowers young innovators with disabilities through mentorship, entrepreneurship training, and inclusive learning. With three active cohorts, there is no similar programme anywhere in the world that fosters innovation among people with special abilities.

16. STRIDE

The Social Enterprises and Inclusion division's initiative STRIDE (Social Technology & Research for Inclusive Design Excellence) is Kerala's pioneering initiative to create India's first integrated ecosystem for inclusive innovation, focusing on affordable assistive technology development and production as one vertical. By leveraging Kerala's unique strengths – engineering talent, community networks, and social infrastructure - STRIDE aims to transform lives while creating sustainable social impact. Empowering Lives through Inclusive Innovation STRIDE supports the development of assistive technology for persons with disabilities. The initiative combines community-centered innovation, sustainable impact models, and inclusive design practices.

PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Worldwide, imprisonment is primarily intended to protect society and reduce recidivism, alongside ongoing initiatives focused on improving inmate treatment and prison conditions. Modern penal philosophy has shifted away from simply punishing offenders towards a new concept emphasizing their correction, reformation and rehabilitation. In line with this, the State Prisons and Correctional Services Department works to reintegrate offenders back into society so they may lead dignified, self-supporting lives as good citizens.

Kerala Prison Department was established in 1956 following the formation of Kerala State on 1st November 1956. The Kerala Prison Act was enacted in 2010 and rules were enacted in

Table 5.5.1 Number of prisoners from 2016 to March 31, 2025

Prisoners	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Female	213	200	196	181	193	148	163	185	217	262
Male	7,770	7,413	7,686	7,786	7,470	6,047	7,287	9,111	10,054	10393
Total	7,983	7,613	7,882	7,967	7,663	6,195	7,450	9,296	10,271	10655

Source: Prisons and Correctional Services

2014. A model prison manual was framed in 2016 based on the report of two expert committees. There are 57 jails including 4 central prisons and correctional homes, 2 open prison and correctional homes, 3 women's prison and correctional homes, 1 women's open prison and correctional home, 1 high-security prison, 13 District jails, 16 special sub jails, 16 sub jails and 1 borstal school. The authorised accommodation capacity of all the jails is around 8000. As of March 2025, there were 10,655 prisoners, of which 262 were women. There were 307 inmates in the three open jails, 168 inmates in women's jails and 1715 inmates in special sub-jails. Details of prisoners in jails are given in **Appendix 5.5.19**. **Table 5.5.1** shows the number of prisoners from 2016 to 2025 (up to March 31, 2025).

Overview of the Department Schemes in 2024-25

The prison department has achieved remarkable progress on its way to custody, correction, reformation and rehabilitation of prisoners. The Prison Department implements various programmes under two schemes, namely, the modernisation of jails and the welfare of prisoners. The State Government has allotted Rs 9 crore for the welfare of prisoners and Rs 14.5 crore for the modernisation of prisons in 2024-25.

Prisoners can be reformed as good citizens only if a sense of dignity and dignified life atmosphere is created among them, thereby sending them to society as good citizens. Based on this perspective, various projects for providing infrastructure facilities and modernisation were implemented under this scheme.

In 2024-25, significant improvements were made to jail infrastructure across Kerala:

Major Construction and Renovation Projects during 2024-25

- *Women Prison and Correctional Home, Kannur.* To provide secure and private spaces for

vulnerable inmates, an amount of Rs 35 lakh was allotted for the construction of five single cells. This project, which is currently ongoing, is crucial for protecting privacy, ensuring dignity and accommodating individuals with medical or mental health needs, as well as pregnant women. Installed lights on the peripheral wall to ensure inmate safety and enhance overall security.

- *Women Prison, Viyyur.* A barrack was successfully renovated at a cost of Rs 46 lakh to improve living conditions and well-being of women inmates.
- *Central Prison and Correctional Home, Thavanur.* The first phase of construction for a new hospital block was initiated with an allocation of Rs 1.75 crore.
- *Sub Jail, Ottapalam.* The kitchen block was renovated to improve hygiene and infrastructure. A staff rest room is also being constructed.
- *Sub Jail, Perinthalmanna.* Establishment of visitor rooms and quarters.
- *Central Prison, Thiruvananthapuram.* Tiling work in the jail blocks was completed.

Security Enhancement and Modernization Initiatives

In 2024-25, the Prisons Department made significant progress in strengthening security infrastructure and modernizing surveillance systems. These initiatives were designed to improve institutional safety, monitoring capabilities and overall prison management.

- *CCTV Installation.* CCTV cameras were installed across 12 prisons, including 176 cameras at the High Security Prison in Viyyur and additional installations at the District Jail, Alappuzha. These systems enhanced real-time surveillance, deter security breaches and assisted in post-incident investigations.
- *High Mast Lights.* To improve night-time visibility and support continuous surveillance, high mast lights were installed at the central

prisons in Thiruvananthapuram, Viiyur and Kannur.

- *Power Fencing*: A power fencing system was installed and commissioned at the Central Prison, Viiyur. This system helps prevent escape attempts and unauthorized access.
- *Equipment Modernization*: To improve security screening, the department procured and installed new equipment, including door frame metal detectors, handheld metal detectors and an X-ray baggage scanner, at major prisons.

Prisoner Welfare and Reformation Programmes

In 2024–25, the Prisons Department prioritized the reformation and rehabilitation of inmates through a variety of targeted programmes. These initiatives, which received substantial funding, focused on skill development, mental health and psychological support to prepare inmates for a successful return to society.

- *Skill Development and Vocational Training*: Vocational training programmes were implemented in eight prisons, with a total funding of Rs 10.5 lakh. These programmes offered training in practical trades such as aluminum fabrication, welding, cement pot making and repair of home appliances. Conducted in partnership with polytechnic colleges, Jan Shikshan Sansthan and other technical institutions, these initiatives aimed to enhance inmates' post-release employability and promote self-reliance.
- *Mental Health and Psychological Support* : Mental health interventions were strengthened across seven prisons with a funding of Rs 5.04 lakh. These programmes provided cognitive therapy sessions to inmates, which are crucial for emotional healing, behavioral reform and social reintegration. The department appointed seven trained counselors on one-year contract basis to ensure consistent support, from March 2025. These counselors provide emotional counseling and behavioral assessments in all central prisons and two open prisons.
- *Staff Training* : A refresher training course was conducted for prison officials to update them on best practices in inmate management, effective communication and security protocols ensuring a professional and humane approach to correctional practices.

These combined efforts underscore the department's commitment to humane correctional practices that encompass custody, care, correction and rehabilitation.

Probation and Aftercare Services

Probation and aftercare services are programmes that help offenders to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society after being released from custody. It is a non-institutional treatment method designed to facilitate the social readjustment of offenders. Probation is a method of dealing with specially selected offenders. It consists of the conditional suspension of punishment while the offender is placed under the personal supervision of the probation officer and is given individualised treatment.

The Probation of Offenders Act was enacted in India in 1958. The Act stipulates the appointment of probation officers to give a pre-sentence report to the Magistrate and supervise the convict during his probation. The administrative control of probation services and institutions had been under the control of the Prisons Department and it was transferred to the Social Welfare Department in 1975.

As per the Kerala Prisons Rules, the State Government may release certain life prisoners from prison through an executive order and keep them under the supervision of the probation officer concerned for a stipulated period. The probation officer observes his/her daily living pattern and helps the person to reintegrate into society. This system is called executive probation in Kerala. **Table 5.5.2** shows the District-wise number of judicial probationers (adults) as of March 2025.

The capacity development in the probation system includes training for judiciary, prison and police officials in cooperation with the Kerala Judicial Academy. The Department was also looking for successful innovative probation practices from other countries and States. The department also initiated schemes for basic and professional education assistance to the children of convicts and psycho-social rehabilitation programmes for cured and controlled mentally ill ex-prisoners who continue in mental health centres for a long time.

Table 5.5.2 Number of Judicial and Executive Probationers in Kerala in 2024-25

Name of District	Number of Judicial and Executive probationers
Thiruvananthapuram	86
Kollam	39
Pathanamthitta	35
Alappuzha	56
Kottayam	37
Idukki	56
Ernakulam	69
Thrissur	38
Palakkad	63
Malappuram	111
Wayanad	23
Kozhikkode	25
Kannur	48
Kasaragod	22
Total	708

Source: Social Justice Department, GoK

Nervazhi – Modernisation and Strengthening of Probation System

The project is intended to rejuvenate and modernise the probation system in the State. The project follows a protocol for regular identification of offenders eligible for probation, undertakes comprehensive investigation reports to ascertain whether they are amenable to correction, provides necessary psychological treatment whenever necessary and ensures effective supervision to enhance the likelihood that the probationers will be integrated back into society. The process helps to reduce recidivism, reintegrate the offenders back

into mainstream society, reduce overcrowding in prisons and increase the efficiency of the criminal justice system. An amount of Rs 93.92 lakh has been expended for the implementation of this scheme in 2024-25.

Thanalidam – Probation Home

Prisoners face many hardships after release as they are often stigmatised as ex-offenders. Family members may not be ready to accept them back. This is a hindrance to the successful community re-integration of ex-prisoners. As per Section 20 (1) of the Kerala Probation of Offenders Rules, 1960, it is mandatory to operate institutions or homes which ensure a temporary place of residence for those offenders who are eligible for probation, parole, premature release and bail if they do not have a fixed place of abode. The Social Justice Department has devised a novel initiative known as “Thanalidam” Probation Home for such persons. Admission will be granted in Thanalidam Probation home based on a consent letter from probation officers and jail superintendents.

Transit Home

Transit home has been commissioned by the Social Justice Department to temporarily accommodate foreign nationals, entering the country illegally, staying back in the country even after the expiry of passport/visa date, those who had completed their jail term, who were on parole, or had been released from jail, or needed other forms of protection. One such home has been made functional at Kottiyam, Mayyanad Panchayath in Kollam District. In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 72.68 lakh has been expended for the functioning of transit home. **Table 5.5.3** shows the achievements of Aftercare Services and Victim Rehabilitation in 2024-25.

Table 5.5.3 Achievements of Aftercare Services and Victim Rehabilitation in 2024-25.

Scheme	Beneficiaries	Amount Utilised in RS In Lakh
Educational assistance for children of prisoners	116	8.41
Education Assistance Scheme for children of victims of crime	18	0.89
Self-employment assistance to probationers and ex-convicts	66	11.55
Self-employment for dependents of prisoners	63	18.54
Jeevanam scheme – self-employment support for dependents & victims of crime	13	2.60
Mithram scheme – skill training for probation beneficiaries	15	1.76
Total	291	43.75

Source: Social Justice Department, GoK

These initiatives support the education, financial independence and overall well-being of beneficiaries, fostering rehabilitation and empowerment for those affected by incarceration and crime.

Way Forward

Prison overcrowding needs to be addressed by providing additional infrastructure and construction of new prisons. At the same time, modern security innovations such as AI-enabled surveillance, biometric access, drone monitoring and advanced perimeter systems will strengthen prison safety. Alongside this, rehabilitation and correctional efforts will be expanded through vocational training, education, livelihood support and structured follow-up programmes. Strengthening the probation and parole system will further ease overcrowding and promote community-based reintegration. The vision is to build a prison system that is secure, technology-driven, humane and reform-oriented, enabling inmates to return to society as responsible citizens.

5.6 OUTREACH TO PUBLIC

The Department of Information and Public Relations functions as the communication arm of the Government of Kerala and ensures effective information flow between the government and the public. The department disseminates timely and reliable information on policies, programmes, schemes, and achievements and provides platforms for public feedback and engagement. This two way communication promotes transparency, accountability, and trust in governance.

The department has expanded its outreach by using print and broadcast media along with digital platforms such as social media, mobile applications, and online campaigns. Mobile journalism has improved the speed and efficiency of information dissemination. Social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram are widely used to engage younger audiences. Innovative campaigns and interactive digital content have helped build an inclusive communication system with wider reach and stronger public participation. These efforts have positioned the department as an institution that informs and empowers citizens through participatory governance.

State Initiatives on Public Relations

Visual Media – Visual Media Division comprises the News Wing, Programme Production, Audio-Video Documentation and Electronic Media. Activities of this division include the production and distribution of video news clippings and advertisements to television channels, production of short videos, radio advertisements,

documentaries, short films, info-videos, posters, documentation and archiving of contents produced and released by the division. This division also undertakes the production of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's weekly interactive television programme – Naam Munnott as well as the weekly development-based television programme – Navakeralam and news –roundup – Priyakeralam. There is also a weekly radio-based programme called Janapatham.

Web-Based Media – The Web and New Media division of I&PRD undertakes the content management of the Government web portal – www.kerala.gov.in. This bilingual (English and Malayalam) portal provides relevant details regarding the Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Ministers, various departments, field agencies, PSUs and is also a gateway to more than 40 e-services of the Government. The portal is also a repository of documents comprising Government orders, Cabinet decisions, CMDRF orders, notifications, circulars, application forms, policy documents, publications, acts and rules, reports and tenders. Daily Government press releases and announcements also feature as part of the portal. The portal also has useful content on demography, geographical, socio-cultural, economic and historic aspects of the State.

The Web and New Media division also maintains the official website of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala – www.keralacm.gov.in – as well as the official websites of ministers. The division also manages its official website – www.prd.kerala.

gov.in – and the exclusive news portal – www.keralanews.gov.in. Publication of annual results of SSLC, Higher Secondary and Vocational Higher Secondary through the Government web portal and that of election results are also undertaken by this division. The Web and New Media division also manages the social media accounts of I&PRD viz. Twitter (Twitter.com/iprdkerala), Facebook (Facebook.com/keralainformation), Instagram (Instagram.com/iprdkerala), YouTube (YouTube.com/iprdkerala) and Dailyhunt (Dailyhunt.com/iprdkerala).

Media Relations – The Press Release Division issues and manages day-to-day media relations, in the form of multi-lingual news reports of Government functions, decisions, notifications and announcements. Convening press meets, setting up media centres on special occasions, media accreditation services, providing facilities on special occasions to media reporters for coverage and reporting and organising State media awards functions are major responsibilities of this Division. The Photography wing of the Division covers Government programmes across the State, releases images to the media daily and archives photographs. A Scrutiny Wing undertakes daily scrutiny of news and stories that appear in print and electronic media that have a bearing on Government policies, decisions, programmes and social issues.

Publications – The Department brings out periodicals: Kerala Calling (English) and Samakalika Janapatham (Malayalam). The division also publishes newsletters, pamphlets, brochures, reports and books on Kerala culture, history, art and eminent personalities. It also has a Circulation wing to take care of the promotional work of its periodicals.

Field Publicity and Culture – Field publicity within and outside the State, trade and cultural festivals in metro cities as part of the inter-State public relations, exhibitions, seminars, workshops, International Trade Fair held in New Delhi, social media and multimedia campaigns, art and cultural events are organised as part of publicity works. Observations and celebrations such as Gandhi Jayanti, Reading Week, Official Language and Malayalam Week are undertaken by this Division. Tagore Theatre in the capital city is being developed as a cultural hub and is a major venue for hosting the National Theatre Festival and the

International Film Festival of Kerala. This division also coordinates the management of the Kerala pavilion at the annual India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi.

Research and Reference – The Research and Reference wing regularly maintains registers of newspapers and periodicals published in the State as per the directions in the Press and Registration of Books Act (PRB Act). This division focuses on new trends and domains in public relations such as crisis communication, campaign planning, brand building, mobile journalism, data analysis and provides capacity building to staff.

Kerala Media Academy – Kerala Media Academy is an autonomous institution that facilitates study and research programmes in the field of journalism and conducts training programmes, workshops, seminars, publication of books and periodicals, distribution of media awards and grants fellowships for conducting advanced research in journalism.

Advertisement – The I&PRD is the official agency to release Government advertisements to the media. Production of print, visual and audio advertisements and fixing Government rates for advertisements are also done by them. Other functions include fixing the Government rate for advertisements in print, electronic and Online media and maintenance of media lists.

Major Achievements in 2024-25

Media coordination work was done by conducting 52 press conferences during 2024-25 and 6,027 press releases were prepared and disseminated in the period.

The photography wing has covered 843 programmes and 1,28,726 images were captured and 3,619 images were released to the media. During this period photo documentation of 33,240 images of 285 programmes was done.

More than 25,000 Government orders and circulars were uploaded to the Government portal. Circulars, notifications, tenders, Government reports, Government policies, news, videos, pictures and banner news in the Government sub portals, noticeboard.kerala.gov.in and document.kerala.gov.in. The Ministers' websites generated around 800 news articles with photographs.

Digital output increased significantly across the Minister-wise projects during the 2024-25. A total of 4,139 articles, 10,200 photographs and 80 banners were uploaded across the 20 Minister's websites, providing comprehensive documentation of programmes, projects and departmental achievements. A dedicated micropage for the School Kalolsavam was created with more than 25 articles covering the event. Additionally, a dedicated micropage for the Women's Media Conclave, organized by I&PRD, was developed with more than 15 articles covering its various sessions, discussions and highlights.

As part of the News Clip Video Project, the Central News Desk documented and edited a remarkable 2000 events in 2024-25. The Central News Desk also collaborates with 75 video stringers across different districts to ensure comprehensive regional coverage.

21 episodes of the Navakeralam weekly television programme were produced and broadcast through Asianet News and Kairali News television channels. The Priyakeralam television programme delivered comprehensive weekly reports on the developmental and welfare activities in the State by the Government. Doordarshan broadcast 14 episodes of this programme.

Janapatham radio programme (36 episodes) was broadcast on various stations of All India Radio. A short video on localising the SDG agenda and presenting the State's commitment and achievements, video marking the development achievements of 3 years on the occasion of the Government's anniversary and a special video featuring the achievements of the Industries Department are the major works done during the period. A one and a half hour video (3 episodes) produced by the division is telecast on Kairali Channel in connection with the Loka Kerala Sabha. 20 reels and 4 short videos for the promotion of the Loka Kerala Sabha and 81 info/short videos produced as per the needs of various departments and to disseminate information to the public.

The Malayalam editorial wing is publishing 'Samakalika Janapatham' monthly in Malayalam. The English editorial wing publishes Kerala Calling monthly in English. A special booklet was published in association with the Media Conclave

of Women Journalists, held in February 2025.

Kerala has participated in the India International Trade Fair 2024. A 248 square meter pavilion has been set up with the theme 'Vikasit Bharat @2047'. 24 commercial stalls and a theme stall were set up in the pavilion.

Way Forward

Information and Public Relations Department (I&PRD) of Kerala can pivot its operational model to have a successful and futuristic approach. The way forward involves a strategic shift from a one-way, traditional broadcasting model to an interactive, data-driven system. This transformation will be built upon three core pillars - Digital Transformation and Data-Driven Communication, Innovative Storytelling and Content Creation and Grassroots Empowerment & Two-Way Communication. The Department can undergo a digital transformation, utilizing AI and analytics to deliver data-driven, personalized content and move beyond generic information dissemination. It can also become a master storyteller, focusing on innovative content like the "Kerala Development Stories" series and using visuals to make complex government initiatives relatable and impactful. Finally, the department can empower grassroots communicators and foster two-way dialogue to enhance public trust and accountability, solidifying its role as a pillar of transparent governance.

CHAPTER

06

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

6.1 EDUCATION

Kerala, located on the south western coast of India, has achieved high levels of human development with low poverty rates. The State occupies a leading position in the school education sector in India. Kerala continues to lead in literacy, enrolment ratios, and school infrastructure. The literacy rate is 94 per cent, which is significantly higher than the national average of 74.04 per cent. The education system ensures equitable access for all, regardless of region, social background, economic status, or gender. Universal quality education is promoted through the Samagra Gunamenma Vidyabhyasa Padhathy, which upholds the principle that quality education is a pupil's right.

Kerala's education system reflects its secular and progressive traditions and upholds constitutional values of equity, inclusiveness, and social justice. The State has the lowest school dropout rate in the country. Public schools have regained community trust and achieved high enrolment. Curriculum reforms and school development programmes have led to major improvements in general education. Arts and sports also receive significant attention alongside academics.

The State continues to prioritise education and skill development, both of intrinsic importance and as drivers of socio-economic growth. The vision focuses on building an integrated system that links general education, higher education, and skill training to improve employability and prepare

youth for a knowledge based global economy. The 14th Five Year Plan emphasises quality improvement, academic excellence, elimination of the digital divide, improved connectivity, and access to digital learning materials and library networks. Kerala has made significant progress in reducing the digital divide and extending technological benefits to all sections of society. High literacy levels reflect the strong value placed on education and contribute to higher aspirations among the people.

Literacy

The most essential indicator of the quality of a country's human capital is literacy. Kerala, a model state for India in achieving total literacy, has also made exemplary progress in literacy and continuing education programmes. It is one of the states with a high population density. Despite this, Kerala has been able to maintain a significantly high literacy rate. As regards literacy, Kerala ranks first in the country with literacy rate of 94 per cent closely followed by Lakshadweep (91.9 per cent) and Mizoram (91.3 per cent) (Census of India, 2011). Kerala's literacy, which was only 47.2 per cent in 1951, has almost doubled by 2011. The male-female literacy gap which was 22 per cent point in 1951 has narrowed down to 4.0 per cent in 2011. Kerala holds the first place in the country in female literacy with 92.1 per cent and Bihar records the lowest female literacy rate (51.5 per cent) (Census of India, 2011). Literacy rate of the State from 1951 to 2011 is shown in **Appendix 6.1.1**.

Variation in literacy among the districts of Kerala is not significant. While Kottayam District (97.2 per cent) reports the highest literacy rate in the State, followed by Pathanamthitta (96.6 per cent) and Ernakulam (95.9 per cent), Wayanad District has the lowest literacy rate in the State (89.0 per cent). Literacy rates by gender for Districts in 2001 and 2011 are given in **Appendix.6.1.2**.

The Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority works to implement literacy, continuing education and lifelong learning programmes in the state. Illiterates, Neo-literates and School drop-outs are the main beneficiaries of these programmes. The Mission has been devising and implementing special projects for the vulnerable and marginalized sections of the society such as women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, transgender, coastal residents, visually challenged people and inter-state migrant workers. The Continuing Education Centres functioning under the Local Self Government Institutions spread across the state are the service providers of the mission in field.

Literacy is not merely the ability to read and write, but in a broad sense it is the basic awareness of how to lead a healthy and progressive social life. Keeping this in mind, KSLMA has launched social literacy programmes in the fields of health, environment, gender, Indian Constitution, and e-learning.

1. Literacy programmes

This programme aims to make illiterate people literates. Various types of literacy projects have been implementing for the eradication of remaining illiteracy. The literacy project has given special attention to learners from coastal, tribal and scheduled caste areas/ settlements.

2. Special projects for the marginalised sections of the society

- a. Attappadi Tribal Literacy programme: As part of this, KSLMA conducted classes in 192 tribal settlements at Attappadi and 1,458 learners became literates. During the period a survey has been completed, and 2,000 learners are now prepared to join the class.
- b. Wayanad Tribal Literacy programme: This programme is designed to eradicate the illiteracy among tribal people in Wayanad. Three phases of this project have been completed and more than 20,260 tribal learners attained literacy. Phase IV identified 2000 people for Literacy Class IV&VII Equivalency Study.

c. Navachethana – Special Literacy programme for scheduled castes: Navachethana is a specially designed program aimed at enhancing the educational development of Scheduled Caste individuals in Kerala. Classes were held in 14 Districts and 3,663 students attended the exam. Of these, 3,573 learners successfully passed the exam which include 2,621 women and 952 men. Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam, Thrissur, and Palakkad districts all achieved a 100% success rate. The fifth phase of the project is currently underway in all 14 districts. This fourth phase was also included in the Kerala government's "Hundred Days of Programme" initiative.

d. Changathi- Literacy Programme for Migrant Labourers: Changathi is a literacy programme rolled out by Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority which aims to teach the inter-state Migrant labourers to read, write and communicate in Malayalam, the regional language of Kerala. The pilot program was launched in 2017 in Perumbavoor, and since then, the project's fourth phase has been completed across all 14 districts. In Palakkad, a special collaboration with the district panchayat saw remarkable results, with 687 out of 691 students passing their exam. In the remaining 13 districts, 2,506 students have taken the exam and 2480 learners has been passed out. The four phases of the project were successfully completed and fourth Phase was included in Kerala Government Hundred Days of programme. The program's fifth phase is now underway, with registration currently open for new learners across the state. In preparation for the upcoming classes, the "Hamari Malayalam" textbook is being distributed, and a new mobile app based on the textbook is in development.

e. Samanwaya - Special Project for continuing education for Transgenders: As part of this project, Literacy Mission conducted equivalency classes and various types of awareness programmes for transgenders. A residential study centre known as "Paddanaveedu" is currently operational in Pandalam, situated in the Pathanamthitta district. This centre is dedicated to provide education and support to transgender individuals on their educational journey.

3. Equivalency Programmes

Equivalency programmes are organised with a view to provide an alternative education equivalent to the existing formal system of education. This

programme is targeted towards those neo- literates who aspire to continue their education and acquire certificates that would place them equal standing with others who have successfully completed their studies from the formal system of education.

a. 4th class and 7th class Equivalency Classes

Candidates who passed the Literacy Exam and people who dropped out of the school from the primary level can enrol in the 4th standard equivalency course. Candidates who passed the fourth standard equivalency and people who dropped out of the school from the upper primary level get admission to the 7th class equivalency programme. For 4th class equivalency, 885 (18th batch) people benefitted. For the 7th standard equivalency course, the 17th batch (2024) with 1604 learners registered and 1043 learners appeared in the exam, 1007 learners were eligible for Higher studies.

KSLMA is making efforts to bring a large number of persons back to their studies and to enrol them in 10th and Higher Secondary equivalency courses (**Table 6.1.1**). The details on the number of people who benefitted from the 10th and Higher Secondary Equivalency programme of Kerala State Literacy Mission in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.3**.

It is seen that out of the total number of persons benefitting from these programmes, SC and ST population constitute a major portion. Because of the special efforts of KSLMA for the last few years to include transgenders into the programmes, a total number of 61 transgenders benefitted from the 10th and higher secondary equivalency programmes in 2024&2025. Likewise, a significant participation of persons with disabilities can also be seen.

4. Social Literacy Programmes

The Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (K.S.L.M.A) is focusing not only on alphabets and numerical literacy, but also on other social literacy programmes. Realizing the fact that the state is not fully literate in terms of social security, environmental issues, legal awareness and gender equality, KSLMA took the initiative to spread various literacy programmes among the people in the state other than helping them in reading and writing.

- a. Environmental Literacy Programme: The objective of this project is to address the critical issue of environmental pollution in the state, particularly the rampant problem of improper plastic waste disposal. Literacy mission conducted many programmes such as environmental literacy surveys, awareness classes, seminars, exhibitions, waste management, water literacy classes, etc. as part of the environmental literacy programme.
- b. Pouradwani: Pouradwani is a programme designed to educate the general public and raise basic awareness about Fundamental Rights, Duties, Gender perspectives and the Indian Constitution. As part of a pilot programme, a 7-day camp was organized in Thiruvananthapuram, Palakkad, Wayanad, Malappuram, Ernakulam, Kasaragod, Alappuzha districts. Now the project is planned to expand to the remaining districts of Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Idukki and Kannur.
- c. Gender literacy: The Gender Literacy Scheme works with the objective of creating awareness of gender equality among learners, motivators and teachers, ensuring gender equality everywhere and imparting gender awareness to the grassroots level of society.

Table 6.1.1 Number of persons who benefitted from higher secondary and 10th equivalency courses in 2024 and 2025

Course		Female	Male	Transgender	Total	SC	ST	Persons with disabilities
Higher Secondary	2024	15,624	5,695	26	21,345	3,655	587	334
	2025	11,439	4,522	8	15,969	2,554	405	325
10th	2024	11,412	5,161	26	16,599	2,625	449	392
	2025	8,059	3,642	1	11,702	1,985	283	403

Source: KSLMA

- d. Udayam: The objective of this project is to establish a Social Responsibility Team in each district of Kerala for preparing “Social Masters Forum”, a commendable new initiative that leverages the experience of retired professionals and other motivated individuals aged 55 and older. The forum transforms the extensive knowledge and experience of its members into a powerful force for change, mobilizing community participation and fostering a sense of social responsibility in each district.
- e. Braille literacy programme: The objective of this project is to eliminate illiteracy among visually challenged individuals and integrate them into the education system, with the ultimate goal of making Kerala a fully Braille-literate State. Following a thorough survey, the Mission found 2,366 visually impaired people, and 1,176 of them showed interest in learning Braille. To support this initiative, textbooks and worksheets were developed and approved by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).
- f. Deepthi Skill training: The “Deepthi Braille” project provides specialized skill training to help the visually challenged people to overcome their limitations and enter the workforce. Fifteen braille students are selected from all 14 districts for residential training course in Customer Care Executive and IT skills conducted by ASAP Kerala.
- g. Cyber Literacy Programme: The Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority has implemented the E-Muttam Project in association with KITE to eliminate digital divide in Kerala. The Project was implemented in all the 14 districts of Kerala.
- h. Financial Literacy: The objective of this project is to empower the common people of Kerala to make decisions in all aspects of life, including personal financial planning, selecting financial services, budgeting, investing, developing insurance programs, managing credit, consumer purchasing and understanding consumer rights and responsibilities.
- i. Legal Literacy: Legal Literacy Scheme is a scheme to provide knowledge about law to people through legal awareness classes, camps and seminars.
- j. Munnettam: This is a women’s empowerment project in association with Mahila Samakhya Society. The scheme is aimed at empowering women in society by enhancing their dignity and competence through the improvement of education, critical life skills and employment skills. The project also provides awareness classes on gender-related rights, issues and potential solutions, further contributing to the programme’s goals of empowering women in society.
- k. Oppam: The objective of this project is to empower the scheduled tribe communities in all districts of Kerala by providing them access to education with a special focus on digital learning. This project reduce educational disparities, enhance employability and promote the overall well-being of ST individuals in Kerala.
- l. Jail Jyothi: The objective of this project is to empower jail inmates of Kerala by providing Continuing Education and help them to lead a path to reintegration into society. Literacy Mission is planning to provide 4th, 7th, 10th and Higher Secondary equivalency courses for them.
- m. Koode: The objective of this project is to implement equivalency programme for the people in different institutions like old age homes, orphanages, care centres etc and empower them to lead more enriched and self-reliant lives.

5. Certificate Courses

KSLMA launched three new certificate courses, viz, Pacha Malayalam, Achchi Hindi and Good English aiming at those who are interested in improving their language skills. This project is a four months course which intends to equip people to handle three languages- Malayalam, Hindi and English with ease.

6. Aksharasree

This project is implemented in the 100 wards of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation by KSLMA with the fund support of Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation to provide equivalency education.

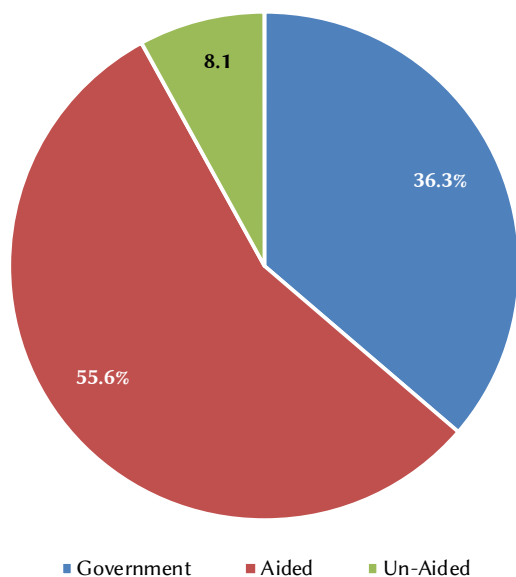
School Education

Directorate of General Education coordinates all the activities of public education from class 1 to 10, higher secondary and vocational higher secondary education. Earlier, classes from 1 to 10 were under the administrative control of Directorate of Public Instruction. The separate directorates for higher secondary and vocational higher secondary education have been now merged to Directorate of General Education.

There were 12,945 schools in Kerala in 2024-25, out of which 4,700 (36.3 per cent) are Government

schools, 7,202 (55.6 per cent) are aided schools and 1,043 (8.1 per cent) are unaided schools (**Figure 6.1.1**). More number of lower primary (LP) schools are in the government sector compared to schools in upper primary (UP) or high school (HS)s. Aided schools outnumber government schools in all sections.

Figure 6.1.1 Management-wise percentage of schools in the State, 2024-25



Source: Directorate of General Education

In 2024-25 Malappuram District had the largest number of schools (1,571) in the State followed by Kannur (1,303) and Kozhikode (1,278). Malappuram also has the largest number of Government (556) and unaided schools (210) in the State. But the largest number of aided schools is functioning in Kannur District (963). Details of District-wise, management-wise and stage-wise number of schools in Kerala in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.4**.

In 2024-25 there are 1,593 schools in the State, offering syllabi other than the one prescribed by the State Government. These include 1,371 CBSE schools, 168 ICSE schools, 40 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 14 Jawahar Navodayavidyalayas. District-wise details of schools with syllabi other than the State syllabus in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.5**.

Physical infrastructure and facilities in Government Schools

Most government schools in Kerala in 2024-25 are functioning in pucca buildings. 114 Government

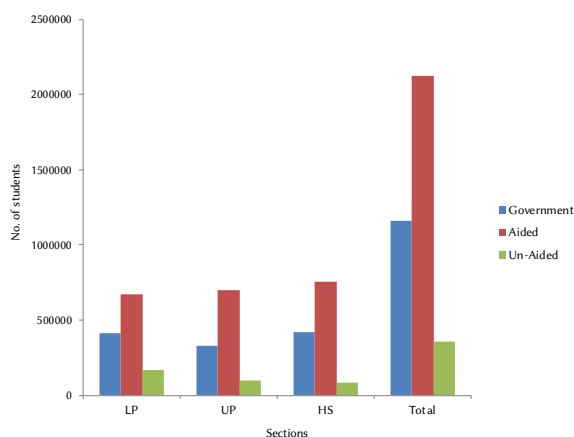
schools are working in rented buildings. District-wise details of Government schools having building facilities are given in **Appendix 6.1.6**. Local Governments and programmes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have contributed much to the overall development and improvement of physical infrastructure and common facilities in government schools in the State. An amount of Rs 5 crore, Rs 3 crore and Rs 1 crore each have been allotted for the infrastructural development of 141, 386 and 446 number of schools respectively under KIIFB. Under Rs 5 crore category construction of buildings has been fully completed in 139 schools. In the Rs 3 crore category construction of buildings has been completed in 213 schools and in Rs 1 crore category construction of buildings has been completed in 246 schools. Construction of buildings of 52 schools has been completed, with the aid of NABARD, by utilising Rs 104 crore. It is seen that 99.1 per cent of government schools have access to drinking water and all government schools have urinals/latrine facilities. District-wise details of government schools having drinking water/latrines/urinal facilities in Kerala in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.7**.

Enrolment of Students

There is a small decrease in the enrolment of students in 2025-26 (provisional) to 35.3 lakh from 36.4 lakh in 2024-25. This decrease is seen in all sections but a large quantity is in the lower primary section. This may be attributed to the low birth rate of the State. The stage-wise enrolment of students in schools in Kerala from 2019-20 to 2025-26 are given in **Appendix 6.1.8**. Details of management-wise and standard-wise enrolment of students in schools in 2025-26 (provisional) are given in **Appendix 6.1.9**. In all sections, the students in government aided schools outnumber the students in Government and unaided schools (**Figure 6.1.2**). Proportion of curriculum wise students enrolment in the State shown in **Figure 6.1.3**. In the state District-wise, stage-wise and sex-wise enrolment of students in schools in the State in 2025-26 is given in **Appendix 6.1.10**. Boys outnumber girls in all sections and districts.

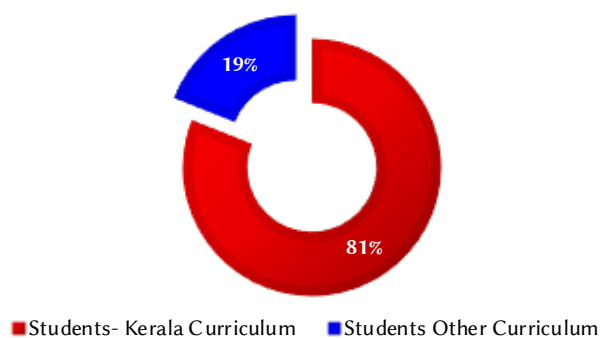
During the academic year 2025-26 24,396 new students sought admission in Government and Government Aided schools in Kerala. The total number of new students sought admission in Government and aided schools for the last six years is 5,51,950. (**Table 6.1.2**).

Figure 6.1.2 Management-wise and section-wise enrolment of students in Kerala in 2025-26



Source: Directorate of General Education

Figure 6.1.3 Proportion of curriculum wise students enrolment in the State



Source: Directorate of General Education

Enrolment of Girls in Schools

In 2025-26, girls constitute 49.1 per cent of the total student enrolment in schools. Boys outnumber girls in all the districts. But the gender gap is very narrow in Kerala in terms of enrolment.

Strength of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Students

In 2025-26, Scheduled Caste (SC) students constitute 9.95 per cent of total students in the State which shows a slight increase over previous year (9.91 per cent). The percentage of SC and ST students in Government schools is higher than that of Government aided and private unaided schools. The percentage of SC students in Government schools, Government aided schools and private unaided schools are 12.8 per cent, 9.6 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively. (Table 6.1.3). ST students constitute 1.9 per cent of total enrolment in schools in 2025-26. The percentage of ST students in Government schools, Government-aided schools and private unaided schools are 3.6 per cent, 1.3 per cent and 0.5 per cent respectively in 2025-26. The standard-wise strength of SC & ST students in the State in 2025-26 is given in Appendix 6.1.11. Out of the total number of SC & ST students in the State, only 3.6 per cent of SC and 2.9 per cent of ST students are enrolled in private unaided schools. The rest are enrolled in Government and Government aided schools. Out of the total ST students, 58.4 per cent is enrolled

Table 6.1.2 New Students who sought admission in public-funded schools in Kerala, from 2019-20 to 2025-26

Management	Standards			
	I-IV	V-VII	VIII-X	Total I-X
From 2019-20 to 2020-21				
Government & Government. Aided	53,832	67,503	7,169	1,28,504
From 2020-21 to 2021-22				
Government & Government. Aided	1,06,320	97,112	53,016	2,56,448
From 2021-22 to 2022-23				
Government & Government. Aided	-11,401	56,158	37,691	82,448
From 2022-23 to 2023-24				
Government & Government. Aided	-12,786	23,077	22,437	32,728
From 2023-24 to 2024-25				
Government & Government. Aided	-11,185	17,916	20,695	27,426
From 2024-25 to 2025-26				
Government & Government. Aided	-12410	16,495	20311	24396
Total new students during the last 6 years				5,51,950

Source: Directorate of General Education

Table 6.1.3 Proportion of SC & ST Students in Schools in Kerala, 2025-26 (provisional)

Management	Others	SC	ST
Government	83.64	12.79	3.58
Government Aided	89.10	9.64	1.26
Private Unaided	96.07	3.41	0.52
State Average	88.15	9.96	1.90

Source: Directorate of General Education

in Government schools, while 39.8 per cent of SC students are enrolled in Government schools.

Dropout rate

Kerala has achieved the distinction of having the lowest dropout rate of school students among the Indian States. As per the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) report on Educational Statistics at a Glance - 2018, the all-India average dropout rate of primary school students is 4.1 percent while it is 4.0 percent in upper primary and 17.1 percent in secondary levels. Similar to 2023-24, the dropout rate in Kerala remains at 0.08 in 2024-25. In Kerala the dropout rates in the lower primary stage and high school stages are slightly higher compared to that of the Upper Primary stage. Drop-out rate in high school classes has declined from 0.15 per cent in 2019-20 to 0.11 per cent in 2024-25 (**Table 6.1.4**). This declining trend is seen at all stages of school education.

District-wise/stage-wise dropout rate in schools in 2024-25 is given in **Appendix.6.1.12**. The dropout rate of ST students is still higher than that of students from the 'others' category (**Table 6.1.5**). Dropout rate among SC students in Kerala in 2024-25 is 0.07 per cent and that of ST students is 0.92.

The total dropout rate are highest in Wayanad District (0.43 percent) followed by Idukki (0.26 percent) in 2024-25. The dropout rate of SC students is highest in Idukki District (0.18 percent) followed by Kasaragod District (0.16 percent), whereas the dropout rate of ST students is the highest in Wayanad District (1.57 percent) followed by Palakkad District (1.37percent). District-wise and management-wise details of dropout among SC and ST students in Kerala in 2024-25 are given in **Appendices 6.1.13** and **6.1.14**.

Number of Teachers

The number of school teachers in Kerala in 2024-

25 was 1,55,447. Out of this 87,668 (56.4 per cent) teachers are working in aided schools and 12,959 (8.3 per cent) teachers are working in private unaided schools. The remaining 54,820 (35.3 per cent) teachers are working in government schools. Out of total teachers in the State 50.2 percent are teaching in high schools, 25.6 per cent in upper primary schools and 24.2 per cent in lower primary schools. 76 per cent of total teachers in the State are women. Stage-wise and management-wise number of teachers in Kerala in 2024-25 is given in **Appendix 6.1.15**.

Inclusive Education in Schools

As per the statistics given by Directorate of General Education, there were 45 special schools functioning in Kerala in 2024-25. Total number of students in these special schools during the period was 2,805 and the number of teachers was 533. Out of the total 2,805 students, 364 are having visual disability, 2,430 are hard of hearing, 3 are intellectually disabled and 8 suffers from other disabilities. Apart from this there are 344 special schools are functioning under various NGOs, LSGD and Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) in the State. Also, 58,929 students with disabilities are studying in government, aided and unaided schools all over Kerala. Among them, 35,197 are boys and 23,732 are girls. When taking the district wise details, highest number of students under IED category is in Malappuram district (10,088), followed by Kozhikkode (6,576) and Palakkad (5,116). Apart from free uniform and mid-day meal, financial assistance is given for meeting the expenses towards traveling, hostel facilities, excursion for students etc.. Various programmes for people with disabilities such as barrier free campus, disabled friendly equipment, services from resource centres, services of resource teachers etc are also provided to ensure inclusive education in schools.

Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK) also implements various programmes for students with disabilities

Table 6.1.4 Stage-wise Drop-out Rate in Schools in Kerala

	2019-20	2021-22*	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Total	0.11	0.04	0.08	0.08	0.08
L.P	0.10	0.03	0.09	0.09	0.08
U.P.	0.06	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.05
H.S.	0.15	0.05	0.09	0.09	0.11

Source: Directorate of General Education

*Data for 2021-22 were non-comparable due to COVID -19.

Table 6.1.5 District-wise Dropout Rate among students in Kerala in 2024-25

District	SC	ST	Others	Total
Thiruvananthapuram	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04
Kollam	0.09	1.27	0.02	0.04
Pathanamthitta	0.05	0.42	0.07	0.07
Alappuzha	0.01	0.23	0.04	0.04
Kottayam	0.06	0.15	0.05	0.06
Idukki	0.18	0.70	0.23	0.26
Ernakulam	0.14	0.39	0.22	0.21
Thrissur	0.09	0.25	0.05	0.05
Palakkad	0.07	1.37	0.06	0.09
Malappuram	0.04	0.81	0.05	0.05
Kozhikode	0.06	0.24	0.06	0.06
Wayanad	0.04	1.57	0.10	0.43
Kannur	0.13	0.65	0.04	0.05
Kasaragod	0.16	0.01	0.03	0.03
State Average	0.07	0.92	0.06	0.08

Source: Directorate of General Education

as part of inclusive education. SSK supports them by setting up Autism centres, home-based education, adapted learning and providing equipment. Medical camps, therapeutic service, empowerment of resource teachers, distribution of aids, developing teaching-learning methods, providing reader allowance, stipend for girls, empowerment of parents etc, are the other services provided by SSK for developing the inclusive education.

Schools with Less Number of Students

In 2025-26, the total number of schools with average strength of fewer than 25 students was 1,363 and out of these, 532 were in the Government sector and 831 were in the aided sector. There were 50 Government lower primary

schools having an average number of students of less than 10 while the number of schools in this category was 189 in aided sector. District-wise analysis shows that the highest number of schools with a lesser number of students was in Pathanamthitta (240) followed by Kottayam (189) and Kannur (180). The highest number of schools with fewer students in the aided sector is in Pathanamthitta (166) followed by Kannur (148). In the Government sector, Kottayam has the largest (79) number of schools with a lesser number of students followed by Pathanamthitta (74) and Alappuzha (59). Lower primary schools constitute large chunk of the schools with a lesser number of students. Among the Government schools with a lesser number of students, majority (91.9 percent) are lower primary schools. In the aided sector

Box 6.1.1 Kerala's Performance in PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024

The PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, conducted by NCERT under the aegis of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India assessed the baseline learning competencies of students in Grades 3, 6, and 9 across India. Kerala recorded a consistently high performance in all subjects and school categories, standing well above the national average. As per the latest report the overall position of Kerala is 2nd among 29 States and 7 Union Territories.

In Grade 3, Kerala's students displayed remarkable achievement in both Language and Mathematics with 14% higher scores in Language and 13% higher in Mathematics. Government-aided schools outperformed the national average by 15% in Language and 16% in Mathematics.

In Grade 6, the performance of Kerala's students continued to reflect academic excellence. Learners in State Government schools scored 23% higher in Language, 16% higher in Mathematics, compared to the national average. Students in Government-aided schools performed even better, with 24% and 19% higher scores in Language and Mathematics.

In Grade 9, Kerala maintained its position as one of the top-performing states in India. Students in State Government schools scored 20% above the national average in Language, 8% higher in Mathematics, 13% higher in Science, and 11% higher in Social Science.

Overall, the PARAKH 2024 results reaffirm Kerala's educational excellence, effective teaching practices, and commitment to equitable, quality education for all. The state's sustained progress reflects the success of ongoing curriculum reforms, technology integration, and teacher empowerment initiatives that continue to enhance learning outcomes across all levels.

also 86.4 percent of schools with fewer students are from the lower primary section. District-wise details of schools with a lesser number of students in the State in 2025-26 are given in **Appendix 6.1.16**.

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE)

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) is a State Government enterprise, setup to foster, promote and implement modernisation of educational institutions in the State of Kerala. KITE has revolutionised the education system of the State with its decade long operations and its spectrum include Information & Communication Technology, Capacity Building, Content Development, Connectivity, e-Learning, Satellite based education, Support and Maintenance mechanism, e-Governance or also physical infrastructure upgradation of schools. With the efforts of KITE, the State schools now stands equipped with latest ICT gadgets supported by high-speed internet connectivity, necessary digital resource portals and trained teachers and thereby having a total ICT enabled eco-system. KITE has integrated Artificial Intelligence (AI) into school education, having trained over 80,000 teachers and AI has been included in the ICT textbook for Class 7. In order to facilitate Robotic learning, KITE has also deployed 29000 Robotic Kits to schools.

Major achievements/ highlights of KITE during 2024-25

- For the first time in the Country, Artificial

Intelligence (AI) was included in the State school curriculum as part of Class 7 ICT textbook, benefitting over 4 lakh students.

- KITE deployed 20000 more Arduino Robotic Kits to schools, in addition to the 9000 kits deployed last year, making a total of 29000 Robotic Kits, which facilitate exploratory and scientific learning among students especially in-depth and complex concepts in STEM.
- The 'Key to Entrance' programme was broadcast through KITE VICTERS in September 2024, to help students in public schools achieve higher success rates in undergraduate entrance examinations. It is the largest public entrance exam training system in Kerala, providing login facilities to nearly 8 Lakh students from Science, Humanities and Commerce streams.
- KITE developed E3 Hindi Language Lab software (Prayogshaala) in 2024, which was piloted in 163 schools across the State. Extensive training was given to Hindi teachers of Class 5 to 7.
- Two- day Sub-district and District level camps for 15600 Little KITEs students conducted during November 2024 focused on creating Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to help children with speech and hearing impairments communicate through sign language.
- Several new programmes viz Key to Entrance, Mind It, Edu-Aid, Hello Cartoonist, Nutri-bowl were created and broadcast through KITE VICTERS educational channel.
- KITE developed the prototype of its own

Box 6.1.2 Samagra Plus Academic Monitoring for schools by KITE



The Department of General Education, Government of Kerala, has established a comprehensive digital framework to meticulously monitor and enhance the quality of education across all government, aided, and recognized unaided schools throughout the State. This transformative initiative is powered by three integrated digital platforms developed by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE): Samagra Plus Academic Monitoring, Sahitham, and Sampoorana Plus.

Samagra Plus

It is specifically designed to systematically identify learning gaps of students in different subjects and to initiate effective remedial measures to bridge these gaps, thereby holistically enhancing overall learning outcomes in direct alignment with the prescribed scheme of academic work within all schools. A key function is the digital submission and approval of detailed Teaching Manuals, which are essentially comprehensive lesson plans that teachers must prepare using various teaching aids, including mandatory digital resources, and can submit in both online and offline modes.

Sahitham

The Sahitham portal focusing intensely on the student's unique experience and learning trajectory. Its philosophical approach is fundamentally based on knowing each student personally, continuously observing their unique learning journey, and providing consistent help through continuous learning support and interventions.

Sampoorana Plus

This Platform allows teachers to record scores from continuous class tests and terminal examinations, using this aggregated data to automatically generate comprehensive progress reports for all students, providing valuable insights for teachers, parents, and officials.

Together, these systems form a foundational project aimed at the continuous academic monitoring of students' educational quality and performance from classes 1 to 10 in approximately 16,000 schools, ensuring a unified and standardized approach to pedagogy and Samagra Plus platform serves as a vital tool in addressing absenteeism in schools. Through this platform issues of dropouts are mitigating among the ST student population in Kerala.

Source: KITE, 2025

AI engine, Samagra plus AI, which provides curriculum-aligned digital resources, supports lesson planning, promotes personalized learning in AI-enhanced learning room, and facilitates students' achievement through assessment and individualized feedback.

- 1,15,080 teachers were trained in various ICT based activities in 2024-25.
- 7,326 teachers were trained through the KOOL platform of KITE.
- 31,878 teachers were trained in Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- 'AI Essentials' online AI course for public was launched.
- New ICT textbooks for Classes 1 to 12, in line with the revised curriculum have been developed.
- Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) support was provided to 1,17,093 Laptops and 66,209 Projectors.
- Through the 'Crack the Entrance' programme in KITE VICTERS channel, a total of 30 hours of classes of 1 hour duration each (totalling to 120 hours) was telecast for Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
- Over 1.5 lakh small works comprising of stories, poems and drawings of 1st standard students were uploaded in School Wiki portal as part of 'Samyuktha diary' (joint diary) initiative.
- UNICEF study report on Little KITEs was published terming Little KITEs are a Global model in Education.
- Exclusive training on Samagra plus portal was provided to teachers especially on the digital

resources for Classes 5, 7 and 9 which are aligned with the new textbooks.

- New version of FOSS based Operating System suite of KITE viz KITE GNU Linux 22.04 was launched during the State Camp for Little KITEs
- During 2024-25, over 13 Tonnes of e-Waste was disposed from schools and educational offices state-wide through the e-Waste disposal programme initiated by KITE.

Samagra Shiksha, Kerala (SSK)

Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK), the centrally sponsored scheme, has played a pivotal role in strengthening General Education in the state. In 2018, the Integrated School Education Project titled Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK) project was launched in the State. Samagra Shiksha Kerala has been able to lead extensive management activities by coordinating various levels from Pre-primary to Higher Secondary. The decentralized implementation of projects during this period was carried out by the strengthening of 168 Block Resource Centers (BRCs) and 1385 Cluster Resource Centers (CRCs). Samagra Shiksha Kerala has undertaken a number of activities to ensure equality, equity of opportunity, inclusive education and quality, which are the second generation issues in the field of education.

All the activities by the SSK are undertaken to achieve the broader objectives of Pothu Vidyabhyasa Samrakshana Yajnam and to bridge the academic lacuna for ensuring age-appropriate education as envisaged in the Right to Education Act.

Major Initiatives/achievements of Samagra Shiksha Kerala in 2024-25

Science Park

Samagra Shiksha Kerala launched several programmes for the enhancement of scientific attitude among students. The establishment of Science Park in selected schools is one of the prestigious activities of SSK. Through Science parks, students got hands-on experience on the subject. They could understand the concepts of science with the support of the equipments set up in the park. For this, the teachers were also fully equipped to use the devices properly.

POCSO - Awareness Programme for Higher Secondary Teachers: Under the guidelines of the Department of General Education, Samagra Shiksha Kerala conducted an awareness

programme for the higher secondary and vocational higher secondary teachers across the state. This programme aimed to empower children to recognise and resist sexual violence and exploitation and it focused to familiarise the rules and legal aspects of POCSO among teachers and students.

Budding Writers Program

Cultivating Creative Minds and Literary Enthusiasts: SSK has once again set a benchmark in educational innovation with its unique programme aimed at enhancing creative thinking among students of Upper Primary (UP) and High School (HS) classes. Aptly named “Budding Writers,” this programme was a continuation of the highly successful “Vayana Changatham” initiative, further solidifying SSK’s commitment to nurturing young talents. “Budding Writers” was designed to foster creative writing skills, interweaving personal experiences with the knowledge gained from reading various books.

Enhancing the competencies in literacy and numeracy

SSK initiated various activities to ensure proficiency in basic language and mathematics for primary class students by the year 2025. Kunju Vayana, Kunju Ezhuthu, Hello English, Malayalathilakkam, Classroom Library, Measure and Learn, Ullasaganitam, Ganitha Vijayam, DIGI Showcase, SM.C. meetings, Quiz Programmes, Ganitha Park, Empowering Parents, and Poster Making are some of the activities.

Mansoonum Kuttikalum

Samagra Shiksha Keralam has implemented the project named “Mansoonum Kuttikalum” in collaboration with the State government’s prestigious programme “Nooru Dina Karma Paripadi.” The objectives behind this mission were creating awareness on weather forecasting and disaster management at the local level. Training was given to 40 resource persons at the Radar Research Centre of Cochin University for Science and Technology, and guided other teachers in the remaining schools. Students regularly observe and record the readings at fixed intervals and later analyze the data with the help of their geography teachers as part of this programme.

Ee thanalil Ithiri Neram

“Ee thanalil Ithiri Neram” programme in environment day under the dynamic leadership of students with disabilities witnessed an

overwhelming response from Schools across the state as they embraced various programmes aimed at emphasizing the significance of environmental protection.

Special Care Centre

Special care centres are primarily concerned with giving special support to children with disabilities in public schools. Disabled children enrolled in public schools, who cannot access classroom learning, are also given academic support through the centres.

Pradeshika Prathibha Kendram (Local Resource Centres)

Pradeshika Prathibha Kendra or Local Resource Centres are an innovative initiative for the educational and social upliftment of the marginalised and backward sections of people. These centres provided different activities which nurtured the creative talents of children who belong to such categories.

Varnakkoodaram

The STARS project Varnakkoodaram focused on revamping traditional teaching methods by incorporating innovative and interactive elements in selected pre-primary sections of primary schools. Thirteen different areas were set in the classroom for the holistic development of the pre-primary children.

BaLA (Building as a Learning Aid)

The 'BaLA' concept designs school buildings and walls as attractive, child-friendly learning materials to effectively disseminate the pre-school curriculum, including for children with special needs.

Home-Based Education (HBE)

HBE is provided to 7,602 bedridden, Educable-Trainable children, ensuring educational participation of one day in a week via special educators and virtual classroom possibilities.

Social Inclusion Program

Braille Stationery materials were provided to 2,685 visually challenged children, individual training and therapies (Sensory Integration, Speech and Behavior Therapy, Special Education) were provided to 3,289 children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and reader allowance provided to visually challenged children (pre-primary onwards).

State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)

The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Kerala is an autonomous institution of the Department of General education, Government of Kerala entrusted with planning, implementation and evaluation of all academic programmes from pre-school to higher secondary levels. The main activities are developing curriculum for school classes from pre-primary to higher secondary, developing text books, teacher texts, assessment strategies, organising in-service teacher empowerment programmes, documentation and dissemination of activities, conducting researches and publishing research reports, promoting non-formal education, special education, and population education, promoting art education, health education and vocational education.

School Curriculum revision was one of the main responsibilities of SCERT during the last three years. The Government of Kerala decided to revise the school curriculum in 2022. The school curriculum framework was last developed in 2007 after the National curriculum framework was developed in the year 2005. The SCERT has initiated the process of revision of school curriculum by forming the State curriculum Steering Committee, Curriculum revision core committee and 26 focus groups. Based on the position papers and the suggestions received from the stakeholders, Kerala Curriculum Framework (KCF -2023) on Pre-school Education, School Education, Teacher Education & Adult Education and Continuing Education was developed. The Curriculum Framework gives emphasis to constitutional values, gender justice and inclusiveness in its approach and implementation.

Based on the Curriculum Framework, textbooks for Classes 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 were revised and introduced in the first phase, while textbooks for Classes 2, 4, 6, 8, and 10 were developed and introduced in the second phase. Teacher texts and Parental texts were also developed and the process of developing the digital texts has been initiated.

Some of the other major initiatives in 2024-25 are the following;

- The research on mobile and Internet of Things (IoT) Augmented Learning Environment Special Education was undertaken jointly with Kannur

University. The objectives of the project were to develop a hardware and software enabled learning environment to address the needs of special education, particularly for children with Autism and to design and develop an augmented reality-based learning environment to improve collaborative learning experience.

- A research on the effectiveness of the mathematical package Manchadi developed by K-DISC was initiated.
- The process of developing a separate curriculum for sports schools has been started by SCERT Kerala.

Vidyakiranam Mission (Continuation of Public Education Rejuvenation Campaign) part of Navakeralam Karmapadathy II

Vidyakiranam Mission (Public Education Rejuvenation Campaign) is one among the mission programme envisaged as part of the Navakeralam Karma Padhathi II. Facilitating to achieve the basic objective of school education- ensuring equitable and quality education for all children, enabling them to actively and creatively engage in the national development process confidently by using their full potential by upholding the constitutional values by linking all possible agencies and resources within and out of education department is the overall objective of the programme.

Major achievements

- Public Schools regained trust and reputation from among the community specially that of the parental community. Their enhanced confidence and expectations reflected in the school enrolment. The additional enrolment of 11.5 lakh students from 2017-18 to 2025-26 academic years seems to be a clear evidence for peoples' trust in the public education system.
- The social environment emerged through Mission activities ultimately leads in reducing the dropout rate. Kerala is the state in the country where the dropout rate is the lowest in school education.
- The infrastructure facilities of govt. Schools, which is an enabling factor in quality learning, improved at a large scale.
- For nurturing and developing the attitude of environmental protection and conservation in the context of global warming and climate change, biodiversity parks were developed in schools with the active participation of students.
- Kerala has been placed top in the SEQI (School Education Quality Index) prepared by Niti Aayog.

- All classrooms of 8th to 12th classes were converted into technology friendly classrooms and established computer labs in all primary schools.
- Evolved a new methodology for teacher training by introducing the project-teacher transformation programme for higher secondary teachers and imparted digital education training to all teachers.
- 'Manjadi', a child-friendly mathematics learning programme was implemented by the Department of Education from class 3 with the support of Vidyakiranam Mission, SCERT & K-DISC.
- Mazhavillu, a Child-friendly Science Learning Programme was implemented to learn science in a scientific way with joy and develop scientific attitude and scientific temper. The objective of this project is to develop the inquisitiveness among the children of 3rd class and piloting all Model Residential Schools also.
- "Kurunnezhuthukal- onnile ezuthum chinthayum" is a book published by Vidyakiranam Mission with a collection of diaries written by class one students that provides clear evidences of language learning in a higher order.
- A total of 1,486 Special Care Centres have been established in public schools to provide additional support for students with disabilities.
- Weather stations were established at schools to make the study of geography more interesting. At present, 200 weather stations are operational.
- 'Shuchithwa Vidyalaya Haritha Vidyalaya' Campaign (Clean Campus Green Campus) was implemented to promote cleanliness, waste management and environmental sustainability in educational institutions across Kerala.
- 'No to Drugs' campaign was implemented under the leadership of NSS and SPC for strengthening anti-drug activities.

Higher Secondary Education

Higher secondary courses were introduced in the State in 1990-91 to reorganise the secondary level of education in accordance with the National Education Policy 1986. There are 2,076 Higher Secondary Schools (HSS) in the State in 2025. Out of these 819 (39.5 per cent) are Government schools, 845 (40.7 per cent) are aided schools and the remaining 412 (19.8 per cent) are unaided schools. Among the districts, Malappuram has the largest number of higher secondary schools (248) in the State followed by Ernakulam (209) and Thrissur (204).

There are 7,223 batches of higher secondary classes in 2025. The total intake in higher secondary schools was 3, 87,331 in 2024-25. Malappuram had the largest number of batches (1,080) with highest enrolment of 70,472 students. District wise/management-wise number of HSS and number of batches are given in **Appendix 6.1.17** and District wise enrolment of students in HSS are given in **Appendix 6.1.18**.

The pass percentage of students in higher secondary courses in 2024-25 was 75.3 per cent. 3,02,943 students were eligible for higher studies, out of which 1,72,813 were girls and 1,30,130 were boys in 2025. The details are given in **Appendix 6.1.19**. The pass percentage of SC students during the period was 57.2 per cent and that of ST students was 59.3 per cent. Details are given in **Appendices 6.1.20** and **6.1.21**.

Vocational Higher Secondary Education

Vocational higher secondary education was introduced in the State in 1983-84. Vocational higher secondary education in the State imparts education at plus two level with the objective of achieving self/wage/direct employment as well as vertical mobility. In 2025-26, there are 389 Vocational Higher Secondary Schools (VHSS) in the State with a total of 1,101 batches. Out of these 261 are in the government sector and 128 in the aided sector. Kollam (52) followed by Thiruvananthapuram (41) has the largest number of vocational higher secondary schools in the State. District wise details of VHSS and courses in 2025-26 are given in **Appendix 6.1.22**. 70.05 per cent of students were eligible for higher education in VHS examination in 2025 March. The number of students who appeared and those who passed vocational higher secondary examination from 2020 to 2025 and the results of school going students (2020-2025) are given in **Appendices 6.1.23** and **6.1.24**

Higher Education

Kerala has envisioned higher education as the foundation of its future socio-economic development. In line with this vision, the higher education sector in the state has pursued a range of administrative and academic reforms, alongside targeted capital investments, to enable Kerala's transition into a knowledge society and knowledge economy. Over the last decade, the state has established a robust platform for transforming higher education by enriching the curricula and

pedagogy, enhancing institutional governance, expanding exposure to international standards and strengthening the interface between industry and academia to enhance skills and employability. While important challenges remain, these initiatives collectively signal a sustained effort to reposition higher education as a key driver of inclusive growth.

With this vision, Kerala has consistently improved its achievements in higher education since the beginning of the 14th Five-Year Plan. The 14th Five-Year Plan aims to build a knowledge society by increasing enrollment, strengthening the physical infrastructure, improving the quality, and providing equitable opportunities to students. As per the AISHE Report 2021-2022, Kerala has a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 41.3 in higher education, the seventh highest in the country among the States and UTs, and the overall Gender Parity Index (GPI) is 1.44 (more female enrolment relative to males).

There have been several innovative initiatives in the higher education sector in recent years, like the introduction of a four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP), the establishment of Sree Narayana Guru Open University and Digital University, collaborations with premier institutions, an increase in the number of foreign students, enhancement of the infrastructure facilities of public funded higher education institutions and technical institutions and the added emphasis on innovation, entrepreneurship, academia-industry linkages and skilling reflect Kerala's progressive academic landscape. Student-centric schemes, such as the Hungry Free Campus Project, the CM's Prathibha Scholarship, and the Jeevani Mental Health Program, reflect the commitment to inclusivity and well-being. Kerala's institutions continue to excel nationally, with universities achieving commendable performances in the NIRF 2025 rankings. As many as 18 colleges from Kerala feature in the top 100 colleges in the country, while three of them are ranked among the top 50 colleges according to the NIRF ranking 2025.

Universities and Collegiate Education

Kerala has 14 State universities, out of which four (Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi, Calicut, and Kannur universities) are general. The rest of the universities, viz. Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University, Cochin University of Science and

Table 6.1.6 Enrolment of Students in Arts and Science Colleges (During 2024-25)

Course	Total	Girls	Boys	per cent of Girls
B. A.	147005	95240	51765	64.8
B.Sc.	113780	76498	37282	67.2
B.Com.	48251	30348	17903	62.9
Total	309036	202086	106950	65.4
M.A.	16939	11320	5619	66.8
MSc.	21337	13633	7704	63.9
M.Com.	7099	4893	2206	68.9
Total	45375	29846	15529	65.8
Grand Total	354411	231932	122479	65.4

Source: Directorate of Collegiate Education

Technology, Kerala Agricultural University, Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Kerala University of Health Sciences, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies, and Kerala Technological University offer specialised courses in specific subject areas. Sree Narayana Guru Open University, the only Open University in Kerala, was established in 2020 with headquarters at Kollam. It has the mandate to provide open education to all categories in various disciplines. The Digital University, established in 2020, is the first of its kind in the country, and it is meant to conduct academic programs and research on cutting-edge digital technologies and emerging knowledge domains. The National University of Advanced Legal Studies (NUALS), established in 2005, is the only university under the state government for legal education. Besides these, a Central University also functions in Kasaragod District within the State. Premium national-level institutions, such as IIT Palakkad, NIT Kozhikode, IIM Kozhikode, and AIISER Trivandrum, also function in the state.

Arts and Science Colleges

In 2024-25, Kerala has 230 arts and science colleges, of which 164 are government-aided and 66 are government-run. Apart from these, various un-aided/self-financing arts and science colleges affiliated with universities also function in the state. Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram have the largest number of arts and science colleges (26) in the State, followed by Kottayam (24). Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode have the largest government colleges (10). District-wise details of arts and science colleges in the state for 2024-25 are provided in **Appendix 6.1.25**. The details of self-financing

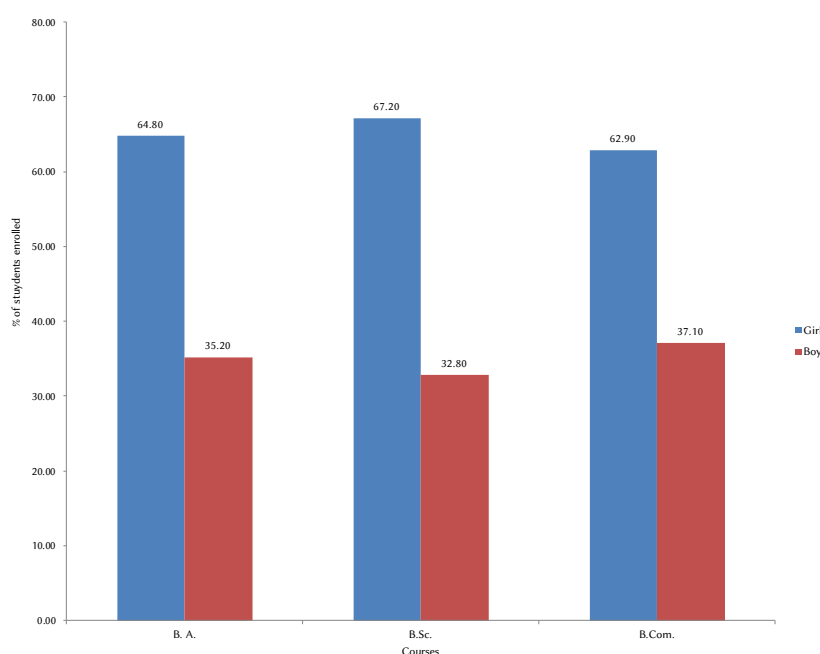
and autonomous colleges in the State are in **Appendix 6.1.26**.

Enrolment in arts and science colleges

In 2024-25, 3.5 lakh students registered in arts and science institutions (excluding unaided colleges) for courses offered by the four general universities in Kerala. Of these, 2.3 lakh (65.4%) are girls (**Table 6.1.6**). Of the total students enrolled for degree courses, 47.6 per cent are enrolled for B.A degree courses, 36.8 per cent for B.Sc. and 15.6 per cent for Degree courses. Girls constitute 65.4 per cent of the total enrolment for degree courses. Gender-wise distribution of enrolment reveals that the proportion of boys in B.Com courses is higher than that in B.Sc. and BA courses (**Figure 6.1.3**).

Regarding the courses, 27 subjects are offered for BA degree programmes. Among them, Economics has the largest enrolment of students, followed by English. In B.Sc. programmes, 31 subjects are offered, and Physics has the largest student enrolment, followed by Mathematics. Details of enrolment of students in arts and science colleges for B.A, B.Sc., and B.Com. are given in **Appendices 6.1.27, 6.1.28, and 6.1.29**. In postgraduate courses, 23,060 students were admitted in 2024-25. As much as 66.2 per cent of the students enrolled in PG courses are girls. Details of enrolment of students in arts and science colleges for M.A., M.Sc., and M.Com. courses are given in **Appendices 6.1.30, 6.1.31, and 6.1.32**.

Figure 6.1.3 Gender-wise proportion of students in undergraduate courses in 2024-25



Source: Directorate of Collegiate Education

Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students

It is reported that in 2024-25, a total of 33,104 Scheduled Caste (SC) students were enrolled in degree and postgraduate courses, which constitute 9.34 per cent of the total enrolment. The number of Scheduled Tribe students admitted to degree and postgraduate courses in the State in 2024-25 is 8,595, which forms 2.43 per cent of the total enrolment in the State.

Details of the enrolment of SC and ST students in arts and science colleges in Kerala in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.33**. Percentage-wise distribution of SC/ST students is shown in **Table 6.1.7**, and the distribution of SC and ST students enrolled in various undergraduate and postgraduate courses in the State is also shown in **Figure 6.1.4**.

Scholarships

Students in Kerala availed of 16 types of Central and State sector scholarships in the year 2024-25. While 48,168 students were selected for District Merit Scholarships, 6,196 students availed of the State Merit Scholarship. The total number of students who availed of post-matric scholarship for students with disabilities was 1,850. The details of different types of scholarships offered from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.34**.

Table 6.1.7 Percentage of SC and ST students in higher education in Kerala in 2024-25

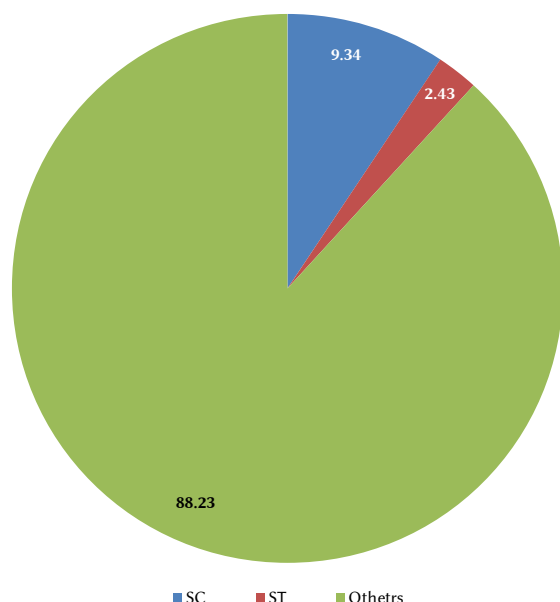
Course	Total	% of SC	% of ST	% of Others
B.A	100	7.77	2.42	89.81
B.Sc	100	11.49	1.26	87.25
B.Com	100	8.74	2.24	89.02
Total	100	9.29	1.97	88.74
M.A	100	9.60	6.16	84.24
M. Sc	100	9.11	4.12	86.77
M.Com	100	11.49	8.27	80.24
Total	100	9.67	5.53	84.80
Grand Total	100	9.34	2.43	88.23

Source: Directorate of Collegiate Education

Teachers

The number of teachers in arts and science colleges in the State in 2024-25 was 11,160, with 57.7 per cent women. Details of the number of teachers in arts and science colleges across different universities in the state from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.1.35**. It is estimated that 4,618 (41.4 per cent) teachers in arts and science colleges in the State have Ph.Ds. Details are given in **Appendix 6.1.36**. A total of 4,017 guest lecturers were working in Government and Aided arts and science colleges of the State in 2024-25. Details are given in the **Appendix. 6.1.37**.

Figure 6.1.4. Distribution of students in undergraduate and postgraduate courses in 2024-25



Source: Directorate of Collegiate Education

Major initiatives of the Directorate of Collegiate Education in 2024-25

The Directorate of Collegiate Education has initiated several innovative programmes to enhance the quality of education, improve the infrastructure facilities, and ensure equity. Brief descriptions of the programmes by the Directorate are given below:

Hunger-free campus: The “Hunger Free Campus” project, implemented with government approval since 2022-23, aims to nurture a healthy young generation by providing quality, low-cost food to approximately 30,000 students studying in government colleges under the Department of Collegiate Education. Currently, the canteens in the colleges under the department are being run through Kudumbashree units. Colleges identify economically backward students who come from adverse living conditions and provide them with midday meals at a rate of Rs. 10/- through a special coupon/token. This amount is fully sanctioned for the canteens to cover the losses incurred by them.

CM’s Prathibha Scholarship Award: As part of the Chief Minister’s 100-day programme, the Prathibha Dhan Sahaya Scheme is an innovative initiative by the Department of Higher Education to award 1000 talented students who are economically backward. In this programme, 1000 scholarships were awarded.

Jeevani - College Mental Awareness Programme: Through this programme, all college students will receive psychological support by utilising Jeevani counsellors, creating a positive environment within the institutions. All the colleges under the government and aided sectors are beneficiaries of this programme.

Earn While You Learn Programme: The Earn While You Learn programme is a project designed to instil saving habits in students and develop their work skills. As part of the project, the department also provides assistance to students in finding self-employment opportunities.

Kerala State Higher Education Council

Recognising the importance of State-level planning and coordination for the effective implementation of national-level policies in higher education, the National Policy on Education, 1986, suggested that a State Council of Higher Education be set up in all states. Based on this, the Kerala State Higher Education Council was established on March 16, 2007. The Council is regarded as the principal higher education think tank of the State, and provides evidence-based policy advocacy to bring about equity, access and excellence in the higher education sector. The major responsibilities of the Council are:

- Act as an agency for formulating higher education policies of the State
- Render advice to the Government, universities, and other institutions of higher education in the State
- Co-ordinate the activities of various agencies of higher education in the State
- Initiate new concepts and programmes in higher education
- Provide common facilities in higher education without impinging upon the autonomy of other institutions of higher education

Major activities of the Higher Education Council during 2024-25

The Higher Education Council has supported the higher education sector in Kerala by devising a system to ensure the quality of education and establishing institutional mechanisms to coordinate the activities of higher education institutions in the state, through resource sharing, constant interaction and dialogue. The major initiatives are described below:

Cluster of Colleges: A Cluster of colleges is an arrangement for the mutual sharing of human and

physical resources among neighbouring colleges to optimum utilisation of the available facilities, for enhancing enrolment and quality of education. Three Clusters, Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, and Kozhikode, have been functioning since 2009 and they consist of five, four and five-member colleges, respectively. New clusters, namely Thalassery, Kasaragod, and Palakkad, became operational during the 2024-25 period. Common research laboratories, add-on courses, yoga classes, common cluster games, cultural activities, residential camps, workshops, international conferences and common book publications are some of the activities under the 'Cluster of Colleges' programme.

State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC): The Council has formulated the concept of State Level Accreditation mechanism, namely SAAC, in line with the suggestions of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council and University Grants Commission intending to accomplish the task of assessing and grading the institute affiliated/educational institutions. During the 2024-25 period, the assessment process for four colleges was completed. The SAAC Manual was revised, incorporating the key indicators and criteria prescribed by NAAC, while retaining those specific to SAAC, namely social inclusion, equity, excellence, scientific temper and secular outlook. SAAC has completed the accreditation of four colleges, three in the 2021-23 period and one in 2025. Farook Training College secured an A+ Grade (CGPA 3.39), Bishop Moore College secured an A Grade (3.21), Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakkuda, secured an A+ Grade (CGPA 3.45) and Sir Syed College, Taliparamba, secured an A+ Grade (3.30).

Higher Education Scholarship Scheme: Under this scheme, 1,000 fresh scholarships are awarded every academic year to meritorious students to pursue non-professional undergraduate courses. The scholarships of the awardees so selected would be renewed in the ensuing years till they complete their post-graduation. The number of beneficiaries of higher education scholarships in the undergraduate and postgraduate sections during 2024-25 are 2,301 and 446, respectively.

e-Journal Consortium: It is the facility to provide the academic community with free access to e-journals across institutions in the country. This is done by Information and Library Network Centres through

which expenditure can be reduced considerably. Almost all the journals and databases in relevant disciplines can be subscribed at a negotiated cost, fully funded by the Government/Universities. Kerala State Higher Education Council acts as a nodal agency in the State with the participation of all the Universities in the State. Expansion of e-consortium by including more publishers and e-resources is underway. The Knimbus search platform has been provided for easy access to digital resources.

Kerala Academic Libraries Network (KALNET): KALNET (Kerala Academic Library Network) is a platform for academic resources of libraries, that has been developed to provide access to library collections across university libraries in the State. It was launched in February 2021. The platform brings together 15 lakh titles across 147 libraries of 11 universities. In addition to books, library resources such as rare manuscripts, journals, PhD Theses, audio books and various reports are also indexed.

Erudite Scheme: The Erudite Scheme is a flagship programme of the government, introduced to enhance the quality of education and research in the state's universities. It enables the academic community to interact with outstanding scholars worldwide, including Nobel laureates. KSHEC is the coordinating agency for implementing the scheme through various universities and colleges in the State. Around 220 National and International Scholars, including Nobel laureates, have participated in various programmes organised by universities and colleges under the Erudite Scheme.

Kairali Research Awards: Government of Kerala, to encourage the most eminent research scholars and research pedagogues of the state, has instituted Kairali Research Awards from 2017-2018 and has authorised the State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) as the secretariat for the Kairali Research Awards. Since its inception in 2018, the Council has completed the selection process of awards three times and those awards have been distributed to the recipients.

DIGICOL: The Kerala State Higher Education Council in association with Digital University of Kerala has initiated the Institution level Online Hands-on Training on Moodle LMS for colleges in the State. The Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology has the project of setting up Server Infrastructure for

Box 6.1.3 Centers of Excellence in Higher Education

Following the recommendations of the Higher Education Reforms Commission, the government has decided to establish Centres of Excellence (CoE) in the state to enhance research and development quality. KSHEC has identified seven priority fields for the first phase. Based on these, 7 Centres of Excellence and two sub-centres are being developed.

- I. Centre of Excellence for Teaching, Learning, and Training(Headquarters at KSHEC) – This centre Organizes regular training for teachers in curriculum design, syllabus preparation, and evaluation strategies, with emphasis on continuous internal assessment techniques.
- II. Kerala Institute for Science, Technology, and Innovation (KISTI-MG University)) – This centre Brings together faculty, researchers, students, and industry partners to advance knowledge, develop cutting-edge research, provide specialized education and training, and contribute to the state’s academic and professional development.
- III. Kerala Network for Research Support in Higher Education (KNRSHE-Headquarters at KSHEC with sub centres at Kannur,Trivandrum,Kottayam,Ernakulam) – It provides support for faculty, institutions, and research students through shared research facilities across Kerala.
- IV. Kerala Institute of Advanced Studies (KIAS-College of Engineering,Munnar) – A fully residential institute serving as an intellectual retreat and collaborative space for scholars, aims at producing publications that contribute significantly to Kerala studies and related fields.
- V. Centre for Indigenous People’s Education(CIPE-Calicut University) – It focuses on promoting participation of indigenous students in higher education and developing culture-based educational programs that are relevant and meaningful to their communities.
- VI. Kerala Institute for Gender Equality (KIGE- Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, kalady) – This centre works to advance gender equality through research, data collection, and dissemination of best practices.
- VII. Kerala Language Network (KLN-Malayalam University with subunit at Ponnani) – It Supports the creation and translation of knowledge texts into and from Malayalam and other languages, conducts linguistic research and documents minority and underdeveloped languages.

Apart from this Kerala Consortium Centres, Kerala Institute of Policy Studies, Kerala Institute of Analytical Services are under implementation. KSHEC has invited an expression of interest from the universities and other institution to host the above-mentioned centres/sub centres of excellence in their campus. An MoU/agreement signed between the COE and the host institute for the minimum period of 5 years regarding the extend of facilities.

the colleges once these colleges have completed the KSHEC training on Moodle LMS organised by the Council. As part of the Digicol Scheme, customised LMS and server facility was provided to 35 colleges. So far 110 higher education institutions have been trained under Institutional Training Programme.

Chief Minister’s Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship scheme: The Government of Kerala introduced the prestigious Chief Minister’s Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship scheme for meeting the innovation and development needs of the State through promoting quality research spanning the sectors like social, economic, agriculture, development and industry. During the first phase (2021-22), 77 CMNPF were awarded. The second phase (2022-23) of CMNPF was awarded to 64 candidates in August 2023 and approved the shortlist for the eligible candidates (31 nos.) The 68 PDF’s have been declared in the second phase (2nd Batch) and 59 fellows have joined for Chief Minister’s Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

Kerala-Enterprise Resource Planning Solution (K-REAP): K-REAP is an initiative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council supported by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala, to develop an ERP software system that centralizes diverse campus functions into a cohesive system. K-REAP platform empowers Universities and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) with a digital framework for planning, management, delivery, and monitoring operations and services, thereby aligning with the transformative goals suggested by the Higher Education reforms commissions appointed by the Government of Kerala. K-REAP implemented in major universities like Kannur, Calicut, Malayalam, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University, Maharajas College and 35000 students already on boarded.

Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF): Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) is a comprehensive ranking mechanism of the Higher Education Institutions in the State that aims the quality of Higher Education. Kerala-

Box 6.1.4 Study in Kerala

Kerala's higher education system emphasises inclusivity and universal accessibility by overcoming barriers related to gender and disability. The Government of Kerala has undertaken several initiatives to transform the higher education system, aligning it with global standards and emerging trends. Kerala aims to become the global hub of education. As part of this, in January 2024, the first meeting of the Governing Body of the fourth Council resolved to approve the various tasks proposed in connection with the launch of 'Study in Kerala'. The 'Study in Kerala' initiative reflects the State Government's commitment to attracting international students and transforming Kerala into a thriving knowledge economy. This vision aligns with the recommendations of the Report of the Commission for Reforms in Higher Education, which emphasised the importance of promoting inward mobility of international students to Kerala's universities and colleges. The programme is being implemented to improve campus diversity so that it would be beneficial to equip students in the State to work in a global society. A programme strategy report is being finalised by the KSHEC in consultation with national and international experts.

specific ranking index for universities and colleges is on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework in the state of Kerala. This will enable holistic and comprehensive ranking of the 1500+ higher education institutions in the state. KIRF includes state specific criteria and indicators such as Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook, Adoption of Green Technology and Accreditation and Ranking for assessment.

Academic Achievements of the Universities in Kerala during 2024-25

The University of Kerala secured the highest NAAC grading of A++ with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.67, the highest grading and points obtained by any university in the State. The university received the first Chancellor's Award for the best university in the State of Kerala in 2015. The university also ranked 5th among state public universities, 21st in the university category, and 42nd overall in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the year 2025. The university secured a 339th rank in the QS World Ranking Asia 2025, improving from its 451st rank in the previous year and ranking 88th in the Southern Asia category. In the QS World University Sustainability Rankings 2025, the University ranked 810th for Environmental Impact, 868th for Governance, and 1001+ for Social Impact, with a performance ranking in the 1181-1200 band overall.

The University of Kerala is ranked 16th among government universities in India Today's MDRA Ranking 2024 and 2nd in the KIRF Rankings 2024. It has been selected among the top 10% of higher education institutions in the Accessible India Campaign. Currently, there are 218 international students registered at the university, and modern

residential amenities have been provided for them. The University Grants Commission has identified the University as the nodal university for coordinating all universities in Kerala to write a book in Malayalam.

Mahatma Gandhi University was accredited with the highest grade of A++ in the 4th cycle of NAAC accreditation, achieving a superior CGPA of 3.61. This achievement makes the first university from Kerala to secure an A++ in the 4th cycle. In NIRF 2025, the university secured 17th position among state public universities, 43rd rank in the university category, and 79th position in the overall ranking. Mahatma Gandhi University has secured a place in the World University Rankings published by The Times Higher Education, ranking 9th among all Indian Universities by global assessment. Honoured with the 'Minister's Excellence Award' instituted by Kerala Higher Education Council in 2025. For excellence in promoting campus biodiversity, MG University received the 'Biodiversity Conservation Award 2025'. As a landmark for social equity, the university established Kerala's first 'Transgender Students' Hostel, which provides inclusive residential space for transgender community.

Calicut University is the largest University in Kerala, with more than 25 postgraduate studies and research departments. The University of Calicut has improved its grade to 'A+' with 3.45 points out of 4 in the recently held fourth assessment cycle by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The university has also been ranked 38th among state public universities by the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) for 2025. As a step towards inclusivity, Calicut University has constructed facilities for the Day

Care Centre, catering to infants, adolescent girls, the elderly, and children with disabilities.

The Kannur University is accredited with a B++ grade with 2.85 points in the second accreditation cycle by the NAAC in 2021. The University has been selected as one of six spoke institutions in the prestigious ANRF-PAIR (Anusandhan National Research Foundation – Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research) initiative, led by the University of Hyderabad, which serves as one of the seven national hubs. This project promotes interdisciplinary biomedical research focused on addressing metabolic diseases, infectious diseases, and cancers. As part of a high-impact research cluster, the University focuses on early disease detection and intervention, aligning with national research priorities. It was selected from 32 national submissions and significantly strengthened the cluster's proposal. Kerala Start-up Mission (KSUM) LEAP Centre was established in Kannur University as the first Centre in a State University in Kerala

Among other universities, Sree Sankaracharya Sanskrit University is accredited with an A grade and a CGPA of 3.24 by the NAAC.

While CUSAT is accredited with an A+ grade of 3.39 points by the NAAC, it has also ranked 32nd among universities in India as per the National Institute Ranking Framework NIRF for the year 2025. It also achieved 6th position in state public universities and 50th in overall ranking. In the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) 2024, CUSAT emerged as the top-ranked university in Kerala. Furthermore, in the India Today Best University Ranking 2025 (Public University Category), CUSAT achieved the 7th position among public universities, highlighting its growing prominence in India's higher education landscape. In the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, the University ranked within the 401–600 band overall and achieved an exceptional 58th position globally in the category “Life Below Water” (SDG 14). In the World University Rankings 2026, CUSAT was placed in the 1001–1200 band. In the QS World University Rankings, Sustainability 2025 CUSAT placed within the 971–980 band. Kerala's first American Corner was inaugurated on December 3, 2024, in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General, Chennai. It serves as a hub for cultural exchange, learning and collaboration, offering free access to U.S.-related resources.

Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR)

KCHR, established in 2001, is an autonomous academic institution committed to scientific research in archaeology, history, and the social sciences. Research, including in-house and funded projects, maintaining libraries and resource centres, documentation, publication, training, and running a wide variety of fellowship programmes are amongst the major areas of KCHR's activities. KCHR aspires to integrate advanced research and scholarship with historical social consciousness through its activities. The Kerala Council for Historical Research has two distinct campuses – one in Thiruvananthapuram and the other in Pattanam.

Major activities of KCHR during 2024-25

Various research projects undertaken by the council include the historical geography of Kerala-towards an understanding of the rise and decline of the midland zone in history, archaeological explorations, surveys and excavations, history of education in Kerala, visuality, cityscapes, public history: ways of thinking contemporary Kerala, risk and vulnerability assessment of the rock arts of Wayanad, etc. KCHR started a School of Epigraphical Studies at the Pattanam campus on 12 February 2021, and the first batch completed their certificate course in February 2024. KCHR conducted an Archaeological excavation at the Iron Age/early historic settlement site of Anappara near Kochara in the Idukki district of Kerala. The excavation has revealed clear evidence of early historic settlement on the slope of Anappara Rock. In February 2024, KCHR initiated a plan to develop a digital online archive for historical documents related to Kerala. Under this initiative, a huge collection of historical records from different sources, including local and family histories, oral traditions, biographies, manuscripts, out-of-print books, old magazines, newspapers, and academic and official documents in multiple languages such as English, both old and new Malayalam scripts, and many others will be collected, digitized and made available for researchers and general readers online. One of the major initiatives of KCHR is Pattanam Archaeological Research. KCHR has completed nine seasons of excavations at Pattanam and published interim reports on these excavations. Currently, the development of a site museum dedicated exclusively to Pattanam Archaeological materials is underway.

Kerala State Skill Development Project and Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)

Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) Kerala, launched in 2021 as an extension of the ADB-funded project, is a Section 8 company under the Higher Education Department. The only body in Kerala recognised by NCVET as an assessing body and awarding agency, ASAP Kerala, received the internationally recognised ISO 21001:2018 certification recently. The company offers industry-relevant skill training to students and the public to boost employability, delivered online and at schools, colleges and through the ASAP -Kerala Community Skill Parks.

Major achievements/ performance of ASAP during 2024-25

ASAP Kerala was recognised in the India Skills Report 2024 for its key role in developing industry-relevant skills for Kerala's youth, enhancing their employability. Kerala has ranked 2nd in the country in terms of employability among youth in the 18-21 age group. Additionally, Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Kozhikode have been ranked among the top 10 cities in the country in terms of talent.

- ASAP Kerala successfully placed 983 candidates in prominent MNCs, contributing to a total of 11,892 placements as of March 31, 2025.
- ASAP Kerala's partner Remote Pilot Training Organisation received DGCA approval for a drone piloting course covering drone technology, mapping, UAV surveys and aerial cinematography and provided training to 20 police personnel and 10 Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates in Drone Technology.
- In collaboration with external agencies, ASAP Kerala provides CSR-funded training in the Dive master course(POWERGRID), Digital Marketing (TERUMO PENPOL), and STEM education (RUBFILA International) for fishermen, PwD candidates and tribal girl students from Attapadi, respectively.
- Conducted Unity Certified User VR Developer Training for 25 women candidates, equipping them with AR/VR game development skills and offering placement support.
- In collaboration with KSIDC, ASAP Kerala launched Dreamvestor 2.0 among college students to nurture young entrepreneurs across Kerala.

- ASAP Kerala and KSIDC implemented enterprises across Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, and Thrissur, and out of 358 participants, 84 launched or expanded businesses, with 23 registering as MSMEs.
- The organisation launched the iLike programme (Incredible Learning Innovations for Knowledge Empowerment) for employability and entrepreneurship, promoting social mobility and lifelong learning. So far, the programme has enrolled 618 learners across 47 courses, providing them with relevant, future-proof skills for the modern workplace.
- Established 16 Community Skill Parks across the state. The organisation offers German, Japanese, and English (IELTS) language training at its foreign language centres located within the Community Skill Parks.
- ASAP Kerala, in partnerships with organisations such as RCCS Pvt Ltd, Amal Jyothi College of Engineering, Kerala Institute of Travel and Tourism Studies (KITTS), and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDIT) provide practical, hands-on training and real-world exposure to students to align their academic learning with industry needs.

National Cadet Corps (NCC)

The NCC was established in 1948 as the largest uniformed youth organisation in India, and its motto is "Unity and Discipline". NCC aims to develop character, discipline, and leadership qualities among students and youth. There are five group headquarters, 42 battalions, and one directorate of NCC in the State. The total number of cadets in the state for 2024-25 is 96,895, spread across 406 colleges and 699 schools. Out of this 43,605 cadets are girls.

Major achievements/initiatives of the NCC directorate in 2024-25 are i) NCC Kerala pioneered the state's first airstrip at Manchummal, Peerumedu (Idukki), enabling free flying training for 1000 cadets. ii) It Expanded naval training through new centres at Trivandrum, Kollam and Kozhikode. iii) NCC Kerala also developed national level residential training centers at Nedumangad and the Calicut university campus. iv) 6 candidates from Kerala got the opportunity to participate in the Youth Exchange Programme(YEP), an international event conducted at U K, Vietnam, Singapore, Nepal and Bhutan in 2025 v) Kerala Lakshadweep Directorate

received the trophy for the highest achieving Directorate in the country in 2024. vi) Kerala battalion N.C.C was presented with the highest award for cadets, the 'Raksha Mantri Padak' for rendering selfless service in the relief camps during the natural disaster in the Mundakai-Churalmala, Wayanad.

Rashtriya Uchathaar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)

The key objectives of RUSA are to improve access, equity and quality in higher education through planned development of higher education at the State level. It also intends to create new academic institutions, expand and upgrade existing ones, develop self-reliant institutions in terms of quality education, professionally managed, and characterised by a greater inclination towards research, and provide students with an education that is relevant to the times and the requirements of society.

RUSA Phase 1 was started in 2014, and an amount of Rs 199.57 crore was approved. Out of this, an amount of Rs 187.80 crore was released up to 2024. Out of the total, Rs 112.6 crore was released as the central share. As part of the first phase of RUSA, grants were awarded to six universities and 28 colleges for infrastructure improvements. The proposals for faculty improvement, upgrading existing colleges to model degree colleges, and equity initiatives for several other colleges were also approved. Out of the total release, Rs 182.9 crores have been utilised (97.4 per cent)

RUSA Phase II was started in 2018, and an amount of Rs 366 crore was approved, out of which Rs 257.43 crore has been released up to 2025. Of this, the central share is Rs 154 crore, and the state share is Rs 103 crore. In this phase, proposals for establishing a RUSA new Model Degree College at Mananthawady, Wayanad, and five autonomous colleges (Rajagiri College of Social Sciences - Ernakulam, St. Joseph College, Devagiri College - Kozhikkode, Marian College, Kuttikkanam - Idukki, M.A College- Kothamangalam, Farooq College - Kozhikkode) for enhancing quality and excellence have been approved. Proposals for grants to 113 colleges for infrastructure development and two Universities for research, innovation, and quality improvement have also been approved. All the released funds have been fully utilised.

Out of the total 156 institutions that have availed themselves of RUSA funds, more than 100 institutions have completed the infrastructure component of the project. The first phase of RUSA covered 21 government colleges, which was extended to 126 colleges in the second phase, including government, aided and autonomous Colleges. Mahatma Gandhi University (MGU), Kottayam, is implementing 24 major research projects worth Rs 35 crore under RUSA 2.0, with a focus on innovation and advanced research. Under the research component, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) has made notable progress in domains such as nanotechnology, energy, marine sciences, biotechnology, and computer science. Research achievements for 2024 include 986 publications, 11 patents, and 205 PhDs, with 105 ongoing sponsored projects totalling Rs 51.55 crore. As part of RUSA's equity initiatives, Girls' Amenity Centres have been constructed in 26 Government Colleges.

Technical Education

Technical education equips individuals with practical skills and technological knowledge needed for modern life. It helps learners acquire job-oriented skills that enhance employability and open doors to various career opportunities. By focusing on hands-on learning, technical education develops problem-solving skills, creativity, and the ability to apply scientific principles to real-world situations. A technically skilled population enhances productivity, encourages entrepreneurship and strengthens the economy. The primary focus of the government is to promote economic development by adopting new technologies and innovations. Emphasis was given to promoting innovative thinking and entrepreneurship development among students.

The Directorate of Technical Education is the state's nodal department for technical education. Various quality assurance measures are being implemented by the directorate to ensure the widespread acceptance of passing out students. Opportunities are available for teachers and students to interact with experts and academics, as well as to visit various leading educational institutions worldwide. The directorate ensures industry institute interactions and organises various community service activities. The details of technical institutions under the administrative and

financial control of the Directorate of Technical Education are given in **Appendix 6.1.38**.

Engineering Colleges

There are 166 engineering colleges functioning in the state as of 2024-25, with a sanctioned intake of 52,118. Out of these engineering colleges, 154 (92.8 per cent) are self-financing colleges (unaided), nine (5.4 per cent) are Government colleges, and three (1.8 per cent) are government-aided colleges. The highest number of unaided engineering colleges is in Ernakulam (28), followed by Thiruvananthapuram (26). No government engineering colleges function in Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Malappuram and Kasargod Districts. District-wise and management-wise details of engineering colleges, along with the sanctioned intake, are given in **Appendix 6.1.39**. The sanctioned intake of government colleges in 2024-25 was 4,050 (7.8%), aided colleges 2,240 (4.3%), and unaided colleges 45,828 (87.9%).

The highest number of seats in 2025-26 was found to be in Computer Science and Engineering (13,635), followed by Electronics and Communication Engineering (6,632), Mechanical Engineering (5,817), and Civil Engineering (5,709). In 2024-25, also the highest number of seats was in the Computer Science and Engineering branch (12,264). The branch-wise distribution of seats in engineering colleges for the 2025-26 academic year is given in **Appendix 6.1.40**. Electronics and Communication Engineering have the largest student enrolment, followed by Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering in 2024-25.

Gender facts: In 2024-25, the proportion of girls enrolled in graduate programmes in government

and aided colleges was 46.4 per cent of the total number of students enrolled. Civil Engineering has the most female student enrolment, followed by Electronics and Communication Engineering and Computer Science Engineering. In postgraduate courses, 1,491 students were admitted into government- and aided-engineering colleges. Girl students accounted for 60.1 per cent of all postgraduate students in government and aided engineering institutes. Civil Engineering has the highest female enrolment, followed by MCA and Electronics and Communication Engineering. Details are given in **Appendices 6.1.41** and **6.1.42**.

Academic Excellence in Engineering Colleges

As evident from the results of the B.Tech course, academic excellence in Government engineering colleges has remained high, primarily due to the high pass percentage and increasing placement of students in reputable firms.

In terms of examination results, it can also be inferred that government-aided colleges performed better than government colleges, as well as self-financing and private colleges. While government-aided colleges registered a 79.5 per cent pass rate, government engineering colleges had a 74.3 per cent pass rate, government self-financing colleges had a 67.6 per cent pass rate, and private autonomous colleges had a 53 per cent pass rate. It is also worth noting that the passing percentage of government self-financing colleges (67.6 per cent) is significantly higher than that of private autonomous engineering colleges, which secured 53 per cent. Compared to boys, girls performed better, with a pass percentage of 77.08, though the number of boys registered was greater than that of girls (**Table 6.1.8**). It is worth noting that only 34.62 per cent of SC students and 28.33 per cent of

Table 6.1.8 Details of B.Tech Result, 2025

Management	Boys			Girls			Total		
	Regis-tered Students	Passed Students	Pass Per-centage	Regis-tered Students	Passed Students	Pass Per-centage	Regis-tered Students	Passed Students	Pass Per-centage
Government	2,305	1,525	66.16	1,704	1,454	85.33	4,009	2,979	74.31
Govt. Aided	1,208	871	72.1	819	740	90.35	2,027	1,611	79.48
Govt. Self-Financing	2,668	1,531	57.38	1,952	1,593	81.61	4,620	3,124	67.62
Private-Self Financing	9,849	4,292	43.57	5,179	3,654	70.55	15,028	7,946	52.87
Total	16,030	8,219	51.27	9,654	7,441	77.08	25,684	15,660	60.97

Source: Kerala Technological University, 2025

Table 6.1.9 Pass percentage of SC and ST B.Tech students, 2025

Category	SC			ST		
	Registered Students	Students passed	Pass Percentage	Registered Students	Students passed	Pass Percentage
Management						
Government	326	122	37.42	31	8	25.81
Govt. Aided	127	52	40.94	11	2	18.18
Govt-Self Financing	170	58	34.12	13	5	38.46
Private -Self Financing	180	46	25.56	5	2	40.0
Total	803	278	34.62	60	17	28.33

Source: Kerala Technological University, 2025

ST students passed the examinations, which is far below the state averages (**Table 6.1.9**).

The placement record of the students in various government institutions is also relatively high. Many students also qualify for higher studies through competitive examinations like GATE and CAT. Most of the students get placement in multinational firms such as WIPRO, Mahindra, TCS, BOSCH, etc.

The number of visiting faculty programs in various government engineering colleges during 2024-25 was 71. 2011 students got placement in various companies during the year 2024-25. Details of visiting faculty programs and placement information for students of various government engineering colleges in the 2024-25 academic year are provided in **Appendices 6.1.43** and **6.1.44**.

Polytechnics and Technical High Schools

Polytechnics and technical high schools play a major role in providing skill-based job opportunities. They have shown remarkable improvement in terms of enrolment in recent years. There are 46 government polytechnics and six government-aided polytechnics in Kerala as of 2024-25. Out of this, seven are women's polytechnic colleges. The annual intakes of students in government polytechnics and government-aided polytechnics for the 2024-25

academic year were 10,636 and 1,342, respectively. The total number of students in government polytechnics in 2024-25 was 29,988, and in government-aided polytechnics, it was 4,404. Details of annual intake and student strength in polytechnics from 2022-23 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendices 6.1.45** and **6.1.46**.

Distribution of the annual intake of students in polytechnics in the 2025-26 across different trades is provided in **Appendix 6.1.47**. Student intake is highest in Mechatronics (4,500), followed by Computer Engineering (Hearing Impaired) (3,800), Civil Engineering & Planning (3,640), Electrical & Electronics Engineering (3,600), and Automobile Engineering (2,190).

Girls constituted only 25.2 per cent of the total strength in polytechnics, while their proportions in government and aided polytechnics were 26.8 per cent and 14.1 per cent, respectively, in 2024-25. A total of 1,119 teachers worked in polytechnics in 2024-25. The proportion of female teachers was 45 per cent. In government-aided polytechnics, female teachers constituted 39.5 per cent, while the respective proportion in the government sector was 45.8 per cent, which is comparatively high. Details of the number of students and teachers in polytechnics are given in **Appendix 6.1.48**.

Table 6.1.10 Percentage of SC and ST students in Polytechnics

Type of Institution	2022-23				2023-24				2024-25			
	SC	ST	Others	Total	SC	ST	Others	Total	SC	ST	Others	Total
Government	7.54	0.93	91.53	100.00	9.41	1.33	89.26	100.00	9.90	1.49	88.61	100.00
Govt. Aided	6.14	0.47	93.39	100.00	5.77	0.36	93.87	100.00	8.31	0.68	91.01	100.00

Source: Directorate of Technical Education

Number of SC/ST students and SC/ST teachers in polytechnics from 2022-23 to 2024-25 (**Table 6.1.10**) are given in **Appendix 6.1.49**.

Currently, 39 government technical high schools are functioning in the State. In the 2025-26 academic year, there are 7,228 students and 584 teachers, respectively. Women teachers constituted 34.8 per cent of the teachers in technical high schools. The number of students and teachers in technical high schools from 2020-21 to 2025-26 are given in **Appendix 6.1.50**. The proportions of SC and ST students in technical high schools are 11.5 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively. Details are given in **Appendices 6.1.51** and **6.1.52**.

APJ Abdul Kalam Kerala Technological University

The Government of Kerala established Kerala Technological University in July 2014, intending to give leadership to the technology-related policy formulation and engineering planning for the State. It also emphasises improving the academic standards of the graduate, postgraduate, and research programmes in engineering science, technology, and management, as well as regulating the academic standards of all colleges affiliated with the University. The main thrust areas of the university are research, development, and innovation. In 2024–25, it granted affiliation to 142 colleges across the Government, Aided, Government self-financing and Private sectors.

Major achievements of APJ Abdul Kalam Kerala Technological University in 2024-25

The university pursued the previously formulated programmes envisioned by the government, with a view to advancing engineering research and education. Major achievements include the following:

Translational Research Centre for APJKTU:

The University was designated as a special purpose vehicle for the smooth implementation of the Translational Research Centre project in a time-bound manner. The University selected M/s. WAPCOS Limited, Pettah, Thiruvananthapuram, as Project Management Consultant for implementing the Translational Research Centre Project of the University at Vilappilsala.

Centres of Excellence of the University:

Establishing Centres of Excellence for multidisciplinary applied research is a scheme

initiated by the University to ensure global connectivity in undertaking high-quality research in emerging areas of technology. The domains of three Centres of Excellence under APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University are 1) Sustainability Engineering and Carbon Neutrality to be located at Government Engineering College Kannur, 2) Emerging Materials and Infrastructure at Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Technology, Kottayam, and 3) Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, and Automation at the Model Engineering College, Ernakulam.

Research support facilities under the University: APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University has 44 research centres spread across its affiliated colleges, accommodating 920 research scholars. To strengthen research and academic activities, the university extended various facilities and tools, including the Elsevier Journal Database, Nimbus library, and Turnitin Plagiarism checking tool, to the affiliated institutions during 2024-25.

Research Fellowship: The number of fellowships awarded to PhD research scholars who availed of the APJ Abdul Kalam Doctoral Fellowship in 2024-25 was 100, with a fellowship amount of 25,000 per month.

Suraksha Welfare Scheme for students: To provide prompt financial support to regular students and their families during accidents, medical emergencies, death, or other unforeseen situations. In the academic year 2024-25, around 1.40 lakh students enrolled in the Scheme.

On-Screen Marking (OSM) system: The On-Screen Marking (OSM) system is proposed to revolutionise the university's exam evaluation process by leveraging digital technology. This system aims to enhance accuracy by reducing human errors, improving efficiency through faster processing and result dissemination, increasing transparency with clear audit trails and reduced biases, and ensuring the security of exam scripts by protecting them from loss, damage and unauthorised access.

GDC AI Workforce Internship Programme: Partnering with AICTE's GDC scheme and the National Health Mission (NHM), KTU launched an internship program to provide students with real-world exposure while contributing to Kerala's palliative care efforts.

IPR Cell: The IPR Cell of APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University envisions fostering innovation by providing support systems such as start-up grants and an incubator ranking framework to promote healthy competition.

International Conference – ETIS 2025: APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University organised the International Conference on Emerging Technologies for Intelligent Systems (ETIS 2025), co-sponsored by the IEEE Kerala Section and IEEE Industry Applications Society. This event brought together over 300 global researchers, academicians and industry professionals.

Start-up Cell: APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University organised a three-day Start-up Boot Camp to foster entrepreneurship and strengthen industry-academia collaboration.

LBS Institute of Technology

The LBS Centre for Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, is a premier institute for computer training and consultancy, registered under the Travancore-Cochin Literary, Scientific, and Charitable Societies Registration Act XII of 1955, established by the Government of Kerala in 1976. The Government of Kerala started the Centre as an Autonomous body with the primary objective that the centre would act as a link between industries and technical institutions to benefit society through mutual interactions. The LBS Centre for Science and Technology is a research study centre affiliated with Kerala University. The LBS Centre for Science and Technology established an engineering college in Kasargod in 1992-93. Another engineering college for women was started at Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram, during the period 2001-02.

Major achievements of LBS in 2024-2025

- LBS received grants from IIT Madras and Wipro Foundation under the I2I Initiative for the projects “AI-powered UAV for Real-Time Thermal Imaging-Based Fault Detection in Transmission Lines and Switchgear for Fast & Proactive Maintenance” and “Integrating a Bidirectional Buck-Boost Converter with Second-Life Batteries for Sustainable EV Charging Solutions”
- LBS received grants from APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (APJAKTU) – CERD (Centre for Engineering Research and

Development) for the projects “Patient Platform Stabilisation for Wheeled Hospital Stretcher” and “Assistive Propelled Electric Wheelbarrow”

- “Smart India Internal Hackathon 2024”: The LBS College of Engineering, Kasargod, successfully hosted the “Smart India Internal Hackathon 2024” providing a dynamic platform for students to showcase their technical prowess and creativity.
- The 4th edition of the intercollegiate technical festival, PRAYAAAG 4.0, was held on September 28 and 29, 2024. The central theme was “Sustainability and Green Technology”, reflecting the growing importance of eco-conscious innovation for a better future.
- The WESAT satellite, developed entirely by women, was launched from Sriharikotta in partnership with ISRO, which involved a team of women, including students and staff from the LBS Institute of Technology for Women. LBS Institute of Technology for Women holds the 1st Position in the KTU 2025 Results.
- A total of 72 students were placed through the placement process with a high salary package during 2024-25

Trivandrum Engineering Science and Technology (TrEST) Research Park

TrEST (Trivandrum Engineering Science and Technology) Research Park is the state’s first science and technology research park, and it has set model for industry-academia linkage. The institution promotes collaborative research in microprocessor design, electric vehicle research, and other emerging technologies. TrEST Park facilitates joint research by faculty, members, students and industry.

Significant Achievements of TrEST Park in 2024-25

- An MoU was signed between K-DISC, TTPL, VSSC, C-DAC, and TrEST Research Park to realise the EV-Consortium. The K-DISC EV Consortium, among K-DISC, TTPL, VSSC, C-DAC, and TrEST Park, focuses on promoting R&D in Electric Vehicle Power System components.
- Setting up TrEST satellite centres in academic institutions aims to provide opportunities for incubating startups in the vicinity of these institutions’ campuses. This will ultimately pave the way for more internships and employment opportunities, as well as enhanced student skill development.

- TrEST park had set up two Centres of Excellence: (a) Electric Vehicles and (b) Microprocessor chip development
- TrEST Park is entrusted as the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the implementation of the Kerala Electric Vehicle Industrial Park (K-EVIP) at Vilappilsala, funded by KIIIFB.
- TrEST Park engaged 10 start-up companies in the campus of the park, specialised in the area of semiconductor, defence, quantum technology and EV-related start-ups
- TrEST Park is developing a new ecosystem called TrEST-Semicon in the area of semiconductor with the support of KIIIFB for the setting up of satellite centre for strengthening the academia and industry collaboration.
- TrEST Park set up advanced facility with FPGA platforms for semiconductor research and embedded systems development.
- TrEST Park incubated companies in quantum sensing, AI/ML SoC, embedded systems, EVs, robotics, 3D printing, weather forecasting, and renewables at TrEST campus.
- Trained more than 500 students in design/simulation tools and 200 in EV modules, provides more than 75 annual UG/PG internships and supports 100 engineers with tools like ANSYS, Altair, and Cadence.

Kerala State Science and Technology Museum (KSSTM)

KSSTM is an autonomous organisation under the Government of Kerala, established in 1984, designed to serve as a dynamic medium of science communication for the public and promote science and scientific temper for a better tomorrow. The Museum is primarily focused on science communication, providing both basic and advanced informal science education to all sections of society. For the last couple of years, the museum has also been focusing on edutainment programmes, satisfying both students and the general public, and in line with the best practices of science museums/centres worldwide. The internationally renowned Priyadarsini Planetarium at Thiruvananthapuram is the prime attraction of the museum. The museum features galleries on astronomy, space research, electrical engineering, electronics, popular science, mathematics, automobiles, computers, and robotics, in addition to a science play park with educational play devices, a 3D theatre, a Science on Sphere show, an energy ball, a VR studio, Laserium, and a musical fountain.

The museum also offers additional facilities, including a science park for children, a dinosaur exhibit, and an innovation hub. A well-equipped library is also functioning at the museum. The main campus is functioning in Thiruvananthapuram. Currently, around 5 lakh people visit the museum annually. More than 10 lakh students and the public in Kerala, including the marginalised sections of the society, are directly/indirectly benefiting from various facilities, schemes, and programs of KSSTM. Avenues for experiencing the world of science have expanded in the state with the completion of the first phase of the Science City at Kuravilangadu in Kottayam District, which is attracting a large number of visitors and science enthusiasts. These institutions have proven to be platforms for instilling rational thinking in young minds and imparting the marvellous experience of scientific enquiry to the general public, which is essential for building a knowledge society that will ultimately contribute to the development of a self-sufficient and sustainable knowledge economy in Kerala. First phase of the Science City, Kottayam comprising of a Science centre with 3 science galleries, a 3D theatre, a Science Park, a dinosaur enclave etc. was opened a bio diversity park is under development. New digital adventure gallery, Innovation hub, gallery on 'Seeds of Culture' are major developments under Regional Science Centre, Chalakudy.

Kerala's higher education system is undergoing a transformative shift toward inclusivity, innovation, and global relevance. By enhancing access, ensuring equity, and maintaining quality, the state aims to empower all learners, especially those from marginalised and remote backgrounds. With the reforms rolled out by the government, the focus on 21st-century skills, combined with continuous curriculum reforms and robust teacher training, is creating a dynamic and learner-centred ecosystem. This progressive approach is strengthening academia-industry partnerships, promoting employability, and encouraging entrepreneurship, further aligning education with scientific and rational thinking and real-world needs. Continuous investments in digital infrastructure, curricular reforms and stakeholder engagement will be pivotal in realising this vision.

Through these integrated efforts, Kerala is building a future-ready higher education system that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and social responsibility, preparing students to thrive in an

increasingly interconnected knowledge economy. Kerala is actively working towards establishing itself as an international hub for higher education. It also aims to build on its existing strengths as a knowledge society, anchored in universal literacy and gender equality, to achieve global recognition in higher education.

At the same time, the higher education system in Kerala aims to promote the propagation of democratic, secular, and constitutional values. By aligning general education, higher education, and skill development, Kerala aims to nurture multi-skilled, socially responsible, and industry-ready citizens who are capable of contributing to sustainable economic growth and social advancement.

6.2. MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Kerala has achieved significant progress in developing an inclusive, people centred, and high-quality health-care system. The State provides accessible, affordable, and quality health services through a well organised network of primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities. Adequate availability of trained professionals and coordinated service delivery have contributed to strong health outcomes, including low infant mortality, low maternal mortality, balanced gender ratios, and high life expectancy.

The State has adopted strategies to address emerging challenges such as non-communicable diseases, lifestyle related conditions, mental health concerns, substance abuse, and increasing road traffic accidents. Initiatives focus on disease surveillance, preventive health care, and community based interventions. Targeted health programmes for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, migrant workers, fish workers, and plantation labourers demonstrate the State's commitment to inclusivity and social justice.

The health sector faces increasing challenges due to emerging infectious diseases, demographic changes, and lifestyle transitions. These highlight the need for resilient health systems. Population ageing, adolescent health issues, and mental health concerns require coordinated and comprehensive responses. The 13th and 14th Five Year Plans propose an integrated and people-oriented approach for health sector development.

Health Indicators of Kerala

Life Expectancy- Life expectancy is an important yardstick to judge the quality of life and well-being of people. Life expectancy (at birth and ages 5-10 years) in Kerala has been the highest among the States, which is 75.1 years as against the national average of 70.3 years. Kerala retains its top rank in life expectancy for male (71.9) and female (78.4), whereas, it is 68.5 and 72.5 respectively at the national level (**Table 6.2.1**). In Kerala, the life expectancy for female (78.4) is higher than that for male (71.9).

Maternal Healthcare- The primary indicator of maternal health is the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR). Kerala has the lowest MMR (30) among the States whereas the MMR at the national level is 88 (**Table 6.2.1**).

The percentage of deaths where the deceased have received medical attention before death, either at a Government hospital or at a Private Hospital in Kerala is 57.5 which is 39.9 per cent in India. Fertility rates are also lower than that of national figures. The percentage of live births without medical attention of qualified professionals received by mothers in Kerala is only 0.1 against 0.5 at the national level.

Child Mortality at different levels

INFANT MORTALITY RATE IMR- Kerala is the only bigger State in India with a single-digit Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 5, whereas it is 25 at the Indian level.

Table 6.2.1 Demographic, socio-economic and health profile of Kerala and India

Sl. No.	Indicators	Kerala	India
1	Total population (in crore) (Census 2011)	3.34	121.06
2	Decadal Growth (per cent) (Census 2011)	4.90	17.7
3	Sex Ratio (Census 2011)	1084	943
4	Child Sex Ratio (Census 2011)	964	919
5	Birth Rate #	12.3	18.4
6	Death Rate*		
	(a) Children (0-4)	1.6	6.7
	(b) Children (5-14)	0.4	0.6
	(c) Persons (15-59)	2.2	2.9
	(d) persons (60 and above)	37.6	40.2
7	Natural Growth Rate #	5.0	12.0
8	Per cent of deaths receiving medical attention*		
	Government	26.8	24.4
	Private	30.7	15.5
	Qualified professional	15.4	14.4
	Untrained/others	27.2	45.7
9	Still Birth Rate*	5	7
10	Crude Birth Rate*	12.3	18.4
11	Maternal Mortality Ratio**	30	88
12	Expectancy of Life at Birth***	75.1	70.3
	Expectancy of Life at Birth*** - Male	71.9	68.5
	Expectancy of Life at Birth*** - Female	78.4	72.5

Source: # SRS 2025 September/ * SRS Statistical Report 2023

Special Bulletin on MMR 2021-23 / *SRS Life Table 2019-23

The neo-Natal Mortality Rate (NNMR) in the State is 4 which is around one-fifth of the national average (19). Under-five mortality (less than 5 MR) rate is 8, which is around one-fourth of all India figure (29). Perinatal Mortality Rate (PNMR), Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (ENMR), Late Neo-natal Mortality Rate (LNNMR) and Post Neo-natal Mortality Rate (PNNMR) are far below than the India figure. Child Mortality Rates at different levels are better than the national average. One of the main reasons for these achievements is that about 99.7 per cent of mothers in Kerala get medical attention from qualified professionals at delivery either at Government hospitals or at Private hospitals, which is 94.9 per cent in India. Details of child mortality rate at different levels and the percentage of live births getting medical

attention from qualified professionals received by mothers in Kerala are given in **Table 6.2.2**. The slightly higher crude death rate is due to the demographic ageing of the State.

Fertility

As per the National Family Health Survey 2019-20 (NFHS - 5), the median age at first marriage in Kerala is 21.5 years among women aged 25-49 years. Six per cent of women aged 20-24 years got married before attaining the legal minimum age of 18 years. Nearly 10.2 per cent of women aged 20-49 years have never married compared with 35.9 per cent of men aged 20-49. The total fertility rate (TFR) per woman is 1.5 in Kerala, whereas it is 1.9 at all India level. Details are given in the **Table 6.2.3**

Table 6.2.2 Health Indicators

Sl. No.	Indicators	Kerala	India
1	Infant Mortality Rate #	5	25
	Infant Mortality Rate # -Male	9	26
	Infant Mortality Rate # - Female	2	25
2	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate*	4	19
3	Perinatal Mortality Rate*	9	21
4	Child Mortality Rate*	2	7
5	Under 5 mortality Rate*	8	29
6	Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate*	3	13
7	Late Neo-natal Mortality Rate*	0	5
8	Post Neo-natal Mortality Rate*	2	7
9	Crude Death Rate*	7.2	6.4
10	Percentage of live births by type of medical attention received by mothers*		
	Government	30.5	71.5
	Private	69.2	23.4
	Qualified professional	0.1	2.7
	Untrained/others	0.2	2.0
	No Medical Attention Received	0.1	0.5

Source: # SRS 2025 September/ * SRS Statistical Report 2023

Table 6.2.3 Major fertility indicators, Kerala and India

Sl. No.	Indicators	Kerala	India
1	Total Fertility Rate*	1.5	1.9
2	General Fertility Rate*	44.6	64.3
3	Total Marital Fertility Rate*	4.3	5.0
4	General Marital Fertility Rate*	65.4	104.4
5	Gross Reproduction Rate*	0.7	0.9
6	Female mean age at effective marriage*		
	(a) Below 18	16.2	16.5
	(b) 18-20	19.1	19.2
	(c) Above 21	25.7	24.4
	(d) All age	24.4	22.9

Source: * SRS Statistical Report 2023

Kerala depicts a mature demographic profile with low fertility rates and higher age at marriage. This is because of better education, healthcare access, and greater gender awareness.

Aardram Mission

The Aardram Mission I was started during the 13th Five-Year Plan period to make Government hospitals people-friendly by improving their basic infrastructure and capacity to provide services. The mission aims to improve the efficiency of services and facilities in Government hospitals to provide treatment at a reasonable cost. The major objectives of the mission include (i) Patient-friendly transformation of the outpatient (OP) wings of medical college and other Government hospitals, (ii) Standardisation of the District and Taluk level hospitals, (iii) Developing the PHCs into FHCs in a phased manner and (iv) Ensuring protocol-based treatment guidelines in the management of patients. Aardram Mission is implemented at three stages i.e. in Medical College hospitals, General hospitals, District hospitals, Taluk hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs). The conversion of PHCs into family health Centres (FHCs), FHCs into Block Family Health Centres with an adequate supply of drugs would ensure better healthcare facilities to the public. As part of Nava Kerala Karma Padhathi II, Aardram Mission II was launched in 2022.

BOX 6.2.1 Major achievements of the health sector

Total number of doctors in Govt. hospitals	14,139
Total number of doctors in Modern Medicine	11,107
Total number of doctors in Ayush	3032
Total number of beds in Govt. hospitals	60,689
Total number of beds in Ayush Govt.	5755
Total number of beds in Modern Medicine in Govt.	54,934
Number of Govt. medical institutions with bed	1471
Number of medical and paramedical personnel under DHS	28,700
Number of UG seats in Govt. Medical colleges (Modern medicine)	4053
Number of PG/Speciality seats in Govt. Medical colleges (Modern medicine)	1389
Number of Paramedical Diploma seats in Govt. Medical colleges (Modern medicine)	1085
Number of persons from electronic health records collated (e-health)	2,59,55,998
Percentage of Health Expenditure to Total Government Expenditure (2023-24 ACC)	7.90
Percentage of Government Health Expenditure on Health to GSDP (2023-24 ACC)	2.02
Number of families enrolled in KASP	42.09 lakh
Total number of colleges affiliated with KUHS	384
Total number of students affiliated with KUHS in a year	29540
Number of NQAS-accredited Govt. institutions in the State	255
Number of KASH accredited Govt. institutions in the State	208
Number of LaQshya-certified institutions	16
National 'Muskaan' recognised Hospitals	6

Source: Various Health Departments / Institutions

Family Health Centres

Government identified 885 PHCs across 14 districts for developing into Family Health Centres. Out of this, 740 FHCs are already made functional, and the rest are progressing. The transformation of the PHCs into FHCs has evoked encouraging community response. In addition to this, 152 Community Health Centres (CHCs) were selected to convert into Block Family Health Centres, of which, 105 have been completed. A total of 4330 post has been created under DHS since 2016.

Patient-friendly transformation of the outpatient wings of Government hospitals

Medical College and District level hospitals are providing outpatient care for a large number of patients every day. Aardram Mission, therefore, provided priority for a patient-friendly transformation of the outpatient wings of these hospitals. Outpatient transformation with adequate OP registration counter, patient waiting area, adequate seating facilities, token system and other amenities such as drinking water, toilet facilities, public address system, information education &

communication arrangements and signage systems are being incorporated. Support of patient care coordinators for larger institutions temporarily would also be provided. To ensure quality medical care, OP computerisation, providing adequate facilities in the consultation rooms and guideline-based case management are planned. These are being implemented in Government medical college hospitals and district-level hospitals.

People-friendly OP transformation of General/District/Taluk Hospitals

There are a total of 18 General hospitals and 18 District hospitals in the State. Out of these 17 institutions have been selected for OP transformation. The construction works of 14 hospitals have been completed. The work in other hospitals is progressing well. Out of the total 86 Taluk hospitals, 43 institutions are selected for standardisation in a phased manner, in which 24 institutions are completed.

New Initiatives in Medical Colleges

Aardram Mission aims to provide patient-friendly and quality care services to the outpatient wing of

Medical Colleges. As a first step, Medical Colleges at Thiruvananthapuram, Paripally, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Malappuram and Kozhikode were selected for the implementation of OP Transformation. Presently the works in these 8 Medical Colleges have been completed. The main components of the projects are making an online registration facility available to reduce the waiting time of patients at hospitals, constructing new OP waiting areas, providing drinking water facilities, renovating/reconstructing toilet blocks, and OP rooms for all departments, and proper signage to different services, TV and display board, airport chairs, public address system, providing air conditioners in OP rooms, and providing ramp. The status of infrastructural development in hospitals under the Aardram Mission is given in **Table 6.2.4**.

Nava Kerala Karma Padhathi II - Aardram Mission

In the second phase, Aardram Mission aims to emphasize operational excellence and quality improvement and social activities to achieve healthy living with increased public participation. Following are the main objectives of the Mission: ensuring comprehensive primary health care, creation of people-friendly health institutions, standardization of health care facilities, reducing out-of-pocket expenses and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the Aardram Mission, steps are taken to upgrade all Government healthcare institutions including family health centres, taluk hospitals, district hospitals, general hospitals and medical colleges to people-friendly standards. All urban health centres will be converted into family health centres. Phase to phase standardisation of existing sub-centres will be done and sub-centres with sufficient health workers for provision of different public health services in each division of urban areas will be established. Basic health information of the citizens of each region is collected and based on that lifestyle diseases are detected and prevented at an

early stage. Status of health facilities in 2016 and 2025 are given in **Table 6.2.5**.

Table 6.2.5 Status of health facilities in 2016 and 2025

Health Facility	2016	2025
Medical College	8	14
General Hospital	18	18
District Hospital	18	18
Taluk Hospital	79	88
Speciality Hospital (W&C, Mental Health Centres, TB hospital, Leprosy hospitals)	20	27
Community Health Centres	234	185*
Primary Health Centres (FHC, PHC, 24x7 PHC)	852	890
TB Centre	17	14
Others (Health clinics, Mobile clinics, Dispensaries)	49	49
Janakeeya Arogya Kendram (Sub Centres before 2023)	5403	5415
Total	6698	6718

* 41 Community Health Centres were converted to Family Health Centres

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department

The objectives of Aardram mission are set to be attained mainly through activities under ten thematic areas viz. Transformation of healthcare facilities, Annual Health Screening, Cancer Care Programme, Nirnaya lab network, Elderly – Palliative Care, One Health Initiative, Disease Elimination, Infectious Disease Infrastructure, Healthy Life Campaign, and Integrative Medicine & Research.

Government hospitals in Kerala have treatment facilities for cancer patients. Mechanisms to detect

Table 6.2.4 Status of Infrastructural Development in Hospitals under Aardram Mission

Type of Hospitals	Total Institutions	Work Completed	Work Progressing	Works to be started
PHCs into FHCs	885	740	53	92
CHC to Block FHCs	152	105	17	30
OP transformation of District / General Hospitals	17	14	1	2
OP transformation of Taluk Hospitals	43	24	10	9
Medical Colleges	8	8	0	0

Source: Directorate of Health Services

cancer at an early stage are being developed. A cancer grid system is implemented by engaging three cancer centres of the State and cancer treatment units of medical colleges by linking district cancer care units of the health department and strengthening palliative care networks. The same has already been implemented in districts. Infectious disease control and its eradication activities are strengthened and eradication of malaria, kala-azar, filariasis and tuberculosis are accelerated. Adequate health care is ensured with emphasis on palliative and physiotherapy services considering the special health needs of the elderly.

Elderly-Palliative Care

A comprehensive palliative care action plan for palliative care has been prepared based on the palliative care policy. As per the action plan, a comprehensive palliative elderly care scheme named 'Arike' is being implemented in all districts. At present, palliative care is being provided in primary palliative care units and secondary palliative care units in the state. 44 secondary palliative care units are functioning under the Department of Indian Medicine (ISM) and 18 secondary palliative care units are functioning under the Department of Homeopathy. Palliative care units are functioning in eight medical colleges, the Regional Cancer Centre and the Malabar Cancer Centre.

In the second phase of the annual health check-up, a survey of 1,38,69,099 (77%) individuals were completed till 31/08/2025, out of which 1,28,156 (0.93%) were bedridden, 2,13,576 (1.5%) were homebound and 45,30,894 (32.7%) were above the age of sixty years.

- Special OP counters for senior citizens have been started in all major government hospitals in Kerala (Taluk, Taluk Head Quarters, District, General Hospitals, Specialty Hospitals and Medical Colleges) from 1st September 2025. For the first time in the government sector in the state, a geriatrics department has been started at Thiruvananthapuram Medical College. The services of a staff nurse and a physiotherapist have been ensured for organizing geriatric clinics in 227 community health centers.
- The 'Kerala Care' Palliative Grid has been formed in collaboration with Kerala Digital University to coordinate palliative care. All voluntary organizations and associations in the

field of palliative care will be made part of the grid. As of August 2025, 2,06,199 patients have been registered in the grid. 1,387 government institutions and 1,227 NGOs are part of the Palliative Care Grid.

Nirnaya Lab Network system: A diagnostic lab networking system, connecting labs in a Hub and Spoke model, is operational in all districts. Tests such as cancer screening, tuberculosis screening, newborn screening, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) surveillance, and complex lab tests are being carried out through this system.

Healthy Life Campaign: Various campaigns are being conducted in the districts aimed at inculcating habits for a healthy lifestyle, mental health and wellness. The Structured Lifestyle modification campaign to control diabetes and hypertension through peer group interventions has been launched at public health centers in the state.

Integrated Medicine & Research

In collaboration with various research institutions and departments, SHSRC is conducting research in the field of health. Research activities are being conducted in the areas of infectious disease prevention, lifestyle disease prevention, palliative care, mental health, geriatric health, etc. An Ethical Committee and a Technical Committee have been formed in SHSRC to approve research projects in the Health Department. Research activities are being conducted in collaboration with research institutions such as the Institute of Virology (IAV), Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), National Institute of Virology (NIV), and Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB). The Centre for Disease Control - Kerala (CDC -K) has been started in the state with the objectives of coordinating disease control activities in the state, conducting academic and medical research activities, and assisting the government in policy formulation. Considering the special situation of multiple Nipah outbreaks in Kerala and the spread of viruses that have the potential to become pandemics, including Nipah and bird flu, the Kerala One Health Centre for Nipah Research & Resilience has started its operations at Kozhikode Medical College to lead the study and research activities on such pandemic viruses in collaboration with various research institutions and government departments and to build social resistance against such diseases. With the objective of making the knowledge of Ayurveda more evidence-based

through extensive study and research activities in the light of innovative - bio-technologies and using it in the most efficient way in the field of public health, steps are in progress to establish the International Research Institute of Ayurveda (IRIA) in Kannur with the financial assistance of KIIIFB.

Janakeeya Arogya Kendrangal

The policy approach put forward by Aardram Mission is to reduce the incidence of diseases by carrying out health activities in the health sub-centres with the active participation of the people. Steps are taken to make health sub-centres a focal point of interventions in the areas of health promotion services, disease prevention, disease surveillance, disease control, maternal and child health etc. and to empower them over time to enable them to undertake public health activities. Society must collectively take responsibility to ensure that every individual lives a healthy life. Disease incidence can be reduced only by moulding a society that follows healthy habits such as healthy eating habits, exercise etc. People's participation is necessary for the successful completion of such activities. It is in this context that all sub-centres in the State have been elevated as Janakeeya Arogya Kendram to carry out activities in the field of public health. The objective of the Janakeeya Arogya Kendram is to bring comprehensive primary health care to the grassroots level. For this purpose, through Aardram Mission, all sub-centres in the State are upgraded and modernized into Janakeeya Arogya Kendram (Health and Wellness Centres), with improved physical conditions and converted into people-friendly institutions. As of 15 November 2025, there are 5415 Janakeeya Arogya Kendrams in the State. 4765 midlevel service providers (MLSP) are posted in Janakeeya Arogya Kendrams under NHM. They are qualified nurses who work in community health nursing.

Timely achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the health sector prepared by the State under the Sustainable Development Goals prescribed by the United Nations is progressing. Special attention is given to the health needs of groups such as tribal groups, coastal people, LGBTIQ+, women and persons with disabilities. 'One Health' activities are strengthened to detect new diseases, including new animal-borne diseases by screening and intervention.

Isolation wards are being set up in all assembly constituencies to deal with the treatment of communicable diseases. In the first phase, construction of isolation wards has begun at 85 locations in the state in which 55 are completed. Collaborative research to detect and control the outbreak of new diseases is strengthened through the collaboration of the State Institute of Virology, other research institutes under various departments of the State, central research institutes etc. An Ethics Committee is formed at the State level under the leadership of the State Health Systems Resource Centre (SHSRC) to create conditions for promoting research in the field of health at all levels.

Samples are taken and sent to top-level labs of the health department in the hub and spoke model for testing and coordination of treatment standards including referral plan. Interventions are made in the areas of mental health, falls, dementia etc. For the health of the elderly activities are implemented in collaboration with AYUSH. Panchayats are being made elderly-friendly. Lifestyle diseases, mental health and geriatric campaigns are conducted with an emphasis on health and wellness, disease control and disease prevention.

Human Resources

Human resources for health sector have been increased over the years. Between 2016 and 2025, Kerala's health sector workforce has shown a notable increase across all categories. The number of general doctors rose from 4,613 to 6,171, while specialist doctors increased from 2,317 to 3,185, reflecting the State's commitment to strengthening medical expertise. Nursing staff grew significantly from 9,869 to 13,575, indicating expansion in patient care services. Similarly, other staff increased from 5,022 to 7,609, enhancing overall service delivery. This steady growth highlights Kerala's sustained investments in health personnel to ensure quality and accessible healthcare for all. The details regarding human resources in 2016 and 2025 are given in **Table 6.2.6**.

Post creation in Health Sector

During the period 2016–2025, a total of 10,382 posts were added across key health-related departments in Kerala, reflecting sustained strengthening of the health system workforce. This overall expansion underscores the State's continued commitment to improving healthcare delivery and support services throughout the

decade. The details of posts created during 2016-21 and 2021-2025 were given in **Table 6.2.7**.

One Health

Specific guidelines for One Health activities have been prepared and One Health operations are started in all districts. Assistance from the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) and World Bank is available for One Health activities in Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam and Idukki districts. Nodal Officers have been appointed in all these four districts. Work is underway to establish a Centre for One Health at the State level and a District Programme Management & Support Unit (DPSU) at the district level. The Government has issued orders to establish the following systems viz. 1. State Level One Health Committee, 2. District Level One Health Committee 3. Local Government Level One Health Committee and 4. Line Department level One Health Committee and Nodal Officers.

National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS)

Even though NQAS was started in 2013, Kerala could not accredit many institutions due to certain checkpoints in the NQAS checklists which were not relevant to Kerala. Accordingly, in 2017, the NQAS checklist was customized in line with Kerala standards with the help of the National Health Systems Resource Centre. This was done by removing some items irrelevant to Kerala's conditions and by adding palliative care to the checklist. After customisation, Kerala has made tremendous progress in NQAS accreditation. Up to October 2025, 255 out of 1284 institutions [Districts Hospitals (8), Taluk Hospitals (8), Community Health Centre (13), Family Health Centre (163), Janakeeya Arogya Kendram (17) and Urban PHC (46)] of DHS from the State have completed national level certification. The

number of LaQshya-certified institutions is 16. The hospitals that have received Lakshya certification are 3 medical colleges, 9 district hospitals, and 4 taluk hospitals. LaQshya was launched to reduce maternal and newborn mortality & morbidity due to the occurrence of complications during and immediately after delivery, improving the Quality of Care during the delivery and immediate post-partum care and enabling an effective two-way follow-up system to enhance the satisfaction of beneficiaries visiting the health facilities. National 'Muskaan' recognition received in 6 hospitals (two medical colleges and 4 district hospitals). The number of KASH (Kerala Accreditation Standards for Hospitals) accredited institutions in Kerala is 208.

Table 6.2.7 Posts created during 2016-21 and 2021-2025

Department	2016-2021	2021-2025
DHS	3378	952
DME	4232	813
AYUSH	259	124
Drugs Control Dept	24	44
Food Safety	5	32
KUHS	176	53
Others	46	244
Total	8120	2262

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department

e-Health Project

The e-Health project targets to link health institutions all over Kerala. The project aims to build a database of individual medical records easily accessible to medical practitioners. It includes unique patient identification in different settings and the exchange of data between different

Table 6.2.6 Details regarding human resources (Nos.) in 2016 and 2025

Category / Year	2016				2025			
	Regular Staff		Contract Staff	Total	Regular Staff		Contract Staff	Total
	DHS	DME			DHS	DME		
General Doctors	3283	639	691	4613	4168	796	1207	6171
Specialist Doctors	2011	197	109	2317	2202	679	304	3185
Nurses	8098	665	1106	9869	9247	1681	2647	13575
Other Staff	2311	1655	1106	5022	3868	1825	1916	7609

Source: Health and Family Welfare Department

healthcare delivery units at primary, secondary and tertiary levels across the State. This would avoid repeated medical tests and would thereby reduce out-of-pocket expenses arising out of the rush to clinics and labs. The scheme is being implemented in all fourteen districts of Kerala with Thiruvananthapuram as the pilot District. e-health is completed in 964 hospitals of which 200 are working as paperless hospitals. NITI Aayog has appreciated the e-health project of the State. Kerala is the only State in the country where the database of 2,59,55,998 people has been collected and stored as electronic records. This includes 68,35,747 houses, 1,26,83,801 male, 1,32,71,381 female and 816 transgender registrations. The details are given in **Table 6.2.8**.

Health Sector Financing during Plan Periods

Health has been a major area of allocation in the State Budget over the years. Government healthcare expenditure has been showing a steady increase for the last several years. Kerala invests 6.62 per cent (Rs 2150.19 crores during 2025-26) of its total State Plan outlay (Rs.32500 crores during 2025-26) on health care excluding the contribution of LSGs and other line departments. As per the recommendations of the Sixth State Finance Commission, 28 per cent (9100 crore) of the total State plan outlay is earmarked to the Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs). LSGIs expend a considerable share of this outlay for health care. In addition to this, the Government is investing large amounts in this sector through KIIIFB and NABARD assistance for the construction of buildings and the purchase of high-end equipment. The outlay earmarked for the implementation of schemes during the 12th

Five-Year Plan was Rs 3,31,888 lakh (BE). The total expenditure reported during the Plan period was Rs 3,00,600.50 lakh (90.57 per cent of BE). During the 13th Five-Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 719929 lakhs was allocated to the health sector and the expenditure reported was Rs. 910077 lakhs (126.4 per cent). Department-wise plan outlay and expenditure during the last annual plan of the 13th Plan and the first four years of the 14th Plan up to October 2025 (2025-26) are given in **Table 6.2.9**

Both plan as well as non-plan expenditure on health have increased over these five years. Plan and non-plan investment in health and family welfare from 2012-13 to 2025-26 both in revenue and capital expenditure, percentage of health expenditure to total Government expenditure and percentage of health expenditure to GSDP are given in **Table 6.2.10**

Plan expenditure by other Departments included various departments viz. Excise, Industries, Science and Technology, Fisheries, Cultural Affairs, Sports and Youth Affairs, Social Justice, Women and Child Development, Scheduled Castes Development, Scheduled Tribes Development, Labor Department and LSGD.

Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIIFB)

KIIIFB has undertaken 102 major health infrastructure projects with a total sanctioned cost of Rs 12,324.91 Cr, of which Rs 6,648.90 Cr has financial sanction and Rs2,609.41 Cr spent so far. This reflects a 21.2% utilisation of the total sanctioned amount and 39.2% utilisation against the financial sanction. The projects cover

Table 6.2.8 District-wise demographic data surveyed under the e-health programme

Sl. No.	District	Demographic Data Surveyed	Sl. No.	District	Demographic Data Surveyed
1	Thiruvananthapuram	24,06,760	8	Thrissur	23,01,629
2	Kollam	21,68,789	9	Palakkad	23,44,974
3	Pathanamthitta	10,26,328	10	Malappuram	38,44,650
4	Alappuzha	15,21,575	11	Kozhikode	25,00,494
5	Kottayam	15,22,289	12	Wayanad	6,23,272
6	Idukki	8,67,546	13	Kannur	19,41,501
7	Ernakulam	18,70,452	14	Kasaragod	10,15,739
Total			2,59,55,998		

Source: e-health Kerala, DHS as of November 11, 2025

modernization of medical colleges, cancer centres, and upgradation of district/taluk hospitals, along with procurement of medical equipment and development of isolation wards. It reflects strong focus on both infrastructure and preparedness.

Major Health Problems in Kerala

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD)

Common non-communicable diseases causing great threats to a healthy life are diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and lung diseases. Unless interventions are made to prevent and control non-communicable diseases, their burden is likely to increase substantially in future because of an ageing population and lifestyle changes. Considering the high cost of medicines and longer duration of treatment, this constitutes a greater financial burden to low-income groups. Drastic lifestyle changes, heavy dependency on alcohol and tobacco, an affinity for white-collar jobs, unhealthy eating patterns, low priority for physical exercise, and high levels of stress in all strata of the population are some of the reasons contributing to the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in the State.

NCD control programme covers the entire State spreading across all districts and the services rendered through all district/general hospitals, sub-district level hospitals, Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and even the Sub centres which cater to a population of five thousand. Kerala is the only State where the entire health system is equipped with an NCD screening programme.

Amrutham Arogyam

Amrutham Arogyam is a State run Non Communicable Diseases Control programme. The objectives of the programme include 1. Reduction of risk factors in the population 2. Health education for the population on a healthy diet, exercise and ill effects of addiction 3. Screening for the population above 30 years of age for Non-Communicable Diseases irrespective of their disease conditions and free supply of medicines for all detected with NCDs and 4. Early management and treatment of complications. Amrutham Arogyam programme covers the entire State spreading across all districts and the services rendered through all district/general hospitals, sub-district level hospitals, Community Health

Table 6.2.9 Department-wise outlay and expenditure of the last year of the 13th Plan 2017-22 and total outlay and expenditure of the first four years of the 14th plan up to October 2025, in Rs crores and expenditure as the percentage share

Department	Annual Plan 2021-22		Annual Plan 2022-23		Annual Plan 2023-24		Annual Plan 2024-25		Annual Plan 2025-26 (Exp. upto October 31)	
	Outlay	% Exp	Outlay	% Exp	Outlay	% Exp	Outlay	% Exp	Outlay	% Exp
Health Services	991.40	206	1297.76	159.30	1416.46	119.98	1463.52	128.16	1490.98	67.93
Medical Education	420.60	111	463.75	75.26	463.75	88.43	462.34	70.05	532.84	20.68
Indian Systems of Medicine	41.95	91	44.05	84.86	49.05	79.50	50.93	87.04	50.93	46.32
Ayurveda Medical Education	43.20	62	47.52	31.63	47.52	41.39	43.72	37.42	43.72	8.28
Homeopathy	23.75	104	25.15	73.57	25.15	84.09	23.54	157.35	23.54	61
Homeo Medical Education	8.65	129	8.90	81.27	8.90	78.00	8.18	74.33	8.18	25.18
Total	1529.55	170	1887.13	132.18	2010.83	109.23	2052.23	112.24	2150.19	54.25

Source: Plan Space

Table 6.2.10 Investment in Health and Family Welfare (Rs in crore)

Year	Total Government Health Expenditure					Percentage of Health Expenditure to Total Government Expenditure	GSDP in crores at Constant Prices	Percentage of Health Expenditure to GSDP
	Health exp by health depts	Health exp by KIIFB	Health exp by LS&D & other depts	Total exp for health including exp by other depts	Total Government Expenditure			
2012-13 (ACC)	3870.49		123.73	3994.22	59228.18	6.74	387693.46	1.03
2013-14 (ACC)	4279.97		188.42	4468.39	66244.00	6.75	402781.33	1.11
2014-15 (ACC)	4977.37		227.60	5204.97	76744.12	6.78	419955.55	1.24
2015-16 (ACC)	5823.93		268.7	6092.63	87031.76	7.00	451210.02	1.35
2016-17 (ACC)	7132.39		304.82	7437.21	102382.55	7.26	485301.54	1.53
2017-18 (ACC)	7499.31	0.35	425.95	7925.61	110237.81	7.19	516189.76	1.54
2018-19 (ACC)	8051.79	79.69	760.50	8891.98	120,069.82	7.41	554,228.31	1.60
2019-20 (ACC)	8144.62	109.67	664.99	8919.28	114,384.94	7.80	559,194.18	1.60
2020-21 (ACC)	10354.86	117.92	1142.61	11615.39	138,884.49	8.36	511,702.00	2.27
2021-22 (ACC)	14472.04	218.49	1258.87	15949.4	163,225.53	9.77	571,982.00	2.79
2022-23 (ACC)	12206.61	460.27	1331.08	13997.96	161,529.36	8.67	596,236.00	2.35
2023-24(ACC)	11046.41	521.13	1286.38	12853.92	162,802.23	7.90	635,136.00	2.02
2024-25 (RE)	11210.84	756.81	1651.28	13618.93	181,348.14	7.51	*	*
2025-26 (BE)	12172.88	319.09	1587.99	14079.96	200,750.52	7.01	*	*

Source: Budget in Brief, DES

Note: ACC - Accounts, RE - Revised Estimate BE - Budget Estimate * Not estimated

Centre, Primary Health Centre and even the 5415 Sub centre which cater to a population of five thousand. Kerala is the only State where the entire health system is equipped with an NCD screening programme. The population above 30 years was subjected to screening at the Amrutham Arogyam clinics for NCDs.

Kerala COPD Prevention and Control Programme –SWAAS

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is one of the leading causes of mortality and morbidity worldwide. As per the ‘Global Burden of Diseases’ (Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington) estimates for India, COPD is the second leading cause of mortality in India. Recently the NCD programme has included COPD and Chronic Kidney Disease among the priority NCDs in India. SWAAS is a specific public health programme for COPD in Kerala which

is implemented from the Family Health Centres (FHC) level as part of the Aardram Mission. SWAAS clinics were started in 685 Family Health Centres and 49 Sub Districts/District Hospitals. Based on the 2025-2026 (up to October 31) data, the SWAAS clinics screened 204,149 symptomatic patients, with 22,429 of those undergoing definitive Spirometry screening, ultimately leading to 16,440 diagnoses of COPD and 12,728 diagnoses of Asthma.

India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI)

The India Hypertension Management Initiative (IHMI) is a collaborative project of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of Kerala, World Health Organization (WHO) and Resolve to Save Lives initiative of Vital Strategies. Kerala State also fused diabetes control and monitoring along

with IHMI. The initiative is implemented in all districts. The IHMI is focused on five essential components of scalable treatment of hypertension, based on the WHO HEARTS Package. Based on the programme data as on 31 October 2025, the hypertension control rate improved significantly from 13% to 41%, while the defaulter rate was nearly halved, dropping from 55% to 27.6%, with all diagnosed individuals being consistently tracked via patient cards, registers, and follow-up by field staff.

Nayanamritham- Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Diabetic Retinopathy is a common complication of longstanding Diabetes Mellitus which can end up in total loss of vision. Complete effective treatment of diabetic retinopathy is available if the condition is detected in the early stages. With the technical support provided by E-health, the Health Services Department has implemented a care pathway in the public health system involving the primary centres, secondary centres and tertiary care centres. This programme is being implemented in all districts covering 172 FHCs of Kerala. ASHA workers and other field workers play an active role in identifying diabetic patients in the community and encouraging them to take part in the screening programme. 313 cases of Diabetic retinopathy / AMD and 118 persons with Glaucoma identified in Phase 2 with the help of AI system till August 31, 2025.

Population-Based Screening

In Kerala even though there is clinic-based data on the prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases, there is no population-based registry of these diseases. The State has initiated population-based screening of non-communicable diseases in four districts with the support of ASHA volunteers who would visit the houses in their jurisdiction and collect information on the status of non-communicable diseases and their risk factors. Based on this data camp based and home-based screening will be conducted for those who are unaware of their NCD status, and the total data will be consolidated at the Health Centre level, District level and State level. An android application was developed by E-health for data collection which is used by ASHA workers.

Shaili App

The Government of Kerala has launched an Android App 'Shaili', aimed at diagnosing and

controlling lifestyle diseases among the people in the State of Kerala. The app has been set up as part of the population-based screening project launched by the Health Department under the Nava Kerala Action Plan. The Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers have been tasked with collecting information from persons over the age of 30 in their respective areas about any lifestyle diseases or risk factors they may have. The app was set up under the E-Health initiative. The app would primarily collect information about diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and lung diseases as well as other lifestyle-related ailments and cancers. The health status of the individuals would be scored and those with a score of above four would be asked to visit the nearest health centre for a check-up for lifestyle diseases.

Apart from the diseases surveyed in the Shaili 1 survey, mental health, blindness, deafness and leprosy are also covered in the Shaili 2 survey. The details of screening done as part of population-based screening during Shaili 1 (up to 15th February 2024) and Shaili 2 (after 15th February 2024) are given in **Table 6.2.11**.

Stroke Management (SIRAS- Stroke Identification Rehabilitation Awareness and Stabilisation Programme)

Stroke is a complication of Hypertension, which occurs due to an occlusion of blood vessels due to a clot or haemorrhage of cerebral vessels. Stroke Management is time-bound and the recovery depends on the time frame within which the patient reaches the treatment centres which is usually 4 hours. Stroke Management is complicated as the management requires specialised skills, infrastructure and expensive medicines for stroke thrombolysis. The health department started the stroke management programme SIRAS by training the Physicians in stroke management at SCTIMST and setting up stroke ICUs in the district hospitals which have CT scans and Tele Radiology services. Twelve District Hospitals have started functioning stroke clinics and the rest of the districts are completing stroke ICUs. During 2025-26 (upto October), 406 thrombolysis procedures were conducted.

Diabetic Foot Clinics (Padasparsham)

Diabetic foot is a major complication of long-standing diabetes and may result in loss of limbs if not detected at an early stage. Medical Officers

were given training on diabetic foot management by the Indian Institute of Diabetes. There are 84 Diabetic foot clinics functional in the State up to Taluk Hospitals.

360 degree Metabolic Centre of Excellence

As a part of the mission to control lifestyle diseases an exemplary centre named 360 Degree Metabolic Centre of Excellence started functioning at Ernakulam General Hospital, by the Government of Kerala with external support. The patient gets a unique ID once they register at the centre. They can then move towards the Pre-Clinical area where Basic information such as Patient's height, weight, Blood Pressure, etc. are monitored and recorded. With the help of advanced point of care (POC) devices, a patient gets the test results within a short duration from the lab. After analysing the lab reports, if required, the doctor guides the patient

for further tests and steps such as nutritional counselling, Physiotherapy, Pulmonary function test, Retinal Scanning, Diabetic foot assessment, etc. which are available under one roof. Treatment Summary including test results, diagnosis etc. are collected using database management systems, and the data is saved for future reference. A patient gets the complete treatment summary when they leave the centre. Using a tele-calling facility patient gets a reminder call before few days before the scheduled follow-up date. During 2025-26, this project is started in 11 more District/ General/ Taluk Head Quarters Hospitals.

Arogyam Anandam – Akattam Arbudham

Arogyam Anandam – Akattam Arbudham is Kerala's largest-ever cancer screening campaign launched on World Cancer Day (Feb 4, 2025), with Phase 1 focusing on Breast and Cervical Cancer

Table 6.2.11 The details of screening done on population-based screening

Sl. No.	Component	Shaili 1 (up to 15th February 2024) in Number (completed)	Shaili 2 (after 15th February 2024) in Number (as on 12.10.2025)
1	Population above 30 Years	17730149	18111775
2	NCD population-based survey done	15378166	14103605
3	CBAC Score > 4	2783391	6063139
4	Referred to Cancer screening	910964	261630
5	Referred for Oral Cancer Screening	41546	50054
6	Referred for Breast Cancer Screening	790858	162713
7	Referred for Cervical Cancer Screening	96959	59279
8	Referred for TB Screening	112817	147573
9	Referred for Respiratory Evaluation	437397	477037
10	Patients already diagnosed with Hypertension alone	1649597	1804190
11	Patients already diagnosed with Diabetes alone	1332775	1219978
12	Patients already diagnosed with Hypertension and Diabetes	623864	811230
13	Bedridden Patients	109031	55485
14	Homebound Patients	190428	86621
15	Above 60 population surveyed	4750594	4603317
16	Referred for Leprosy Screening	0	147440
17	Referred for Vision Screening	0	1616893
18	Referred for Hearing Screening	0	232946
19	Persons with Elderly Health Issues	0	276744
20	Referred for Mental Health Evaluation	0	72755

Source: shaili.ehealth.kerala.gov.in as on 12.10.2025

for women aged 30+, and Phase 2 targeting Oral and Colorectal Cancer in men. Details of cancer screening done on Arogyam Anandam as on 07/10/2025 is given in **Table 6.2.12**.

Hridayapoorvam (CPR Training)

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) remain the leading cause of premature mortality, with one in five people dying early from CVD. Evidences show that up to 80 percent of heart disease and stroke cases are preventable through timely awareness and preventive action. Reports of sudden unexpected deaths following collapse have further underscored the urgent need for timely Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), a simple but lifesaving intervention. As of now more than 26,864 people has been trained.

Hridyam

Hridyam is a web-based platform launched in August 2017 for the early identification, treatment, and continuous follow-up of congenital heart diseases in children up to 18 years of age. It ensures screening for heart disease for all babies born in government hospitals, enables web-based tracking from birth to 18 years, and facilitates surgeries through empanelled public and private hospitals, with 25,980 children registered and 8,516 surgeries or interventions completed so far.

Table 6.2.12 Cancer screening done on Arogyam Anandam

Cancer Type	No. of persons screened	Referred for diagnosis	Diagnosed cases
Breast	15,19,799	25,831	259
Cervical	12,48,822	30,626	84
Oral	13,75,586	3,925	62
Colon	3,45,067	656	12

Source: Directorate of Health services as on 07/10/2025

Indian Institute of Diabetes

The Indian Institute of Diabetes (IID) at Thiruvananthapuram is an autonomous institution under the Government of Kerala. It is the only institution under the Government offering services exclusively for Diabetes Mellitus and its complications. IID, made operational in the year 2001, functions with the main centre at Pulayanarkotta near Akkulam in Thiruvananthapuram city. The major activities of this institute are to investigate the genetic basis of diabetes, provide adequate training for physicians

and paramedical staff, provide research support to develop novel methods of treatment, endow academic chairs in diabetes and organise State-of-the-art conferences on various aspects of the disease. The total bed strength of the IID is 40. The average number of new cases detected every year is nearly 6000. Patients treated in 2024-25 were 74409, IP were 341 and new cases were 8664. In 2025-26 (up to August 31) IP, OP and new cases were 187 numbers, 33388 numbers and 3704 numbers respectively. Number of community medical camps conducted during 2024-25 was 22 and in 2025-26 (up to August 31) is 7.

Cancer

Cancer is a major non-communicable disease in Kerala. Apart from Medical Colleges, the Regional Cancer Centre, Malabar Cancer Centre and Cochin Cancer Research Centre are the major hospitals in the Government sector which offer treatment for cancer patients. Apart from these institutions, all the major Government hospitals provide cancer treatment. Delays in early detection, huge treatment costs, minimal treatment centres and lack of awareness contribute to high mortality of the disease.

Kerala has established a comprehensive Cancer Grid to seamlessly link health facilities and ensure range of care, with cancer screening available at all levels from Family Health Centres to Medical Colleges and dedicated cancer screening clinics in every facility. A digital Cancer Care Suite supports the entire pathway from screening to diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up, complemented by the Kerala Cancer Registry for systematic data management, and preparations are underway to introduce HPV vaccination soon as part of cervical cancer prevention efforts.

The State Health Department has launched a decentralized cancer treatment plan to conduct cancer screening and treatment. The district hospitals and selected taluk hospitals are equipped to diagnose cancer and provide treatment decisions including chemotherapy. This service has been made available in 28 hospitals in the State and steps are being taken to expand it to more hospitals. Apart from this, screening programme for the detection of cancers like breast cancer, lung cancer and uterine cancer have also been started in all primary health centres and family health centres. A massive survey was conducted by the health department through Asha workers to find out the cancer patients present in society. There are 28

units of daycare chemotherapy for giving follow-up chemotherapy treatment to patients diagnosed in major centres. District Cancer Control Programme report 2024-25 (up to October 31) is given in **Table 6.2.13**

Table 6.2.13 District Cancer Care Unit Report 2024-25 (up to October 31)

Cancer Type	No. of persons screened
No. of Chemotherapy units	28
No. of New Cases Detected	4972
No. of Chemotherapy	1.28 lakh

Source: Directorate of Health services

Malabar Cancer Centre

Malabar Cancer Centre, Kannur, an autonomous centre under the GoK, was established to provide oncology care to the people of north Kerala. The Centre has a bed strength of 353 and has many latest facilities for the treatment of cancer patients. In 2024-25, a total of 6406 inpatients and 120205 outpatients were treated in the Malabar Cancer Centre in new cases were 5633. During 2025-26 (up to 31.08.2025), the number of IP and OP are 2883 and 67166 respectively and new cases are 2459. The average number of new cases detected every year in the centre is 5253 (based on the last five years data). Total surgery done during 2024-25 was 3334 and during 2025-26 (up to August 2025) was 1614.

Unique Achievements of MCC

1. Plaque brachytherapy was started for the first time in Kerala for eye cancers. Very few institutions in India perform this treatment. It helps to preserve the eye in case of cancers of the eye.
2. Robotic Surgical Systems: More than 200 complex robotic cancer surgeries were Performed.
3. NABH Digital Health Standards- Silver level accreditation
4. CAR-T Cell Therapy procedure: MCC is the second Government institution in the country to perform this latest cancer treatment
5. New Treatment and Academic Block has been inaugurated
6. Malabar Cancer Centre Innovation Incubation Nest (MIINT) for Start-Ups: This is the first government healthcare facility to start innovation and incubation centre in the state.
7. Renovated Labs, Blood bank, Pharmacy and Operation Theaters

8. Established Molecular Tumor Board and Personalized medicine facility in Cancer

Cancer Incidence

An estimated 9.7 million people died from cancer and 20 million new cases were reported globally in the year 2022. In Kerala, cancer is becoming a public health concern due to socio demographic and epidemiological changes as well as the high prevalence of risk factors. With a population of 3.34 crore, Kerala is predicted to see over 66,000 new cases of cancer every year. Cumulative risk of developing cancer of any site in 0-74 years in Kerala is 1 in 7 in males and 1 in 9 in females. The five common cancers in males (n=20,829) were lung 4337 (20.8%), mouth 1524 (7.3%), stomach 1422 (6.8%), tongue 1076 (5.2%), and larynx 982 (4.7%), and in females (n=18,017), the common cancers were breast 5509 (30.6%), cervix 1395 (7.7%), ovary 1177 (6.5%), mouth 1009 (5.6%), and lung 714 (4%) as per the ten year trend based on HBCR in Northern Kerala (MCC-PGIOSR). A significant proportion of 19,786 (50.9%) of the patients were diagnosed at an advanced stage (Stage III and Stage IV) and only 10,182 (26.2%) of the patients were diagnosed at an early stage (Stage I and Stage II). The lung cancers in both males and females showed an increasing trend during the period from 2010 to 2020, as per Cancer registry in MCC (PGIOSR). (Source: Malabar Cancer Centre)

Cochin Cancer Research Centre (CCRC)

Growing concerns over the alarming increase in rates of cancer incidence together with the need for a dedicated tertiary cancer care and research centre. This necessitated the birth of the Cochin Cancer Research Centre. CCRC is a society registered under the Societies Act. The Centre has bed strength of 20 and an additional 100-bed facility will be ready during the financial year 2025-26. The average number of new cases detected every year is 1,200. Number of outpatients treated in 2024-25 was 10026, IP were 184 and new cases were 1153. In 2025-26 (up to August 31), the number of OP and new cases were 7395 and 883 respectively. The number of IPs during 2025-26 (up to August 31) was 120. The total number of surgeries conducted for the period was 173 and 107 respectively. The number of day care chemotherapy done during the period was 2558 and 1149 respectively.

Regional Cancer Centre (RCC)

RCC, Thiruvananthapuram is the premier comprehensive dedicated centre for diagnosis, treatment and control of cancer in Kerala. RCC is rated amongst the top 28 RCCs in the country and maintains a working relationship with international bodies. Daily average patient visits in RCC in 2024-25 are 863. Over the past thirty-nine years, RCC has been able to contribute significantly to the increasing needs of cancer care to the people of Kerala and adjoining areas of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka at the lowest possible cost. In 2024-25, 14770 new cases, 247684 review cases and 12652 in-patient admissions were done in RCC. Daily average patient visits are 879. Bed strength of RCC is 298. Further details on RCC are covered in section 5.2 of this review.

Mental Health

As per the Census of India 2011, 0.20 per cent of the population of Kerala suffers from mental illness and 0.20 per cent suffers from intellectual disability compared to a national average of 0.06 per cent and 0.12 per cent respectively. Since Kerala reports higher levels of mental illness more attention has not been given to the field of mental health in Kerala. A mental health policy was approved by the State Government in May 2013. The policy suggests that the treatment for mental illness should be started from the PHCs making the mental hospitals and the Department of psychiatric medicines as referral centres by upgrading them. As part of the Aardram Mission, 'Aswasam' depression management in primary care was started in 471 Family Health Centres across the State. A total of 2.66 lakh persons were screened for depression in Kerala, with 30,775 individuals diagnosed and provided with psychosocial support and pharmacotherapy.

Sampoorna Manasikarogyam

Sampoorna Manasikarogyam is a comprehensive model of sensitization, mental health training, case detection campaigns and camps, enabling the detection of the unidentified case burden in the community. Their integration into primary care clinics enables follow-ups, overcomes treatment gaps and improves access to mental health care. Up to 31st August 2025, it was implemented in 642 Grama Panchayats. A total of 19,161 ASHA workers have been trained, 37,847 people have been newly identified and linked to care, and 60,205 individuals are currently on treatment, reflecting strong community-level outreach and continuity of care.

In Kerala, three mental health centres are functioning with bed strength of 1,366. District mental health programme are functioning in all the districts with a total of around 10,000 outpatients per month. Rehabilitation facilities are offered through these Centres. Lack of awareness, attitude of the general public, neglect of family members and lack of proper follow-up are the major problems noticed in this regard. The State Government has started 31 daycare homes through which 502 cured mentally ill patients are being given daycare.

Amma Manass programme is a maternal mental health initiative that screens and treats psychological issues in pregnant and postpartum women, contributing significantly to reducing suicides from 18 in 2019-20 to just 4 in 2024-25.

District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)

DMHP is functioning in all the 14 Districts of the State. Mental health clinics are being conducted in all PHCs and CHCs in the District by trained doctors of the institutions and medicines are made available to patients from their nearest PHCs. More than 50,000 patients are receiving treatment every month from DMHPs in the State. Other activities include information, education and communication (IEC) for the public to create awareness and reduce stigma, training for doctors, nurses, pharmacists and health workers for integration of mental health into primary care and targeted interventions such as substance abuse prevention, suicide prevention, geriatric mental health and stress management. Daycare centres were started for the mentally ill in remission under the Comprehensive Mental Health Scheme. Now 31 day care centres are functioning in the State under the scheme. School mental health programme is implemented in the State in association with the National Health Mission (NHM).

Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS)

The Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), Kozhikode is an autonomous institution established by the Government of Kerala in 1982. The institute is functioning in the Government Medical College campus, Kozhikode. The institute now runs M.Phil. courses in psychiatric social work (8 seats), clinical psychology (8 seats), post-basic diploma in psychiatric nursing (10 seats) and has also 3 seats for PhD. In clinical services, the institute currently focuses

on community psychiatry, child psychiatry and rehabilitation services. IMHANS has no inpatient facility at present. During 2024-25 number of OP cases was 24818 with which new OP cases were 8915 and it was 10011 cases and 3875 cases respectively during 2025-26 (up to August 31).

Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neurosciences (ICCONS)

The Society for Rehabilitation of Cognitive and Communicative Disorders (SRCCD) is a Charitable society registered under the Travancore Cochin Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act 1955. SRCCD has established the ICCONS at Thiruvananthapuram and Shoranur to promote scientific research, clinical services and advanced education and training in the field of communicative and cognitive neuroscience and disabilities. Institute for Communicative and Cognitive Neurosciences (ICCONS) is a pioneer institution under Govt. of Kerala for the comprehensive management, rehabilitation, education, research and development in the field of developmental and acquired disabilities from infancy to elderly such as Autism, Learning Disability, Mental retardation, Cerebral palsy, single and multiple congenital abnormalities, epilepsy, post-stroke and post-traumatic syndrome and various degenerative disorders affecting the nervous system. The centre gives specific emphasis to conditions that interfere with cognitive, language and motor functions. A multidisciplinary team consisting of Neurologists, Pediatricians, ENT specialists, Audiologists, Speech Language Pathologists, Clinical Psychologists, Physiotherapists and Special Educators are involved in the rehabilitative services provided by the institution. The institute provides inpatient and outpatient services and rehabilitation programme such as speech therapy, behavioural training, physiotherapy and linguistics training to the above-mentioned group of patients regularly. The ICCONS Shoranur has a 60-bed inpatient ward with Neuro-ICU for emergency services and an advanced fully automated Neuro-endocrine and metabolic lab & electro-physiology lab ready for patient service. The centre is giving treatment to children, adults and the elderly with various acquired and developmental disabilities such as autism, mental retardation, cerebral palsy, single and multiple congenital anomalies post-stroke and post-mental traumatic syndrome, adult aphasia, dementia etc. ICCONS is conducting a four-year course in graduate Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (BASLP) at ICCONS

Shoranur. It is affiliated with KUHS and has the recognition of the Rehabilitation Council of India. The annual intake of students is 20. Number of patients treated during 2024-25 in Thiruvananthapuram centre was 20820 and in Shoranur centre was 25601. New registration in two centers during 2024-25 is 1167 and during 2025-26, it is 504 (up to August 31).

Prevalence of Anaemia

The findings of the NFHS-5 (2019 - 2021) reveal that there has been an increase in the prevalence of anaemia among women and children compared to NFHS-4, 2015-16. Kerala is the only State to have recorded a prevalence of less than 40 per cent in all targeted age groups. The Anaemia Mukth Bharat (AMB) strategy was launched in 2018 to reduce Anaemia prevalence among children, adolescents and women in the reproductive age group. Anaemia Free Kerala aims to strengthen the existing mechanisms imparted as part of Anemia Mukth Bharth and foster state-specific newer strategies for tackling anaemia. Details of Anaemia prevalence in Kerala as per NFHS 5 compared to NFHS 4 are given in **Table 6.2.14**.

Table 6.2.14 Anaemia prevalence in Kerala as per NFHS 5 compared to NFHS 4

Indicator	NFHS 4	NFHS 5
Children aged 6-59 months who are Anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) 22 (%) per cent of children in the said age group with a Haemoglobin concentration less than 11 g/dL	35.7	39.4
Non-pregnant women aged 15-49 years who are Anaemic (<12.0 g/dl) 22 (%)	34.7	36.5
Pregnant women aged 15-49 years who are Anaemic (<11.0 g/dl) (%) percentage of women with a Haemoglobin concentration less than 11 g/dL	22.6	31.4
All women aged 15-49 years who are Anaemic (%)	34.3	36.3
percentage of women with a Haemoglobin concentration less than 12 grams per decilitre (g/dL)	37.8	32.5
All women aged 15-19 years who are Anaemic 22 (%)	11.8	17.8
Men aged 15-49 years who are Anaemic (<13.0 g/dl) 22 (%)	14.3	27.4
Men aged 15-19 years who are Anaemic (<13.0 g/dl) 22 (%)	14.3	27.4

Source: NFHS 5, NFHS 4

Even though various State as well as GoI schemes are being undertaken to mitigate Anaemia, it still exists. Hence GoK decided to conduct a statewide campaign and it is progressing.

VIVA Project

VIVA (The abbreviation of Vilarchayil Ninnun Valarchayilekku in Malayalam) is an anaemia prevention project which is launched on 18-02-2023. This project is jointly organized by the departments of Health and Family Welfare, LSGD and Women & Child Development of the Government of Kerala. The campaign aims at anaemia screening, treatment and awareness among girls and women aged 15 to 59 years. According to the World Health Organization, 42 per cent of children under the age of five and 40 per cent of pregnant women in the world are anaemic. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 in India 2022, the prevalence of anaemia among children under 5 years of age, pregnant women and lactating mothers in India is 40 per cent, 32 per cent and 40 per cent respectively. According to the National Family Health Survey, Kerala has the lowest rate of anaemia in India. However, the aim is to make Kerala anaemia-free among women through effective interventions. 54,79,889 women have been tested during the first phase of the campaign.

Communicable Diseases

Kerala is witnessing an increasing burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Although the State has been successful in controlling several communicable diseases earlier, the prevalence of nipa, dengue, leptospirosis, malaria, hepatitis, H1N1, scrub typhus, and COVID-19 in recent years has led to considerable morbidity and mortality. Instances of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria and scrub typhus incidents have been seen in many Districts. Waterborne infections such as different kinds of diarrhoeal diseases, typhoid and hepatitis are also reported in many districts.

Prevalence of Major Communicable Diseases

A comparative analysis of the prevalence of major communicable diseases over the last five years is given in **Table 6.2.15**.

Dengue

Dengue fever, which surfaced in Kerala as early as 1998, has now become the single largest vector-borne disease in the State. Till 2015, this

disease was more prevalent in districts such as Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Kozhikode and Malappuram. But in 2017, all the districts reported dengue and that too in large numbers. Districts located at higher altitudes had low prevalence, but all others showed a high incidence of the disease. These mosquitoes, which in the earlier days were seen more in rural settings, now spread to urban areas also. District-wise number of patients treated, and deaths reported affecting dengue fever from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.15**.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is another public health challenge faced by the State. It was considered a rare disease in early 1980, but later it spread to all districts. The disease was seen initially as a rodent-borne infection, spread through the urine of the infected rodents and the consequent contamination of the environment. Over the years, the disease has been reported in many domestic animals such as cows, dogs and pigs and thus has become an occupational risk for those engaged in agriculture works. People, who have been involved in cleaning stagnant canals and drains, were reported to have contracted the disease. More recently the mortality due to leptospirosis is also on the rise and joint efforts of veterinary and animal husbandry departments are essential for effective control of this disease. District-wise number of patients treated, and deaths reported affecting Leptospirosis in 2024 and 2025 (up to August 31, 2025) are given in **Appendix 6.2.1** and the number of cases and deaths reported from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.15**.

Chikungunya

This disease is believed to have originated in the remote islands in the Arabian Sea in 2005-06 and spread rapidly over the whole of Kerala within the next two years, affecting more than 80 per cent of our population. This has resulted in lifelong immunity for the affected population. In 2022, 66 cases were reported in Kerala. Here again, the vector responsible for disease transmission is the Aedes mosquitoes. Since both dengue and chikungunya are transmitted by the same mosquito and as the same mosquitoes are responsible for the transmission of the potential threat of Zika virus disease and Yellow fever, the health system is vigilant. In 2024, 29 cases were reported of which 15 cases were from Thiruvananthapuram District.

Table 6.2.15 Prevalence of communicable diseases in Kerala

Year	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025 (Up to September 15)		
Disease	Cases	Death	Cases	Death	Cases	Death	Cases	Death	Cases	Death	
Dengue Fever	3251	27	4468	58	16766	153	20674	128	8502	32	
Probable Dengue fever	9878	4	13355	11	41599	12	53536	13	24461	19	
Malaria	309	1	439	0	566	7	952	6	788	2	
Confirmed Chikungunya	334	0	66	0	31	0	29	2	35	0	
Japanese Encephalitis (JE)	0	0	2	0	6	1	10	4	0	0	
Leptospirosis	1745	97	2482	121	2417	133	3552	251	2208	133	
Probable Leptospirosis	2565	250	2833	169	2769	149	2428	143	1546	103	
Hepatitis – A	114	0	231	2	1073	14	7967	89	8609	58	
Probable Heapatitis A	398	0	894	1	3508	1	20445	7	14424	9	
Cholera	1	0	0	0	26	0	36	1	2	1	
Typhoid	30	0	55	0	103	1	171	1	295	0	
ADD (Diarrhoea)	238227	3	466211	2	486266	2	517618	12	371373	9	
Scrub Typhus	438	6	727	24	614	17	981	19	578	11	
Kala Azar	1	1	13	0	15	2	0	0	2	0	
Kysanur Forest Disease	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
H1N1	1	0	94	11	1036	68	2837	61	802	9	
Fever	OP	1463517	0	3285392	6	2979054	4	2879108	8	1856136	9
	IP	12458		25257		49099		43294		26931	
Diarrheal Diseases	238227	3	466211	2	486266	2	517618	12	371373	9	
Enteric fever	30	0	55	0	103	1	171	1	295	0	
Measles	3	0	183	0	1666	5	256	0	17	0	
Chickenpox	3457	2	9927	14	26390	4	27106	16	19120	6	

Source: Directorate of Health Services

In 2025 (up to August 31), 35 cases were reported, of which 29 were from Thiruvananthapuram only. The details of district-wise patients treated for chikungunya and deaths reported in 2024 and 2025 (up to August 31) are given in **Appendix 6.2.2** and the number of cases and deaths reported from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.15**.

A total of 2879108 viral fever cases were reported in Kerala in 2024. In 2025 (up to August 31), the number of reported cases was 18,56,136. The details of district-wise patients treated for viral fever in 2024 and 2025 (up to August 31) are given in **Appendix 6.2.2** and the number of cases and deaths reported from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.15**.

Malaria

Malaria, a vector-borne disease transmitted by Anopheles mosquitoes, has been a major public health challenge for our country for the past many decades. Various national programme targeting its elimination have met with limited success. Though Kerala had controlled the disease in the early 1970s, Malaria incidents still exist as a public health challenge. The problem has recently aggravated because of the presence of large-scale population movement from malaria endemic States. The proportion of falciparum malaria, the more severe form of the disease also exists in Kerala. Though the elimination of the Indigenous form of Malaria has been included in the SDG targets by the State, the issues in its fulfilment are many. Rapid urbanisation, extensive infrastructure

development in many districts, uncontrolled construction works in urban areas and climate-related changes in the life cycle of mosquitoes are big hurdles in the attainment of the SDG goals. Annual cases of malaria in Kerala are less than 500 and the number of deaths reported is also very low. Kasaragod District has persistently had a high number of malaria cases, over many years, because of its proximity to the highly endemic districts of Karnataka. The movement of fishermen along the western coast of our State is a potential threat to the spread of malaria along the coastal districts. In 2024 number of cases reported was 952 and death reported was 6. In 2025, up to August, 788 cases and 2 deaths were reported. The number of malaria cases and deaths has been increasing over the years in Kerala. Number of cases and death from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.15**.

Japanese Encephalitis (JE)

This is a form of encephalitis, an inflammatory disease of the brain and its coverings, and is also a mosquito-borne infection. Kerala is more prone to this disease because of the presence of large paddy fields as the virus responsible for the disease is spread by Culex mosquitos, which breeds abundantly in water-logged areas of paddy fields. The peculiar nature of the Culex mosquito to breed in contaminated water increases the potential threat in other areas as well. The role of migratory birds in the transmission of JE is an extra risk for Kerala because our State has many sanctuaries for migratory birds. But since there is an effective vaccine against JE, we can be optimistic in its control programme, by strengthening the JE vaccination. In 2024, ten cases and four deaths were reported. No cases and deaths have been reported in 2025 (up to August 31). Details of cases and deaths from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.15**.

Waterborne diseases

The waterborne disease is mainly attributed to the unavailability of safe drinking water in many parts of the State especially in tribal and coastal areas. Unhygienic drinking water sources such as wells, pump houses, water supplied through tanker lorry, leaks in public water supply pipes and the consequent mixing of foul water with drinking water, dumping of wastes including sewage in water sources, use of commercial ice in preparation of cool drinks and using unsafe water in preparation of welcome drinks are some reasons

for the spread of water-borne diseases. The Health Department has implemented a programme called “Jagratha” since November 2017 for the prevention and control of communicable diseases. There has been a considerable increase in incidents of typhoid, Hepatitis –A, Cholera and ADD (diarrhoea) in Kerala since 2021. Details of cases and deaths due to waterborne diseases of Acute Diarrhoeal Diseases (ADD), typhoid and Hepatitis from 2021 to 2025 (up to September 15, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.16**.

HIV/AIDS

Kerala State Aids Control Society is the pioneer organisation in the State working to control the spread of HIV as well as strengthen the State’s capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS. The society was formed to implement the National Aids Control Programme in the State. The current phase of the AIDS Control Programme (NACP-V) is from 2021 to 2026. The critical targets for achieving the 2030 SDG goals are for 95 per cent of people living with HIV to know their HIV status, 95 per cent of people who know their HIV status to receive treatment and to reduce HIV transmission by 95 per cent of people on treatment by 2025. The prevalence rate in the State has declined from 0.21 per cent in 2008-09 to 0.13 in 2010-11 and 0.06 per cent in 2021. The prevalence rate in India in 2021 is 0.21 per cent. In Kerala, the prevalence of HIV/AIDS is 0.41 per cent (4.95 per cent in 2011) among injecting drug users (IDU) which is 6.26 per cent at the national level. It is 0.23 per cent (0.36 per cent in 2011) among men having sex with men (MSM) which is 2.69 per cent at the national level and 0.10 per cent (0.73 per cent in 2011) among Female Sex Workers (FSW) which is 1.56 per cent in India in 2017. Among transgender, the HIV prevalence rate in Kerala is 0.16 per cent which is 3.14 per cent at the national level. HIV prevalence among migrants in India is 0.51 per cent (Source: Kerala State Aids Control Society). HIV estimates in India and Kerala based on India HIV Estimates 2023 are given in **Appendix 6.2.3**.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The first case of Covid-19 in India was reported in Kerala on January 30, 2020. Kerala adopted a multi-pronged strategy in dealing with the pandemic even before the first Covid-19 confirmed case was reported. Kerala’s response to COVID-19 started much earlier than March 11, 2020, when the Director General of the

Table 6.2.16 Prevalence of waterborne diseases in Kerala

Sl. No	Name of Diseases	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025 (Sep 15)	
		Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death
1	Hepatitis - A	114	0	231	2	1073	14	7967	89	8609	58
2	Probable Hepatitis A	398	0	894	1	3508	1	20445	7	14424	9
2	Cholera	1	0	0	0	26	0	36	1	2	1
3	Typhoid	30	0	55	0	103	1	171	1	295	0
4	ADD (Diarrhoea)	238227	3	466211	2	486266	2	517618	12	371373	9

Source: Directorate of Health Services

World Health Organisation (WHO) characterised COVID-19 as a pandemic. The containment strategies were well in place when the first case was reported. From the beginning of COVID-19 control activities, the private hospital engagement team was working in close liaison with the district private hospital engagement nodal officers, private hospital managements and the Indian Medical Association. Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited has played the most critical role in the ambulance services by managing the Kaniv-108 ambulances to mobilise the COVID-19 suspects/patients from their houses/exit points to the isolation facilities. During the coronavirus outbreak in Kerala, it was decided to provide psychosocial support 'Ottakkalla Oppamundu' to the persons in quarantine/isolation and their family members. State-level trainings were conducted exhaustively and elaborately covering all staff working in the health sector. Ward-level teams were active in all Panchayats and were ensuring daily calls and visits to the homes of the elderly. A series of mass media campaigns were being conducted for COVID-19 awareness from the beginning of 2020. Health Department launched e-Sanjeevani telemedicine services in Kerala on June 10, 2020. They were providing services in a centralised manner and DISHA is the State's hub managing the telemedicine activities for the State.

Public Health Laboratories

At present, there are 9 Public Health (PH) Labs in the State. There is State Public Health Lab at Thiruvananthapuram, Regional Public Health Labs at Ernakulam, Kozhikode, Pathanamthitta, Kannur, and Public Health Labs at Alappuzha, Malappuram, Wayanad and Kollam. Technical Guidance and material supply to all the PH labs are provided by the Director, of the State Public Health and Clinical Lab. An average of 150-200 patients attends the laboratories every day for various lab investigations. An average of 1300 lab

tests are performed every day. State PH lab is the WHO referral laboratory for Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD). Two-year Diploma MLT course is conducted regularly for 15 students/ batch.

Newborn Screening (NBS) Programme (2013-23)

The Newborn Screening (NBS) Programme started in March 2013 and was extended to all the Government hospitals in September 2017. The blood samples of newborns are tested through the State Public Health and Clinical Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram and three Regional Laboratories at Ernakulam, Kozhikode and Kannur. The screening test is done for four selected disorders namely Congenital Hypothyroidism, Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia, Phenyl Ketonuria and G6PD deficiency. The director of the State PH Lab is the State Nodal officer for the newborn screening programme of Kerala. The cumulative total number of samples received for NBS in four PH Labs from April 2013 to March 2025 comes to a total of 1242347 of which positive Congenital Hypothyroidism (684 cases), Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia (181 cases), G6PD deficiency (465 cases) and Galactosemia (31 cases) were detected.

Kerala Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (K-CDC)

Kerala continues to face a dual burden of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases along with an increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases. In recent years, the state has encountered health challenges such as Nipah virus, Zika, amoebic meningoencephalitis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The high mobility of Kerala's population, combined with frequent climate-related disasters like floods and zoonotic outbreaks, has further increased its vulnerability to epidemics and public health crises. To address these challenges, the Government of Kerala

established the Kerala Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (K-CDC). The centre is envisioned as a scientific institution capable of providing evidence-based and context-specific responses to public health threats. It will work collaboratively with existing departments by synthesizing data from multiple sources and developing strategies to predict, prevent, and manage outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics. The primary goal of K-CDC is to strengthen Kerala's health system through integration, data-driven decision-making, and proactive public health management, ensuring the state remains resilient against current and future health challenges. The K-CDC will operate through three main components: 1. Leveraging the One Health concept for comprehensive disease prevention and control 2. Establishing a Public Health Emergency Operations Centre to coordinate rapid responses 3. Organizing activities under fourteen specialized divisions to ensure focused and effective functioning.

Family Welfare Programme

Family Welfare Programme was a 100 per cent CSS during several plan periods and the funding pattern and the financing components of CSS have been changed w.e.f 2016-17 financial year. Central assistance has been limited to the salary of the regular staff engaged in the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme in the State. Now the programme is being implemented as a part of the National Health Mission (NHM) and DHS.

Delivery and Maternal Mortality Ratio

Based on the last 10 years data DHS, the deliveries in Government hospitals were seen at around 30 per cent. Maternal Mortality Ratio in Kerala is 30, it is 88 in India (Source: Special Bulletin on MMR 2021-23). The details of deliveries in public and private hospitals since 2012-13 are given in **Table 6.2.17**.

Immunisation Coverage

Immunisation is one of the most successful and cost-effective health interventions and prevents debilitating illness, disability and death from vaccine-preventable diseases such as diphtheria, hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps, pneumococcal disease, polio, rotavirus diarrhoea, tetanus etc. The coverage of immunisation programme in Kerala for five years from 2020-21 is given in **Appendix 6.2.4**.

Health Care Institutions

In Kerala modern medical services are offered by

the Directorate of Health Services (DHS) and the medical education is dealt with by the Directorate of Medical Education (DME).

Health Care Institutions under DHS

At present there are 1,289 health institutions with 38525 beds, 6582 doctors, 14528 nursing staff and 7590 paramedical staff under Health Services Department consisting of 849 PHC/FHCs, 226 CHCs/Block FHCs, 88 taluk headquarters hospitals, 18 District hospitals, 18 general hospitals, 3 mental health hospitals, 10 women and children hospitals, 3 leprosy hospitals, 14 TB hospitals, 2 other speciality hospitals and 58 other hospitals. PHCs/ FHCs are institutions providing comprehensive primary care services including preventive care and curative care. CHCs/ Block FHCs and taluk level institutions form the basic secondary care institutions. District hospitals, general hospitals and maternity hospitals provide speciality services and some super speciality services. Category-wise major medical institutions and beds in Kerala, details of IP and OP cases, major and minor surgeries conducted DHS during 2024-25 and 2025-26 and medical and paramedical personnel under DHS are given in **Appendix 6.2.5, 6.2.6 and 6.2.7**.

District-wise distribution of hospital beds in Kerala

District-wise distribution of hospital beds in Kerala is given in **Figure 6.2.1** Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts have a higher number of beds as compared to other districts while Kasaragod, Idukki and Wayanad districts have a lesser number of beds. The bed population ratio in Kerala is 1:594 and it is 1:656 for modern medicine alone. The average doctor bed ratio in Kerala is 1:4 and it is 1:5 for modern medicine alone. The doctor-population ratio in Kerala is 1:2585. The population here is estimated for the year 2021. These figures reflect the status of the Government sector only and the figures will be much better if the private sector is also considered.

Health Assurance

State Health Agency (SHA)

The State Health Agency is the nodal agency for implementing the health insurance scheme in the state.

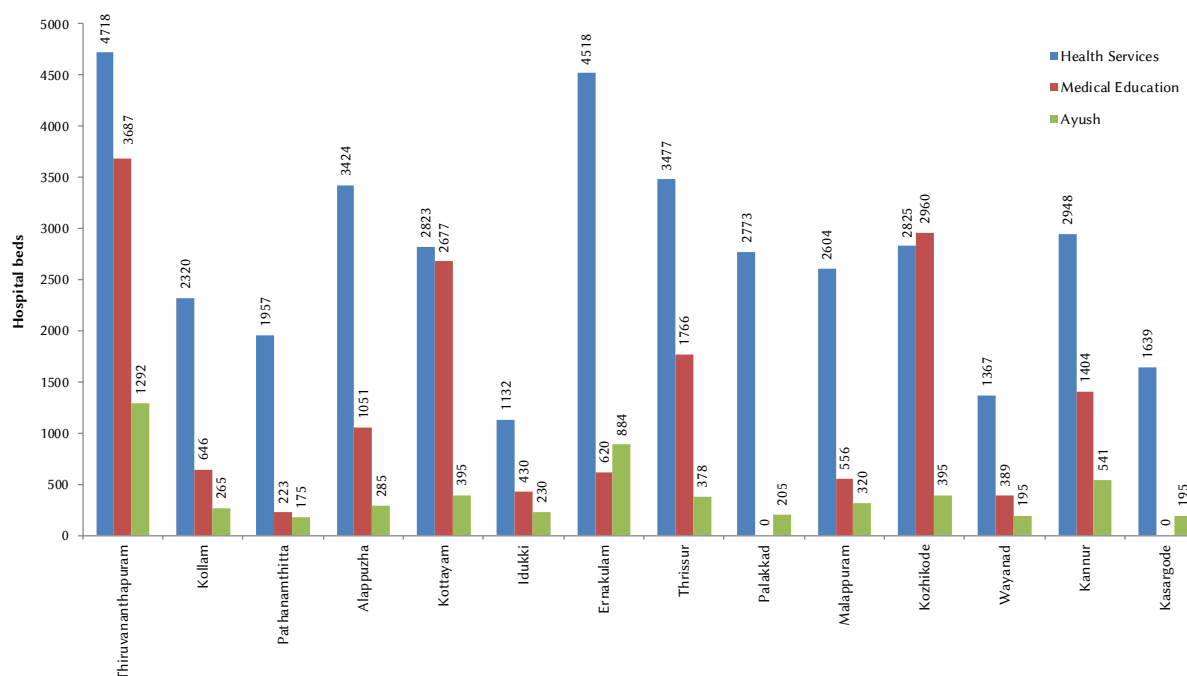
Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (KASP)

Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi (KASP) is the comprehensive health insurance programme of the Government of Kerala implemented through the

Table 6.2.17 The details of deliveries in public and private hospitals since 2012-13 in Kerala

Period	Public	Private	Total	Public %	Private %
2012-13	135941	358563	494504	27	73
2013-14	151277	344980	496257	30	70
2014-15	151524	342112	493636	31	69
2015-16	139808	340841	480649	29	71
2016-17	124115	332293	456408	27	73
2017-18	138510	313617	452127	31	69
2018-19	143847	339989	483836	30	70
2019-20	146174	314209	460383	32	68
2020-21	131599	288187	419786	31	69
2021-22	134284	291737	426021	32	68
2022 - 23	128150	286430	414580	31	69
2023-24	109542	259873	369415	30	70
2024-25	90275	231832	322107	28	72
2025-26 up to August 31	33940	87741	121681	28	72

Source: DHS

Figure 6.2.1 District-wise distribution of hospital beds in Kerala

Source: Various Health Departments / Institutions

State Health agency which includes Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY). GoK implemented PM-JAY as KASP. KASP converge all the Government-sponsored health insurance schemes namely, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CHIS) and Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS).

Initially, the scheme was implemented in the State from April 1, 2019, to June 2020 under insurance mode for the entire Rs 5 lakh coverage per family. From July 1, 2020 onwards, the same scheme is being implemented under assurance mode with the same Rs 5 lakh coverage per family. A total of 42.09 lakh families are covered under the KASP scheme, out of which, 23.98 lakh families are covered under PMJAY and SECC categories. Central assistance is limited to the families covered under PMJAY and SECC. The Central Government has a fixed premium ceiling of Rs 900 for each family and 60 per cent of that will be given to the State as a Central share. The Central Government, therefore, provides Rs 631.2 for each enrolled AB-PMJAY (RSBY) family and hence the expected Central assistance will be Rs.151 Crore (23,97,610 families * 631.2). A total of 597 hospitals have so far been empanelled, which include 394 private hospitals and 203 Public hospitals including 5 GoI hospitals. Karunya Benevolent Fund (KBF) scheme is also included as a separate component under the same Mission.

The details of the progress of AB PM-JAY/ KASP are given in **Table 6.2.18** and utilisation of AB PM-JAY/KASP by sector is given in **Appendix 6.2.8**.

Karunya Benevolent Fund (KBF)

The Karunya Benevolent Fund (KBF) scheme was started in February 2012 by the Government of Kerala to give financial assistance to members of families from financially backward sections for the treatment of certain chronic diseases. Every family whose annual income is below Rs 3 lakhs as per the Ration Card irrespective of their APL Status can avail of financial assistance under this scheme. However, this income limit is not imposed on the treatment of haemophilia. Every family can avail financial assistance of up to Rs 3 lakhs for the treatment of kidney diseases and up to Rs 2 lakhs for other prescribed diseases. One or more people can benefit from the same ration card subject to the limit prescribed above. The scheme was implemented through the Department of State Lotteries. From September 1, 2020, onwards, it is being implemented by the State Health Agency. Total amount claimed as of October 31, 2025 (2020 July to 2025 October) is Rs 580.56 Cr.

Arogyakiranam

Arogyakiranam is one of the flagship health programme of the GoK. The programme provides free treatment and related medical services to all patients from birth to 18 years, as an entitlement. Expenses covered by this entitlement include costs incurred for OP registration, investigations, drugs/implants/materials used in treatment and procedures. The fund for coverage of treatment expenditure was allotted to districts, to be maintained as a corpus fund, from which all expenses were debited. The scheme is being implemented by the State Health Agency from the financial year 2022-23 onwards. Total amount claimed as of October 31, 2025 is Rs. 60.27 Cr.

Table 6.2.18 Progress of AB PM-JAY / KASP during 2020-21 to 2025-26 (up to August 31, 2025)

Year	Number of Families Enrolled	Number of Claims	Amount of claims (Rs. in crore)	Claims Paid (Rs. in crore)
2020-21 (July 2020 to March 2021)	4142182	807772	626.8	599.6
2021-22	4162609	1524613	1469.9	1326.8
2022-23	4186868	1121181	1547.8	1472.8
2023-24	4198301	987335	1574.7	1144.0
2024-25	4208676	896550	1465.9	145.6
2025-26 (up to August 31, 2025)	4208676	337193	554.7	0.21

Source: State Health Agency Kerala

Sruthitharangam

Shruthitharangam is for cochlear implantation surgery among children and its follow-up. Children between 0-5 years of age are eligible for this scheme. However, children above the age group of 5 years will also be considered in cases where profound hearing loss occurred because of post-meningitis injury since it improves the quality of life of children above 5 years. The cost of the procedure is Rs 5.2 Lakh and an average of 200 applications are settled every year and 300 upgradation are also settled. The details of assistance provided so far (Upto October 31, 2025) are given in **Table 6.2.19**.

Table 6.2.19 Details of assistance provided under the scheme Shruthitharangam (Upto October 31, 2025)

Sl. No.	Category	No. of assistance provided
1	Cochlear implantation surgery	186
2	Maintenance of cochlear implantation spares & accessories	1309
3	Sound processor upgradation	352
Total		1847

Source: State Health Agency Kerala

Thalolam

The Thalolam scheme aims to provide free treatment to the children below age of 18, who are suffering from Kidney diseases, Cardiovascular diseases, Cerebral Palsy, Brittle Bone Disease, Hemophilia, Thalassemia, Sickle Cell Anemia, Orthopedic deformities and other Neuro-Developmental Disabilities, Congenital anomalies (Endosulfan victims) and accident cases which need surgery.

Cancer Suraksha for Children

Recognising the urgent need to extend financial support to cancer victim children, who are too poor to afford treatment, the State launched the Cancer Suraksha Scheme on 1st November 2008 for children below the age of 18 who suffer from cancer.

National Health Mission (NHM)

National Health Mission is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which includes two submissions NUHM and NRHM. NHM has five financing components

to the States, viz. (i) NRHM/RCH Flexi-pool, (ii) NUHM Flexi-pool (iii) Flexible pool for communicable diseases, (iv) Flexible pool for non-communicable diseases including injury and trauma and (v) Infrastructure Maintenance. Under the infrastructure maintenance component, support has been given over several Plan periods, to States to meet salary requirements of schemes namely, Direction and Administration (Family Welfare Bureaus at State and District level), Sub Centres, Urban Family Welfare Centres, Urban Revamping Scheme (Health Posts), ANM/LHV Training Schools, Health and Family Welfare Training Centres and Training of Multi-Purpose Workers (Male).

NHM is implemented in the State for the development of health care delivery with Central Government funding. Forty per cent of the total fund is given to the NHM by the State Government as a State share. NHM supports the Health Services Department, Directorate of Medical Education and AYUSH Departments. National Rural Health Mission aims to provide accessible, affordable and accountable quality health services to the poorest households in the remote rural regions. Under NRHM, the focus is on a functional health system at all levels, from the Village to the District. There are 102 Urban PHCs under NHM. The total GoI release to the State from 2019-20 to 2025-26 (up to October 31) is given in **Table 6.2.20**. The total staff strength of NHM is 17221 (up to August 2025) under medical, paramedical and other categories.

State Institute of Medical Education and Technology (SI-MET)

SI-MET was established in the State in 2008 to promote medical education and research. Eleven nursing colleges are functioning under SI-MET with an annual intake of 60 students. A total of 1920 students are studying in the Nursing Colleges of SI-MET as of October 2025. A total of 141 teaching staff and 155 non-teaching staff are working under Si-met.

Child Development Centre (CDC)

Child Development Centre (CDC) established by the GoK is an autonomous Centre of excellence in early childcare and education, adolescent care and education, pre-marital counselling, women's welfare and other related fields to reduce childhood disability through novel scientific

Table 6.2.20 Release of central assistance for NHM from 2019-20 to 2025-26 (up to August 31) Rs. in crores

Year	Central Share for NHM activities	Kind grant	Central Release for COVID Activities	Central Release for Infrastructure Maintenance	Total Central release	State Share released
2019-20	373.32	41.57	74.21	430.26	919.36	430.29
2020-21	341.95	41.58	583.04	404.69	1371.26	957.51
2021-22	327.25	62.79	226.45	381.42	997.91	724.99
2022-23	416.42	58.79	0	381.42	856.63	684.65
2023-24	0	85.99	0	103.15	189.19	480.20
2024-25	567.48	61.62	0	722.88	1351.98	424.83
2025-26	245.29	13.85	0	447.45	706.59	676.65
Total	2271.71	366.19	883.7	2871.27	6392.92	4379.12

Source: NHM Kerala

initiatives. The number of patients treated in 2024-25 was 25429. Only out-patient services are available and there is no facility for admitting patients. The number of student intakes is two (PG).

Insurance Medical Services Department

Employees State Insurance Scheme of India is the country's first integrated multi-dimensional social security scheme for workers in the organized sector. Medical care under this scheme is implemented in the State of Kerala through the Insurance Medical Services Department. This Department is under the administrative control of the Labour Department, before which the scheme was implemented through the State Health Services Department. ESI Scheme is assigned with the significant and socially useful task of providing comprehensive medical care services to the worker population and their dependents and protecting against certain eventualities that result in loss of wages or earning capacity. The scheme also takes care of physically disabled workers and their dependents with monetary support, where death or disablement has occurred due to employment injury or occupational disease. Administration of medical care is the statutory responsibility of the State Government, and it is implemented through the Insurance Medical Services Department. Medical facilities are provided through 9 Hospitals and 147 Dispensaries. Total number of doctors in the Department is 515. Treatment under Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic systems is provided to ESI beneficiaries. The ESIC is the collector and custodian of funds and reimburses

the expenditure to the Government of Kerala in the agreed ratio of 7:1 based on audit certification from the Accountant General on the final account payment system. District-wise number of ESI dispensaries, hospitals and bed strength is given in **Table 6.2.21**.

Drugs Control Department

The responsibility of the Drugs Control Department is to ensure the availability of quality drugs to the public and see that the market is free from counterfeit, spurious and substandard drugs and no drugs are sold at a price higher than the retail price marked on the container. The department has 6 Regional Offices, 11 District Offices, 4 Ayurveda wing offices and 4 drug testing laboratories (Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Thrissur). NABL-accredited drug testing laboratories are functioning at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam with an analytical capacity of 11,500 samples per annum. The establishment of one more laboratory at Kannur is in progress. There are around 25,000 licensed medical shops/dealers and pharmacies, in the State. Rule 51 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945, stipulates that the Drugs Inspector shall inspect not less than once a year, all establishments licensed for the sale of drugs within the area assigned to them. At present, there are 47 posts of drug inspectors in the State. Major achievements of the Department in 2024-25 are given in **Table 6.2.22**.

Table 6.2.21 District-wise number of ESI dispensaries, hospitals and bed strength during 2024-2025

Sl No	District	No of ESI Dispensaries	No of ESI Hospitals	Bed Strength
1	Thiruvananthapuram	12	1	137
2	Kollam	30	-	0
3	Pathanamthitta	4	-	0
4	Alappuzha	14	1	55
5	Kottayam	9	1	65
6	Eranakulam	20	1	65
7	Idukki	2	-	0
8	Thrissur	16	2	212
9	Palakkad	8	1	50
10	Malappuram	7	-	0
11	Kozhikkode	12	1	100
12	Wayanad	1	-	0
13	Kannur	11	1	50
14	Kasaragod	1	-	0
Total		147	9	734

Source: Insurance Medical Services Department

Commissionerate of Food Safety Kerala

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was established under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 as a statutory body

Table 6.2.22 Major achievements of the Drugs Control Department in 2024-25

Number of inspections conducted	15984
Number of prosecutions initiated	23
Number of sale licences suspended as a deterrent measure	388
Number of samples tested	1164
Number of new manufacturing licenses issued (Modern medicine, Homoeo and Cosmetics)	45
Number of price violations detected and reported to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority	18
Number of New Blood Bank Licenses Issued	7
Number of new blood storage centres per-mits issues	24
Number of Recognized Medical Institutions sanctioned	24

Source: Drugs Control Department

for laying down scientific-based standards for articles of food and to regulate the manufacture,

storage, distribution, sale and import of food to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. The department aims to ensure safe and healthy food and water for the citizens of Kerala and to develop healthy food habits. The Government Analyst's Laboratory at Thiruvananthapuram, two Regional Analytical laboratories at Ernakulam and Kozhikode and the State Food Testing Laboratory at Pathanamthitta are under the Commissionerate of Food Safety. Testing of water, milk, common adulterants like colour, artificial sweeteners, extraneous matter, and fungal growth are carried out in these laboratories. Three analytical laboratories viz., Government Analysts' Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram, Regional Analytical Laboratories at Ernakulam and Kozhikode have got NABL accreditation. Major achievements of the Department in 2024-25 and 2025-26 are given in **Table 6.2.23**.

Chemical Examiner's Laboratory Department

The chemical examiner's laboratory is functioning under the administrative control of the Home Department. It caters to the needs of Judiciary, Excise, Police and medico-legal experts directly and indirectly and thus assists in the prosecution of criminal cases. It renders independent scientific service to the criminal justice administrative system. The Chemical Examiner's Laboratory

Table 6.2.23 Major achievements of the Commissionerate of Food Safety in 2024-25 and 2025-26

Programme	2024-25	2025-26 (up to August 31)
No. of Inspections carried out by Quick Response Team (QRT)	22276	9145
No. of Food Poison Cases attended by the QRT	46	26
No. of License Issued	20394	6508
No. of awareness activities conducted by using the Mobile Food Testing Lab	2381	2483
No. of food handlers trained under the FoSTaC training initiative	42600	16467
Hygiene Rating Audits conducted	1905	592
No. of Schools in which Safe and Nutritious Food @School (SNF@ School) has been implemented	24	4
No. of Panchayats in which Sampoorana Bhakshya Suraksha Grama Panchayath programme has been implemented	1	0
Eat Right Campus	49	-

Source: Commissionerate of Food and Safety

Department consists of a Central Laboratory in Thiruvananthapuram and Regional Laboratories in Ernakulam and Kozhikode. The Chemical Examiner's Laboratory Department analyzes the material objects related to cases of murder, sexual offenses, human poisoning, liquor samples under the Abkari Act, and narcotic and psychotropic substances under the NDPS Act. Detailed chemical analysis reports are provided to the relevant authorities and law enforcement agencies. The department focuses on enhancing laboratory facilities, improving analytical methods, and ensuring the highest standards of accuracy and precision in chemical analysis certification. All three laboratories are accredited by NABL. The details of cases received, analyzed, and pending are given in the **Table 6.2.24**.

Medical Education

In Kerala, medical education is imparted through 14 medical colleges in 14 districts. Nursing education is imparted through 14 Nursing Colleges in 14 districts. Six Dental Colleges are functioning in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Alappuzha, Thrissur, Kannur and Kottayam districts. Besides, four colleges of Pharmacy and one Paramedical Institute are also functioning under the Department. Kerala has become the first state in the country to have government medical colleges with MBBS admissions in all districts. Between 2016 and 2025, undergraduate MBBS

seats increased from 1,200 to 1,855, postgraduate seats from 692 to 898, and super speciality seats from 100 to 161, reflecting substantial expansion in medical education capacity.

Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, has placed 42nd among the top 50 medical education institutions ranked by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) under the Ministry of Education. In the dental college category, Government Dental College Thiruvananthapuram has taken the 21st position in the NIRF ranking. Among Government medical colleges in the country, the Thiruvananthapuram GMC is ranked sixth and Government Dental College, Thiruvananthapuram, figures in fifth place among Government dental colleges in the country.

Total number of faculties under DME as of August 31, 2025, is 3712. Medical and Paramedical courses conducted in Government medical colleges with an annual intake of students, and details of clinical and non-clinical personnel in Medical Colleges under DME, in 2025-26 are given in Appendix 6.2.9 and 6.2.10. A comparative analysis of the status of medical college hospitals and attached institutions in 2024-25 and 2025-26 is given in Appendix 6.2.11. The bed strength has increased by 873 in 2025-26 in Medical College institutions as compared to the previous year's figure of 15237.

Table 6.2.24 The details of cases received, analyzed, and pending at chemical examiner's laboratory from 2022-23 to 2024-25

Year	Received		Analysed		Pending	
	Case	Article	Case	Article	Case	Article
2022-23	33909	90599	28026	75126	51139	147325
2023-24	38172	93854	26545	69573	62522	169187
2024-25	39790	100240	29419	76875	72861	192550

Source: Insurance Medical Services Department

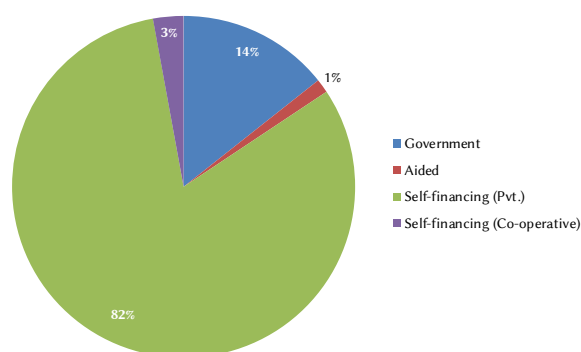
Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences (KUHS)

Kerala University of Health Sciences was established as per the Kerala University of Health Science Act, 2010 to ensure proper and systematic instructions, teaching, training and research in modern medicine, homoeopathy and the Indian system of medicine and allied health sciences in Kerala. Academic activities of the University commenced in the academic year 2010-11. The number of institutions affiliated to the University (up to October 2025) is 384 with 55 Government colleges, 5 Government-aided colleges 11 self-financing co-operative colleges and 313 self-financing colleges. The colleges fall under all systems of medicine such as Modern medicine, Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha, Unani, Yoga, Naturopathy, Nursing, Pharmaceutical science and Paramedical courses. Details of the government-aided and unaided colleges affiliated under various streams are given in **Table 6.2.25**.

A graphical representation of the Government and unaided colleges affiliated with the Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences (KUHS) as of October 2025 is given in **Figure 6.2.2**. Government and Government colleges constitute only 15 per cent of the total number of colleges affiliated with KUHS

The total intake of students during 2024-25 is 29540 (5684 males and 23856 females) under various health sciences streams. Details of the annual intake of students in each discipline and the male/female count of students in each discipline are given in **Table 6.2.26**.

Figure 6.2.2 Government aided, and self-financing colleges affiliated under KUHS, in per cent



Source: Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences

AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy)

Indian System of Medicine (ISM)

The department of the Indian System of Medicine renders medical aid to the people through the network of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Visha, Netra and Naturopathy institutions. Speciality hospitals such as Mental Hospital (1), Panchakarma (1), Nature Cure (1), Siddha (1), Visha (3), Sports Ayurveda (1) and Marma (1) are also functioning under this Department. At present, there are 130 hospitals and 818 dispensaries under the Department which include Ayurveda (806), Visha (4), Siddha (6), Nature Cure (1) and Unani (1). The total bed strength of these hospitals is 3,154. The State Medicinal Plants Board coordinates matters relating to the cultivation, conservation, research development and promotion of medicinal plants in the State. District-wise distribution of institutions, beds, IP, OP and doctors under the ISM department in 2023-24 and 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 6.2.12**.

Table 6.2.25 Details of the Government aided, and unaided colleges affiliated under various streams, number as of October 2025

Stream	Government	Aided	Self-financing (Co-operative)	Self-financing (Pvt.)	Total
Medicine	16			20	36
Dental	6			20	26
Ayurveda Medicine	3	2		12	17
Homeo Medicine	3	3		0	6
Sidha Medicine				1	1
Nursing	15		7	139	161
Pharmacy	5		1	58	64
Paramedical	7		3	62	72
Unani Medicine				1	1
Total	55	5	11	313	384

Source: Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences

Table 6.2.26 Details of the Annual intake of students as of March 2025

Stream	Male	Female	Total
Medicine	2130	4214	6344
Dental	362	1957	2319
Ayurveda Medicine	219	1101	1320
Ayurveda Nursing	2	19	21
Ayurveda Pharmacy	3	5	8
Homoeo Medicine	32	361	393
Sidha Medicine	9	24	33
Nursing	1536	8622	10158
Pharmacy	842	4560	5402
Paramedical	519	2962	3481
Unani Medicine	30	31	61
Total	5684	23856	29540

Source: Kerala University of Health and Allied Sciences

Special projects were implemented by the ISM department in 2024-25 and 2025-26 in addition to the normal medical treatment. They are Drishti, Jeevani, Punarnava, Snehadhara, Geriatric Care, Yoga, Sports Medicine, Panchakarma, Ksharasutra, Manasikam, Koumarabhrithyam, Prosoothithantra, Sick cell, Nirvisha, siddha and Child and adolescent care. Details of special projects, districts implemented, and number of beneficiaries are given in **Appendix 6.2.13**.

AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy)

GoI has set up two regulatory bodies to set standards for medical education. The Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) under the Indian Medicine Central Council (IMCC) Act, 1970 regulates educational institutions and practitioners in respect of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine. The Central Council of Homeopathy (CCH) under the Homeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 regulates educational institutions and

Table 6.2.27 Year-wise Resource Allocations of National AYUSH Mission Kerala (Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Central Share for NAM activities	Central release for infrastructure maintenance	Total Central release	State share released
2018-19	2597.84	541.80	2597.84	1731.89
2019-20	1540.54	60.00	1540.54	1027.03
2020-21	2337.59	275.00	2337.59	1558.39
2021-22	1153.39	0	1153.39	768.93
2022-23	4399.83	205.02	4399.83	2933.16
2023-24	7989.40	1079.54	7989.40	5326.34
2024-25	11037.96	1533.76	11037.96	7358.64
Total	31056.55	3695.12	31056.55	20704.38

Source: National Ayush Mission Kerala

practitioners concerning the Homeopathy system of medicines. At present Yoga and Naturopathy, being drugless systems, are not regulated.

National AYUSH Mission

Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI has launched the National AYUSH Mission (NAM). The basic objective of NAM is to promote AYUSH medical systems through cost-effective AYUSH services, strengthening of educational systems, and facilitating the enforcement of quality control of Ayurveda, Sidha, Unani and homoeopathy drugs and medicinal plants. The funding pattern is 60:40 by Centre and State. GoK started the Ayush Department in the State on August 8, 2015. GoI fund release for the last five years is given in **Table 6.2.27**.

Central release for the National Ayush Mission to Kerala has seen an increase over different financial years.

AYUSH Yoga Clubs

AYUSH Yoga Clubs offer regular yoga sessions, health awareness, events focusing NCD prevention & Social health. A total of 10,132 AYUSH Yoga Clubs have been established across Kerala, comprising 7,581 general yoga clubs and 2,551 women's yoga clubs. These clubs together benefit 2,01,179 individuals, including 1,51,191 general participants and 49,988 women participants.

Ayurveda Medicine Manufacturing – OUSHADHI

OUSHADHI is the largest manufacturer of Ayurvedic medicines functioning in India in

the public sector. It is one of the few profit-making public sector undertakings. Oushadhi is the exclusive supplier of Ayurvedic medicines to Government Hospitals and dispensaries of the Ayurveda Department. In Kerala, Oushadhi supplies medicines to the State ISM department at 30 per cent less than the market price and the ISM Department supplies this medicine to the poor patients in the State free of cost. The company also caters to the demands of the public through a network of 865 exclusive agencies spread in and outside the State. The profit of the firm before tax in 2024-25 was Rs 63.27 crores which is an increase from Rs 62.27 crores in 2023-24. During 2024-25, Oushadhi has achieved a record turnover which amounts to Rs 197 crores and also Oushadhi Panchakarma Hospital & Research Institute achieved its highest turnover.

Ayurveda Medical Education – Ayurveda Colleges

There are 3 Government Ayurveda colleges situated at Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and Kannur having bed strength of 1,385. The total number of inpatients treated in 2024-25 was 9244 and outpatients treated were 427992. It is 4390 and 180764 respectively in 2025-26 (up to August 31). Panchakarma Hospital and Women and Children Hospital are also functioning under the Government Ayurveda College Thiruvananthapuram. There are two aided Ayurveda colleges, 12 self-financing Ayurveda colleges, one self-financing Siddha college, one self-financing Unani College and 6 paramedical self-financing colleges for imparting medical education in the State. The annual intake of students for UG Degree in Government is 226,

Table 6.2.28 Annual intake of ISM students in government, aided and private colleges in Kerala

Course	Intake Capacity
Ayurvedacharya Degree course (B.A.M.S)	970
Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (B.S.M.S)	50
Ayurveda Vachaspathi (Post Graduate Course in Ayurveda) M.D (Ay) course	186
Bachelor of Unani Medicine (BUMS)	60
Ayurveda PG Diploma	40
Ayurveda Nurse Certificate Course (One year) Only	160
Ayurveda Pharmacy Certificate Course (One year)	130
Ayurveda Therapist Certificate Course (One year)	160

Source: Directorate of Ayurveda Medical Education

PG Degree 162 and PG Diploma 30. College-wise distribution of beds and patients treated under Ayurveda Medical Education in Kerala during 2024-25 and 2025-26 (up to August 31) is given in **Appendix 6.2.14**. Details of annual intake of ISM students in government, aided and private colleges in Kerala are given in **Table 6.2.28**.

International Research Institute of Ayurveda (IRIA)

Government initiated a project to establish an International level Research in Ayurveda in Kannur District which is first of its kind in the country. Department identified a total of 311.76 acres of land in kalliad, Kannur. The 1st phase DPR has been approved by the KIIFB with outlay of 69.05 Crores. 115.21 Acres of land from the total identified land for the project is also transferred to Department of Ayurveda Medical Education. The 1st phase construction work includes the following; IRIA 100 bedded Hospital, IRIA Medicinal Plant Nursery and IRIA Manuscript Centre. The 1st phase of construction is going on and 75 percent is completed, the rest is expected to complete during 2025-26.

Government Ayurveda College Idukki Udumbanchola

The Govt. has transferred 20.82 Acres of land to Ayurveda Medical Education Department for the establishment of Udumbanchola Govt. Ayurveda College. Construction activities are already started. Meanwhile the department initiates to commence the Hospital in a Temporary Building. Rs. 10 crore is kept in the Idukki development Package for construction activities.

HOMOEOPATHY

There are 709 homoeopathic dispensaries, 14 District hospitals, 17 taluk hospitals, 2 ten-bedded hospitals and one hospital with total bed strength of 1000 are functioning under the Homeopathy Department in the State. In addition, Kerala State Homoeopathic Co-operative Pharmacy (HOMCO) Alappuzha, a medicine manufacturing unit is also functioning under the Homeopathy Department. HOMCO has been running in profit for the last 30 years. In 2024-25, net profit of Homoeo amounts to Rs 13.19 crore. District-wise distribution of institutions, beds and patients treated under the homoeopathic department in 2024 and 2025 are given in **Appendix 6.2.15**.

The Department has undertaken several innovative projects including Seethalayam (women's health), Sadgamaya (adolescent care), JANANI (infertility care), Ayushman Bhava (lifestyle diseases), Palliative Care, REACH (epidemic control) and other specialty clinics. Digital initiatives such as the Ayush Homoeopathy Information Management System (AHIMS) and NABH accreditation have modernized healthcare delivery. During 2024-25, 575 transgender OP and 37 follow-up cases were treated in homoeopathy hospitals.

Homoeo Medical Education

Homoeo medical education is imparted through two Government homoeopathic medical colleges at Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. In addition to this 3 aided colleges and one unaided paramedical institute are functioning under this Department. The total bed strength of the Government homoeopathic medical college at

Table 6.2.29 Specialty Projects in Homoeopathy Department

Sl. No.	Project	Number of patients treated during 2024-25
1	Adolescent Health Care - Sadgamaya	Number of new Cases 5655 Follow-up cases 26147 Outreach activities - 368 and 14643 beneficiaries
2	Women's Health, Wellness and Empowerment programme (Seethalayam)	Number of new Cases 4976 Follow-up cases 18755 Medical Camps – 130 and 2739 beneficiaries
3	Ayush Holistic Treatment Centres for Modern Lifestyle Disease Prevention and Treatment (Ayushman Bhava)	Number of new Cases 22466 Follow-up cases 94789 Medical camps 144 and 6469 beneficiaries Diagnostic screening camps 53 and 2570 beneficiaries Awareness classes 201 and 17061 beneficiaries Public relations activities 161 and 7140 beneficiaries
4	Infertility treatment Centres (Janani)	Cumulative Positive Pregnancy- 5296 Cumulative live birth-3567
5	Palliative Care Project	Primary Palliative Care Number of Patients Visited-24086 Number of Palliative Patients given medicine- 12134 Secondary Palliative Care Number of Palliative Patients given medicine- 12621 Number of Palliative Patients given IP care- 456 Total Number of inmates visited-5867
6	Communicable Disease Control Programme REACH	Medical camps 459 Awareness classes 114
7	Endocrine Disorder Care Centre	Number of new Cases 1682 Follow-up cases 15014
8	Geriatric Care Units	20750 cases
9	Floating Homoeo Dispensaries	9541 cases
10	Temporary dispensaries	13895 cases

Source: Directorate of Homoeopathy

Thiruvananthapuram is 116 and Kozhikode 100. Patients treated in these two Medical Colleges in 2023-24 in IP and OP was 27925 and 154976 respectively. In 2024-25 the respective figures were 10750 and 110692 (up to August 31). Details of Specialty Projects in Homoeopathy Department are given in **Table 6.2.29**.

AHiMS (Ayush Homoeopathy Information Management System) is a web-based/ mobile app-based software solution designed to enhance the management and delivery of services in the field of homeopathy in 2019, by the Department of Homeopathy. The important modules in AHiMS 2.0 include employee module, OP module, Real time stock management, Medicine Procurement, Asset module, Laboratory Information System, Fever & prophylactic module, Account module,

etc. The annual intake of students and courses in the six Homoeo Medical Colleges and one paramedical institute / college-wise distribution of beds and patients treated are given in **Appendix 6.2.16**.

The Way Ahead

The Vision 2031 document outlines a comprehensive roadmap to transform Kerala's healthcare system into a decentralized, technology-driven, and patient-centric model by the year 2031. Core of this vision is the decentralization of specialized services, such as cancer care, by establishing comprehensive treatment facilities (surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation) at the district level to reduce the burden on apex institutions. The state aims to implement a robust Cancer Policy and fulfill the objectives of the

Palliative Care action plan 2023, ensuring high-quality home-based care through trained personnel and digital monitoring tools.

A significant strategic shift is proposed for lifestyle diseases, moving from high-risk individual strategies to population-based prevention. Key initiatives include; School-based health introducing a “Healthy Policy for Schools” and a Kerala-model syllabus to instill healthy eating and exercise habits early in life. Stroke Care by expanding the “Sirassu Project” to ensure primary stroke units in every district, enabling life-saving treatments like thrombolysis within the “golden hour”. Public Awareness like “Know Your Number” campaigns to encourage citizens to monitor their own health metrics like blood pressure and blood sugar.

Furthermore, the document emphasizes Medical Research and Innovation by proposing the establishment of a National Healthcare Research Framework (NHRF) and Centers of Excellence in medical colleges. This includes the integration of Artificial Intelligence in diagnostics and the development of Kerala-specific risk assessment tools. By fostering public-private partnerships and strengthening “One Health” protocols for infectious disease management, Vision 2031 seeks to create a resilient health ecosystem where individual responsibility and government infrastructure work in tandem to improve the state’s overall longevity and quality of life.

Kerala’s robust public healthcare system remains central to its human development and economic progress. As the state advances through the 14th Five-Year Plan, strengthening this system is vital to ensure equitable and sustainable health outcomes. Priority areas include improving general, rural, tribal, and urban health services; addressing the needs of women, children, and guest laborer’s; and expanding health insurance coverage to reduce financial burdens. Continuous investment in infrastructure, technology, and skilled manpower, along with enhanced partnerships across sectors, will be key. By promoting preventive care, community participation, and inclusive policies, Kerala can continue to lead in public health and model comprehensive human development for the rest of the country.

6.3 IMPACT OF CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Kerala's demographic profile is changing rapidly, with one of the fastest ageing populations in India. This shift has significant implications for socio-economic structures and requires changes in policy planning. Women form a larger share of the elderly population, which increases vulnerability to poverty and social isolation. The sex ratio among persons aged 80 years and above has reached 1,416 women per 1,000 men. Policies need to adopt global frameworks on healthy ageing, which focus on maintaining functional ability and promoting active ageing. These approaches aim to improve health, participation, and security in old age.

Policy interventions should allow older persons to live independently in familiar surroundings. Measures should also promote dignity in old age, and recognise the contribution of older persons as mentors and active members of society. The transition requires strong support for the care economy, including paid and unpaid elder care services, and the development of a “silver economy” that addresses the needs of an ageing population.

The Department plans to introduce the Vayojana Web Portal to meet the growing needs of older persons. The portal will function as a single window system for a comprehensive geriatrics survey, monitoring welfare programmes including Sayamprabha Homes and compliance with the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, and digitising departmental services. A collaborative project is also planned

with support from the State Planning Board and the National Institute of Speech and Hearing to provide home-based geriatric care through training, counselling, therapeutic services, and a legal framework for geriatric care organisations.

The United Nations has declared the period from 2021 to 2030 as the Decade of Healthy Ageing in order to promote global cooperation among governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, media, and the private sector. The initiative emphasises that healthy ageing is not limited to the absence of disease and that living arrangements strongly influence well-being. An ageing population requires increased investment in health infrastructure and services, particularly for chronic diseases and elder care. Rising health care costs can create financial pressure on individuals and governments.

Healthy ageing refers to developing and maintaining functional ability that supports well-being in old age. Chronological age alone does not reflect functional capacity. Functional ability includes meeting basic needs, learning, decision making, mobility, maintaining relationships, and contributing to society. These abilities result from the interaction of individual capacities with environmental and social conditions.

Demographic Transition – India and Kerala

According to the Census 2011, there are nearly 104 million elderly persons (aged 60 years or above) in India, of which 52.8 million are women

and 51.1 million are men. The percentage of the population in the age group 60 years and above of the total population was 8.6 in India and 12.6 in Kerala. Among the South Asian countries, the pace of ageing in India is moderate, with the proportion of the aged projected to increase to 10.1 per cent in 2021, 13.1 per cent in 2031 and 15 per cent in 2036. The corresponding figures for Kerala are 16.5 per cent, 20.9 per cent and 22.8 per cent, respectively, much higher than the national average. The total population of the elderly aged 60 and above in Kerala is projected to be 8.4 million in 2036 (India Ageing Report 2023; Elderly in India Report 2021; Population projection for the period, 2011-36, Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI)).

The Elderly in India Report 2021 highlights that the rate of growth of the general population was 12.4 per cent during 2011-2021, whereas the growth rate of the elderly population was 36 per cent, in the same period. The annual growth rate of the elderly population is projected to be 3.3 per cent at the national level and 4.0 per cent for Kerala.

The number of elderly women in India is projected to exceed men in 2031. Out of the projected total population of 194 million in 2031, 101 million will be female, and 93 million will be male. As per the projected population for 2031, the sex ratio will be 955 and 1,085 for the general population and the elderly, respectively.

Economic Status of the Elderly Population

An increasing trend is observed in the old-age dependency ratio (OADR). This is defined as the number of persons aged 65 years and over, per 100 persons of working age (20 to 64 years) and is the most commonly used indicator for monitoring changes in the age structure of the population. The ratio has increased from 14.2 per cent in 2011 to 15.7 per cent in 2021 and is projected to be 20.1 per cent in 2031 at the all-India level. OADR of Kerala was 19.6 per cent as per the 2011 Census and is projected to be 26.1 per cent in 2021 and 34.3 per cent in 2031.

The OADR projections for India in 2031 are 21.5 per cent and 18.8 per cent for females and males, respectively. The OADR by sex and residence is significantly higher for females than for males in Kerala, with 24.3 per cent for males and 27.8

per cent for females in 2021. This is projected to increase to 30.1 per cent for males and 38.4 per cent for females by 2031.

As per the NSS 75th Round, Social Consumption on Health in India conducted in 2017-18, there is a wide variation in the economic status of elderly females as compared to that of elderly males. Among elderly females, only 10 per cent in rural and 11 per cent in urban areas were economically independent. The corresponding percentages were 48 and 57 for elderly males.

Health and Social Status

Old age is characterised by a broad spectrum of health conditions. It includes chronic diseases, mental and physical health issues arising from senility, physical disabilities and other comorbidities. The Elderly in India Report 2021 highlights the health status of the elderly population based on the findings of the NSS 75th Round (July 2017 to June 2018) Social Consumption on Health in India. The proportion of physically mobile elderly persons in the age group of 60-64 years is almost the same in rural and urban areas in 2004 and 2017-18, with 94.7 per cent (rural and urban) and 96.4 per cent, respectively. In Kerala in 2017-18, the percentage distribution of aged persons by the state of physical mobility is 92 for males and 87 for females and based on the rural-urban classification, the distribution is 88 per cent for rural and 91 per cent for urban.

At the national level, the most prevalent disability among the elderly is locomotor disability (5.5 per cent), followed by hearing disability (1.6 per cent) and visual disability (1.4 per cent) (NSS 76th Round, July to December 2018 – Persons with Disabilities in India).

Interventions of the Government of Kerala

The Government of Kerala has started many initiatives to promote healthy ageing and the well-being of the elderly. These have garnered international recognition for Kerala. A comprehensive approach has been adopted by implementing a range of schemes in critical areas such as health, nutrition, education and employment. Kerala institutionalises a comprehensive elderly care framework through a diversified network of state and local agencies, with the Social Justice Department (SJD) serving

as the nodal agency for designing schemes and managing state-run old age homes. This framework is operationally supported by the Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM), which coordinates key health and caregiver support schemes like Vayomithram and involves Local Self-Governments (LSGs) as critical service delivery units. Furthermore, the ecosystem is bolstered by the Orphanage Control Board (OCB), which regulates non-governmental homes and community partners like Kudumbashree, which champions social inclusion through initiatives like Elderly NHGs and Snehitha Calling Bell. Initiatives, including old age pensions, day care centres and mobile Medicare units have been introduced. Additionally, the Kerala Palliative Care Grid, a community-based healthcare network led by the State Government, integrates its services directly into primary health care to enhance support for senior citizens. Within this comprehensive framework, trained volunteers and medical professionals collaborate to offer home-based care, incorporating essential medical, social and psychological support for people with serious health-related suffering, as well as their families.

Vayojana Nayam

The Old Age Policy of the Government of Kerala acts as a guideline to prepare an Action Plan to frame schemes and projects for the welfare of all citizens above the age of 60, especially elderly women. The policy aims to improve social, economic and health conditions of the senior citizens of the State. The Government has now initiated a revision of the policy of 2013 to address various current issues and needs. Currently, the Draft Kerala State Policy on Ageing (2025) proposes a transformative life-course approach, integrating ageing concerns across sectors and budgets. It draws from global frameworks such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) and India's National Policy for Senior Citizens (2011). Kerala's draft policy emphasises decentralisation, elder participation in gram sabhas, intersectional vulnerabilities, mainstreaming ageing in disaster management, climate adaptation and digital literacy initiatives.

Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (MWPSC), 2007

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act (MWPSC), 2007, has been implemented across Kerala through district-level tribunals. However, enforcement gaps persist, with significant case pendency and a lack of real-time monitoring. To address this, the Elderly Commission Bill (2025) proposes an independent statutory body to regulate institutions, monitor policy implementation and safeguard elder rights, a long-standing demand of rights groups and the judiciary.

Elderly Commission

The Kerala State Senior Citizens Commission, also known as the Vayojana Commission, was established in 2025, making Kerala the first state in India to create such a commission. Its primary objective is to protect, support and safeguard the rights and interests of senior citizens, actively addressing challenges like neglect, exploitation and abandonment. Functioning as a quasi-judicial body, the Commission has the authority to issue guidelines and make recommendations for the welfare and safety of the elderly population. The Commission, consisting of the Chairperson and four members, will facilitate rehabilitation in coordination with the government and offer legal aid as required. Recommendations from the Commission are forwarded to the government for necessary intervention and dispute resolution.

Old Age Pension Scheme

This is a non-contributory pension scheme for low-income citizens aged 60 years and above. Beneficiaries receive a monthly pension of Rs 1,600, which was raised recently to Rs 2000/- per month. As of October 2025, there are 28.8 lakh beneficiaries under the old age pensions scheme. The Central contribution (through the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme) is Rs 200 per month for persons aged 60-79 years and Rs 500 per month for those 80 years and above. The State meets the remaining requirement for these individuals, as well as the full pension amount for those not eligible for IGNOAPS benefits.

The beneficiaries of old age pension, LSG-wise, as on October 2025, are given in **Table 6.3.1**.

Table 6.3.1 Old age Pension beneficiaries (LSGI-wise)

Old Age Pension (LSGI-wise)	No. of Beneficiaries as on 21.10.2025 (in lakh)
Grama Panchayat	23.3
Municipality	3.5
Corporation	2.0
Total	28.8

Source: Sevana Pension, IKM

The Government of Kerala has developed an online system called Sevana Pension through the Information Kerala Mission for the distribution of social security pensions to beneficiaries. The eligible beneficiaries are identified, and pensions are distributed through Local Self-Governments (LSG). The State has successfully introduced the system of Direct Benefit Transfer.

Institutions for Elder Care

The Department of Social Justice runs old age homes, regulates the operations of such institutions outside the Government and implements schemes for the elderly. Sixteen government old age homes/ dementia care centres and old age homes for persons with disabilities are functioning under the control of the Social Justice Department.

Apart from the 16 old age homes run by the Department, there are nearly 680 old age homes registered under the Orphanage Control Board. The number of persons in old age homes in 2024-25 has increased compared to previous years, as seen in **Table 6.3.2**.

Table 6.3.2 Number of persons in old age homes in Kerala, 2016-17 to 2024-25

Year	No. of inmates
2016-17	19,149
2017-18	27,272
2018-19	28,029
2019-20	28,021
2020-21	28,788
2021-22	30,105
2022-23	25,945
2023-24	32,032
2024-25	37,895

Source: Social Justice Directorate, GoK

In addition to this, the department runs Sayamprabha Homes to provide daycare facilities for the elderly, in cooperation with Local Governments. LSGs have been running Pakal Veedu (Day Homes) for the daytime care of the elderly, and later on, these are now upgraded to Sayamprabha Homes, incorporating recreation, health care and nutritional supply for the elderly. The Department also piloted “Model Sayamprabha Homes” in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode districts, which function as Multi-Service Day Care Centres for the various needs of the elderly.

The Second Innings Project aims to improve the quality of life of senior citizens living in Government old age homes. Basic amenities such as shelter, food, medical care and entertainment are provided to the beneficiaries. In 2024-25, Rs 14.54 lakh was expended for this scheme.

Dementia Care Programme: The Kerala State has initiated a programme called Smruthipadham. The Social Justice Department and the Alzheimer’s and Related Disorders Society of India undertake this initiative. As part of this project, a day care facility at Kunnamkulam and a full-time day care centre at Edavanakkad, Ernakulam, are available. In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 18.85 lakh has been expended for this scheme.

Schemes for the Elderly implemented by the Government of Kerala

One of the major challenges faced by the elderly population is the lack of social support as age advances. As the elderly population is not a homogeneous group, it is crucial to understand the demographic ageing in Kerala and the factors influencing their health, disability, living arrangements and economic independence, to form a strategy to address the problems they face. There are many intersections to be considered, such as specific needs and challenges faced by those above 80 years of age, widows, unmarried or childless women, persons with disability, those with no living immediate relatives, those living alone, destitute individuals and those who suffer from serious or terminal illnesses.

Social security and social protection schemes for the elderly population are also the responsibility of the State Government. The Social Justice Department is the nodal department for the implementation of schemes for the elderly. The

Kerala Social Security Mission also implements schemes for the elderly. Additionally, LSGs and elderly self-help groups have a major role to play in elderly care. Additionally, several NGOs and charitable organisations serve the elderly.

Some of the programmes formulated by the State Government for the welfare of the elderly persons are:

Programmes under the Sayamprabha scheme:

This is a comprehensive package, implemented by the Social Justice Department, for the creation of an elderly-friendly environment, facilitating aged people to withstand challenges and achieve good physical as well as mental health in the most meaningful and sustainable manner. The *Sayamprabha* scheme encompasses several programmes aimed at promoting the welfare and well-being of elderly persons in Kerala. The Model *Sayamprabha* Homes function as multi-service day care centres that provide care, social engagement and support services for senior citizens. The *Vayoreksha* Scheme offers emergency medical assistance, including first aid, surgery, ambulance services and rehabilitation for indigent and abandoned elderly individuals. Through the *Vayomrutham* Project, residents of government old age homes receive Ayurveda-based treatments in collaboration with the Indian System of Medicine, enhancing their health and quality of life. The *Vayosevana* Award honours organisations and individuals making outstanding contributions to elder care, arts, sports and other fields, while also marking the celebration of Old Age Day. Additionally, the Mandahasam Scheme provides free tooth sets to senior citizens, and the *Vayomadburam Scheme* supplies glucometers to elderly diabetic persons from BPL families, ensuring comprehensive support for their health and dignity.

During 2024–25, a total expenditure of Rs 150.53 lakh was incurred under various programmes of the Sayamprabha scheme, benefiting over 1,363 elderly persons.

Vayomithram: This social safety net programme, implemented by the Kerala Social Security Mission,

provides health care and support to the elderly above the age of 65, residing in urban areas of the State. Currently, 95 Vayomithram units function in Kerala across 6 Municipal Corporations, 85 Municipalities and 4 Block Panchayats. The project provides health care and support by conducting free medical check-ups and treatment through mobile clinics. The details of the beneficiaries of the Vayomithram scheme during 2017-18 to 2024-25 are given in **Table 6.3.4**.

Navajeevan: This scheme is being implemented by the Department of Employment to assist senior citizens in the age group of 50-65 years to start self-employment units, thereby enabling their upliftment from social and economic backwardness. Twenty-five per cent of the total loan amount is earmarked for women. The scheme facilitates bank loans up to Rs 50,000 for starting self-employment ventures, of which 25 per cent would be reimbursed as a Government subsidy, to a maximum of Rs 12,500. In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 49.9 lakh has been expended for this scheme, for 408 persons.

Role of Local Governments

Local Governments earmark 5 per cent of their total Development Fund exclusively for the welfare and palliative care of the elderly. LGs also implement projects for making all institutions elder-friendly, with measures such as separate queues in hospitals, seating, ramps in offices, elder-friendly toilets and bathrooms, elder-friendly tourist destinations, etc. Vayo club, old age homes, and Pakal Veedu are some of the major projects for the elderly, implemented by LGs. The elderly are also provided with palliative care, treatment, medicines and nutritious food.

The Project, Elderly Friendly Panchayats (also referred to as the Aged-Friendly Local Governance initiative) in Kerala represents a comprehensive push to centre the welfare, dignity and participation of older persons in local governance. The programme coordinated by Kerala Grama Panchayat Association together with the Local SelfGovernment Department, the Social Justice Department and individual panchayats aims to

Table 6.3.4 Beneficiaries of Vayomithram during 2017-18 to 2024-25

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of old age beneficiaries	2,53,503	2,62,845	2,79,635	2,80,165	2,78,623	2,89,030	2,90,030	2,90,590

Source: Kerala Social Security Mission

shift from a welfare-centric model to a rights-based, inclusive framework for elders. Under this initiative, local bodies establish “Pakalveedu” (day-care and elderly resource centres) and old-age parks to offer safe, accessible community spaces for socialising, recreational activities and relief from loneliness. Special Grama Sabhas exclusively for senior citizens, geriatric clubs and self-help groups are promoted to ensure their active participation in local planning and decision-making. The programme also incorporates aged-friendly health and palliative care services, accessible infrastructure (ramps, barrier-free facilities) and livelihood initiatives to support economic independence among seniors. Overall, the initiative seeks to embed the needs and dignity of the elderly at the core of local governance — ensuring not only care and security but also meaningful participation and inclusion in community life.

Kudumbashree and elderly initiatives

Kudumbashree has introduced various initiatives to support the elderly. The Asraya programme provides essential healthcare, food and shelter to marginalised elderly individuals, addressing their basic needs. Through the Snehittha Calling Bell initiative, volunteers check on elderly individuals living alone, ensuring their safety and offering companionship. Elderly Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) foster social interaction and mutual support among senior citizens, promoting community engagement. The Vayomaithri programme aims to make Kudumbashree more geriatric-friendly, focusing on care and attention for Kerala’s growing elderly population. Additionally, Kudumbashree offers skill development and micro-enterprise opportunities, enabling older adults to remain active and financially independent. “K for Care” is also an initiative of the Kudumbashree programme that provides care services for the elderly, the sick and people with disabilities, as well as maternity care. It is a community-based initiative under the Kerala government’s poverty eradication and women empowerment mission, aimed at providing professional care services through community members. These programmes collectively enhance the quality of life for the elderly, ensuring dignity and well-being.

The Emerging Silver and Care Economy in Kerala

Kerala’s unique demographic shift is rapidly creating an outsized demand for elderly care

services, positioning the state at the forefront of India’s ageing transition. With 5.1 million residents aged 60 and above currently, this figure is projected to soar to 8.4 million by 2036, representing an expected share of 22.8% of the total population—the highest in the nation. This trend is starkly illustrated by the increasing Old Age Dependency Ratio (OADR), which reflects the burden on the working population, highlighting a critical need for gender-responsive domiciliary and preventive care.

Way Forward

Kerala’s strategy to address its ageing demographic focuses on five core areas: promoting Healthy and Active Ageing to maintain functional ability and mitigate disadvantages from the Life Course Perspective; implementing gender-sensitive schemes to combat the unique vulnerabilities faced by elderly women due to the feminisation of ageing; and actively developing ageing in place by creating barrier-free, supported communities with decentralised home health services. Furthermore, the state must strategically invest in and formalise the Care Economy while fostering the Silver Economy to drive economic growth through specialised services. Finally, encouraging generativity by creating platforms for older persons to mentor and contribute will reinforce their essential role as productive members of society.

CHAPTER

07

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

7.1 LABOUR AND LABOUR WELFARE

Labour force

Labour force refers to the part of the population which supplies or offers to supply labour for pursuing economic activities for the production of goods and services and therefore, includes both ‘employed’ and ‘unemployed’ persons. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation uses two methods to estimate the labour force: Usual Status (ps+ss), i.e. by considering usual principal and subsidiary activity together and Current Weekly Status. The workforce in the usual status (ps+ss) includes (a) persons who have worked for a relatively long period of the 365 days preceding the date of survey and (b) persons from among the remaining population who have worked for at least 30 days of the reference period of 365 days preceding the date of survey. The workforce measured in Current Weekly Status (CWS) gives the average picture of the workforce in a short period of one week during the survey period, derived by considering those who worked for at least 1 hour on any day during the 7 days preceding the date of survey.

Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR)

PLFS data from 2017-18 to 2023-24 shows that LFPR (persons, all ages, rural+urban) in India has increased over the years, both in usual status (save for a slight dip in 2021-22) and in CWS. LFPR from PLFS data 2017-18 to 2023-24 are given (persons, all ages, rural+urban) in (**Appendix 7.1.1 & 7.1.2**). **Table 7.1.1** shows the LFPR according to Usual Status 2017-18 and 2023-24 at the all-India and Kerala levels for different age groups.

Urban female labour force participation of Kerala (15 years and above) has increased from 27.3 per cent to 37.0 per cent, i.e., by 9.7 percentage points. There was also a 9.7 percentage point increase in the ‘15 years and above, in person’ category, which rose from 46.5 per cent to 56.2 per cent. In the “all ages” category in 2023-24, Kerala’s LFPR is higher than that of India in all segments except urban male. MoSPI has not yet released the data for the year 2024-25.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

WPR is an indicator used to analyse the employment situation and track the proportion

Table 7.1.1. LFPR at all India level and Kerala in 2017-18 and 2023-24 (Usual Status –PS+SS)

Age Group	Rural			Urban			Rural + Urban			Rural			Urban			Rural + Urban		
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person
All India 2017-18 (Usual status)									Kerala 2017-18 (Usual status)									
15-29 years	58.9	15.9	38.1	58.5	17.5	38.5	58.8	16.4	38.2	55.1	20.8	37.2	48.4	27.6	37.8	52.2	23.6	37.4
15-59 years	80.2	26.6	53.6	80.1	22.3	51.6	80.2	25.3	53	79.5	31.1	53.6	78.1	33	53.6	78.9	31.9	53.6
15 years and above	76.4	24.6	50.7	74.5	20.4	47.6	75.8	23.3	49.8	71.1	25.9	46.6	68.9	27.3	46.4	70.1	26.5	46.5
All ages (0+)	54.9	18.2	37	57	15.9	36.8	55.5	17.5	36.9	54.1	20.7	36.4	53.6	22.1	36.8	53.9	21.3	36.6
All India 2023-24 (Usual status)									Kerala 2023-24 (Usual status)									
15-29 years	65.1	30.8	48.1	59.9	23.8	42.6	63.5	28.8	46.5	51.50	30.50	40.90	51.00	30.20	40.30	51.20	30.30	40.60
15-59 years	84.3	51.2	67.6	81.9	31.2	57	83.5	45.2	64.3	80.50	48.40	63.30	80.30	43.40	60.40	80.40	46.00	61.90
15 years and above	80.20	47.60	63.70	75.60	28.00	52.00	78.80	41.70	60.10	75.30	44.20	58.60	73.50	37.00	53.70	74.40	40.80	56.20
All ages (0+)	57.90	35.50	46.80	59.00	22.30	41.00	58.20	31.70	45.10	59.70	36.20	47.30	58.40	30.30	43.30	59.10	33.40	45.40

Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18 and 2023-24

of the population actively contributing to the production of goods and services in the economy. It is the percentage of persons employed in the population. Both India and Kerala have made progress on the WPR (across all age categories) between 2017-18 and 2023-24. (**Table 7.1.2**).

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) (in per cent) according to usual status (ps+ss) of India (at all ages) has increased from 2017-18 to 2023-24. Kerala's WPR has risen continuously from 2017-18 to 2023-24 (32.4 per cent to 42.1 per cent). WPR from 2017-18 to 2023-24 are shown in **Appendix 7.1.3**. The details of employment are available in chapter 7.2.

Wage Rate in Kerala

Kerala's high wage rate is because of the high human development index, social environment, political views, robust trade union and the

emergence of labour welfare boards. The wage rates of male and female unskilled labourers in Kerala are much higher than the national average. Minimum wages have been ensured in 85 sectors in Kerala. **Table 7.1.3 (A)** depicts the State-wise average daily wage rate in rural India (men, non-agricultural labourers) and the **Table 7.1.3 (B)** shows the average daily wage rate in rural India (men, agricultural labourers) in the major 16 States. **Table 7.1.3 (A)** State-Wise Average Daily Wage Rates in Rural India (Men – Non Agricultural Labourers)

According to the 2024-25 estimates, Kerala ranks top in daily rural non-agricultural wage rate with Rs 917 (State-wise average daily wage rates in rural India - Men – Non Agricultural Labourers) among the States, followed by Jammu & Kashmir with Rs. 714.50 and Tamil Nadu Rs.686.90.

Table 7.1.2 Worker Population Ratio (WPR) (in per cent) according to usual status (ps+ss) and CWS

Age Group	All India			Kerala		
	Rural+Urban			Rural+Urban		
	Male	Female	Person	Male	Female	Person
PLFS 2017-18						
15-29 years	48.3	13.5	31.4	40.1	8.6	23.8
15-59 years	74.9	23.8	49.5	73.4	24	46.8
15 years and above	71.2	22	46.8	65.8	20.4	41.2
All ages	52.1	16.5	34.7	50.5	16.4	32.4
PLFS 2023-24						
15-29 years	57.3	25.6	41.7	41.3	16	28.5
15-59 years	80.6	43.7	62.1	76.1	39.6	56.5
15 years and above	76.3	40.3	58.2	71.1	36	52.2
All ages	56.4	30.7	43.7	56.5	29.5	42.1

Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2017-18 to 2023-24

Table 7.1.3 (A) State-Wise Average Daily Wage Rates in Rural India (Men – Non Agricultural Labourers)

State/Union Territory	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Andhra Pradesh	232.4	247.5	271.2	291.3	305.3	337.7	374.5	405.4	477.4
Assam	233.8	245.5	258.3	263.6	299.3	306.4	333.3	364.2	469.8
Bihar	228.6	237.2	250.9	268.5	289.3	299.1	313.1	337.3	450.5
Gujarat	204.3	216.1	224.1	234.5	239.3	252.5	273.1	285.7	388.1
Haryana	352.7	355.5	362.3	376.9	384.4	409.3	451.0	471.2	634.6
Himachal Pradesh	303.4	330.4	336.4	344.1	342.1	389.8	416.3	437.4	638.2
Jammu & Kashmir	408.8	417.3	433.9	452.8	483.0	500.8	517.9	538.9	714.5
Karnataka	238.5	242.4	261.1	263.4	279.2	297.9	336.2	352.1	500.7
Kerala	615.6	625.6	657.2	670.4	677.6	681.8	696.6	735.0	917.0
Madhya Pradesh	184.4	198.1	202.4	205.9	232.6	230.3	246.3	262.3	354.8
Maharashtra	215.9	226.7	229.6	240.2	262.3	277.2	293.7	309.9	441.9
Punjab	300.5	313.1	319.2	331.9	344.2	356.9	375.3	392.9	525.9
Rajasthan	300.1	301.2	316.3	312.1	329.0	338.6	354.3	380	547.9
Tamil Nadu	389.6	401.7	414.3	438.6	449.5	462.3	481.5	519.1	686.9
Uttar Pradesh	222.7	244.7	261.1	272.3	286.8	302.9	323.6	354.8	475.8
West Bengal	259.9	279.3	287.0	291.1	305.8	320.7	338.0	354	396.2

Source: Indian Labour Journal, Labour Bureau, Government of India, Various Issues * Yearly average wage rates have been calculated from monthly average wage rates.* All India data for 2020-21 is the average of 11 months as data for April 2020 is not available and 2024-25 rate calculated from monthly report <https://labourbureau.gov.in/rural-wages>

Table 7.1.3 (B) State-Wise Average Daily Wage Rates In Rural India (Men - Agricultural Labourers)

State/Union Territory	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Andhra Pradesh	249.1	269.5	282.0	302.6	318.6	340.5	384.4	437.8	462.63
Assam	229.3	237.5	248.5	252.1	277.4	307.6	344.1	365.7	381.94
Bihar	212.7	223.0	240.3	258.4	272.6	290.3	308.7	337.9	377.69
Gujarat	184.0	187.9	199.3	208.6	213.1	220.3	241.9	256.1	298.47
Haryana	359.3	361.4	391.9	389.5	384.8	395.0	424.8	452.7	513.59
Himachal Pradesh	339.8	368.3	388.6	419.0	421.7	457.6	473.3	492.2	536.23
Jammu & Kashmir	409.8	436.0	443.6	451.6	501.1	524.6	550.4	566.1	637.71
Karnataka	251.9	267.3	288.7	292.0	312.5	335.2	379.5	415.4	470.94
Kerala	644.0	659.8	682.4	700.9	706.5	726.8	764.3	807.2	871.00
Madhya Pradesh	173.1	191.3	196.3	198.6	217.6	217.8	229.2	242.2	270.21
Maharashtra	196.8	207.4	213.7	231.8	267.7	284.2	303.5	325.0	385.15
Punjab	319.3	324.6	337.7	349.2	357.0	372.5	393.3	409.2	415.18
Rajasthan	285.5	287.1	292.9	298.1	327.1	358.3	366.4	388.8	420.29
Tamil Nadu	378.7	385.9	398.7	410.4	434.2	445.6	470.0	540.6	642.08
Uttar Pradesh	211.8	229.8	247.1	258.8	274.5	288.0	309.3	334.4	367.50
West Bengal	237.6	255.9	263.1	267.5	288.6	305.3	323.7	335.3	411.20

Source: Indian Labour Journal, Labour Bureau, Government of India, Various Issues * Yearly average wage rates have been calculated from monthly average wage rates.* All India data for 2020-21 is the average of 11 months as data for April 2020 is not available and 2024-25 rate calculated from monthly report <https://labourbureau.gov.in/rural-wages>

It is also evident from the **Table 7.1.3 (B)** that, from the year 2016-17 to 2024-25, as in non-agricultural work, the wage rate in agricultural work in Kerala is also much higher than the other States.

According to the 2024-25 estimates, the wage rate in the agriculture sector in Kerala is 35.65 per cent higher than the wage rate in the next-ranking state of Tamil Nadu.

Labour and Labour Welfare in Kerala

The Government of Kerala aims to create job opportunities to enhance productivity, envisage schemes to develop skills, ensure gender equality, minimum wages and health protection, thereby creating a better workplace atmosphere. The Government ensures the overall well-being of labourers in all sectors by ensuring wage protection and social security.

Labour Welfare Boards

In Kerala, the Labour Department plays a key role in implementing labour welfare activities and to create a conducive environment for harmony in employee-employer relationships. There are 28 Labour Welfare Boards in Kerala. Of these, 16

Welfare Fund Boards function under the Labour Department. The other 12 Boards function under various departments, such as Agriculture and Industry.

The Welfare Boards under the Labour Department and the number of registered members are shown in **Appendix 7.1.4**. There were 60,19,951 workers registered with the 16 Labour Welfare Boards under the Labour department up to 31.08.2025. Out of the 16 boards, the Kerala Building and other Construction Worker's Welfare Board has the highest number of live members, i.e. 19,83,896 members as on 31.08.2025.

Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants (ODEPC)

Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Employment and Skills, has facilitated overseas recruitment for the past four decades. Its main objective is to identify suitable employment areas for educated job seekers and skilled, unskilled and semi-skilled workers in foreign countries, at a low cost. An IATA - accredited travel division operates

under ODEPC. ODEPC also facilitates packaged tours, training and study abroad.

Achievements

Foreign Recruitment: ODEPC mainly focuses on the recruitment of human power to Government organisations in overseas countries.

ODEPC has conducted 4,253 recruitments for various foreign countries from 2016 to 2025 (**Table 7.1.4**), mainly to the Gulf countries, Turkey, United Kingdom Germany, Belgium and Uzbekistan. ODEPC recruited doctors, nurses and other paramedical staff for various hospitals under the Ministry of Health in Saudi Arabia.

Table 7.1.4 Details of recruitments conducted by ODEPC

Financial Year	Total employment in foreign countries
2016-17	650
2017-18	325
2018-19	347
2019-20	284
2020-21	646
2021-22	475
2022-23	157
2023-24	553
2024-25	726
2025-26 (Up to 31st October)	90
Total	4253

Source: ODEPC

ODEPC has recruited 178 nurses to Belgium. The first batch of 22 nurses were sent in March 2022, the second batch of 37 nurses in January 2023, the third batch of 35 nurses in January 2024 and fourth batch of 84 nurses in January 2025. The fifth batch of this project is in progress with 75 nurses being trained in Dutch language. After completing the Dutch language training, they will be moved to Belgium in January 2026. A monthly stipend of Rs 15,000 is given to the participants in the course.

ODEPC has started the free recruitment of nurses to Germany. Under this scheme, 100 nurses were trained in the first batch and have been posted in Germany. German language training and travel arrangements for around 500 nurses are in progress.

ODEPC has also started the free recruitments to Malaysia, Slovakia and Greece.

Through ODEPC, 100 English teachers were appointed in Government schools in Uzbekistan. In Dubai World Security, 400 candidates were employed. Employer Meets were organised on September 2022 at Riyadh in Saudi Arabia and at Dubai & Abu Dhabi in UAE, in association with the Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE), under the Labour Department. Participants included 78 companies from Dubai, 46 from Abu Dhabi and 67 from Saudi Arabia.

Training: ODEPC has started training centres in Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Angamaly, Kozhikode and New Delhi to provide training in foreign languages such as English and German to nurses who want to be posted in English-speaking countries including the UK and Ireland. These centres trained around 5000 job seekers. ODEPC has also started TELK centre for German examination in December 2024.

Asia's largest Occupational English Test (OET) exam centre was launched by ODEPC in January 2021, at Angamaly, Kerala. It is the first exam centre in India to be owned by the Government. To date, around 12,000 persons have written the exam at this exam centre.

Travel Division: An IATA-accredited travel division has been operating under ODEPC since 1990. Tickets for international travel are now processed here. In the context of the Russia-Ukraine war, the State Government utilised the services of ODEPC's travel division to bring students back from Ukraine.

Tour Division: A tour division was launched in 2018, under the Travel Division, to execute tour packages in collaboration with leading tour operator Thomas Cook. Various types of tour packages are available for those who want to travel domestically or abroad. Luxury cruise packages are operated too. Special concessions are given to employees of Government/ Public Sector Undertakings.

Study Abroad: This scheme is to assist students wanting to obtain higher degrees and secure employment abroad. This has been introduced for countries such as USA, Canada, Australia, UK, New Zealand, Czech Republic and Ukraine.

The Unnati Scholarship for Overseas Studies is an innovative scheme implemented by the Department of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development along with ODEPC to support Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students who want to pursue higher studies in foreign countries. Scholarships of up to Rs 25 lakh are awarded, according to the annual family income of the student. Till date (October 2025), 400 students have gone abroad through this scheme and are studying in foreign universities.

Factories and Boilers Department

The Department of Factories and Boilers is under the purview of the Ministry of Labour and Skills. The main responsibility of the Department is to check the compliance of factories with the Factories Act, 1948 and the Boilers Act, 1923. This department is vested with statutory enforcement powers to ensure the safety, health and welfare of the approximately 7 lakh workers in registered factories in Kerala and the general public in the vicinity of hazard-prone factories through 20 different laws. The Department also has the mandatory function of eliminating occupational hazards, occupational diseases and industrial disasters.

Remote Sensing-Enabled Online Chemical Emergency Response System (ROCERS)

The first phase of the Remote Sensing-Enabled Online Chemical Emergency Response System (ROCERS) project was implemented at Ambalamugal in Ernakulam district, in collaboration with NRSA (National Remote Sensing Centre), Hyderabad and IGCAR (Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.

If an industrial disaster occurs, residents in the vicinity, disaster management agencies, authorities including the Police, Fire and Rescue Services and Revenue are alerted with the assistance of geospatial technology. These alerts are pre-emptive and disbursed through mobile applications and offline.

e-Sanjeevani Scheme and COSHE Scheme

The Out-Patient service of the Department of Occupational Health has been started and successfully implemented through the Government of Kerala's telemedicine scheme, e-Sanjeevani. Factory workers can consult doctors of the department online from their workplaces and

receive a diagnosis and drug prescription and rule out suspicions of occupational disease.

Under Continuing Occupational Safety and Health Education (COSHE), the department also provides free online training to doctors in factories to detect the 28 diseases mentioned in the Factories Act. COSHE is the first project of its kind in India.

Enforcement Strategy: As part of its enforcement strategy, officials of the Factories and Boilers department carry out priority inspections in hazardous and other factories. According to "Kerala – Central Inspection System" (K-CIS), if violations are found during inspections, legal action is taken against the factory management and measures are taken to reduce accidents.

The Occupational Health Survey has been started in India to detect occupational diseases. With the help of Occupational Health Research Centre (OHRC), established in Kollam, an occupational disease survey study was completed among workers in coir, cashew, fish processing, crusher, packing, textile and tea factories.

With the help of the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, industrial hygiene surveillance studies are conducted in workplaces to identify factors that cause occupational diseases and measures are taken to prevent occupational diseases by amending the relevant Factory Act.

FAB SAFE

In case of an accident involving vehicles carrying hazardous chemicals transported from factories, first responders can be notified very quickly of chemical gas leakage or fire through the mobile application FAB SAFE. These notifications can facilitate the swift arrival of emergency crew members from the nearest factories, to take measures to reduce the impact and severity of the accident.

Factory workers in Kerala

Though the number of establishments under the purview of the Factories and Boilers department has increased over the years, the number of workers has decreased. (**Appendix 7.1.5**)

Safety of Factory Workers

As the statutory authority to ensure the safety, health and welfare of factory workers and the

general public living in the vicinity of factories, the Department of Factories and Boilers carries out various programmes for worker safety. In 2025 (up to 31.08.2025), the department carried out 10 priority inspections in Major Accident Hazard (MAH) factories and 8 inspections in hazardous factories by specialist inspectors. The department has also been conducting training programmes not only for factory workers and employees, but also for school children and the general public near factory premises. Details of various activities done by Factories and Boilers Department are provided in **Appendix 7.1.6**.

Table 7.1.5 Number of workers in the factories

Year	No. of Workers
2016	7,02,129
2017	6,78,058
2018	6,98,679
2019	7,26,195
2020	7,02,901
*2021	6,52,875
*2022	6,78,586
*2023	6,02,493
*2024 (As on 31.08.2024)	6,41,701
*2024 (As on 31.12.2024, the number of workers changed due to new registration, suspension and removal of factories)	5,90,432

Note: Source: Labour Commissionerate (up to 2020)
* data provided by Factories and Boilers Department

Industrial Accidents in Kerala

The number of fatal and non-fatal accidents in industries under the purview of the Factories and Boilers Department has been declining continuously since 2019. This can be credited to

the department's interventions. **Table 7.1.6** shows accident details from 2016 to 2025 (up to October).

Industrial Disputes

A platform for raising grievances and for the settlement of the issues between employee and employer is an essential requirement to ensure harmonious labour relations in the State. The Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 provides the legal framework for the same, though it applies only to the organised sector. It also regulates lay-offs and retrenchment.

The number of disputes pending at the beginning of the year 2024-25 was 2206 and the number of disputes that arose in 2024-25 was 2,260. The total number of disputes handled during the year 2024-25 was 4466. The total number of disputes settled in the year 2024-25 was 3,178, there is an increase in the number of settlement during the year compared to previous year. The details of industrial disputes and settlements from 2016-17 to 2025-26 (up to 31.08.2025) are shown in the **Appendix 7.1.7**.

Number of Working days lost due to Strikes, lockouts and lay-offs

Strikes, lockouts and lay-offs cause the loss of working days. In 2024, the number of workdays lost in Kerala for various reasons was 7,43,140. Details of the number of working says lost due to various reasons are shown in **Appendix 7.1.8**, **Appendix 7.1.9** and **Appendix 7.1.10**.

Labour Commissionerate

The Labour Commissionerate emphasises on developing good employee-employer relationships by creating awareness among employees about their rights and duties. The department aims to increase efficiency without losing workdays and to ensure the benefits of labour laws to the employee

Table 7.1.6 Industrial accidents in factories under the purview of Factories and Boilers Department in Kerala - 2016 to 2025 (in number)

Accident	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2024 (up to October 2024)
Fatal	14	16	22	26	14	12	9	22	17	12
Non-Fatal	192	236	129	121	58	117	67	62	59	32
Total	206	252	151	147	72	129	76	84	76	44

Source: Factories and Boilers Department, GoK

and society at large. In Kerala, the socio-economic security of the unorganised sector, including self-employed groups are given due importance. Gender equality is a highlight of Kerala's labour sector.

Social security and welfare activities for workers in Kerala

Major labour welfare schemes under the Labour Commissionerate

1. Income Support to Workers in Traditional Sector Activities

This is a flagship scheme of the Labour Commissionerate. This scheme was introduced in 2010-11 to disburse Rs 1,250 to workers engaged in traditional sectors such as beedi, khadi, etta and pandanus, fisheries, fish processing and coir in the State. The Scheme is implemented through Departments of Coir, Fisheries, Khadi, Handloom and Textiles and various welfare fund boards. An amount of Rs 69.55 crore has been spent in 2024-25 through the Income Support Scheme.

2. Better accommodation for plantation workers and affordable housing for the unorganised poor

The scheme aims to provide housing facilities to the workers in the Plantation sector, considering the working conditions in the plantation sector, wage system, lack of urban facilities and poor infrastructure. The foundation stone for the Bhavanam Project was laid on February 14, 2019 by Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Skills and Construction of 9 houses is completed. Bhavanam Foundation Kerala BFK is implementing Bhavanam Project – Own Your Own Housing Scheme for Landless & Houseless for Rehabilitation Plantation Limited at Kulathupuzha estate at the identified land of 5 acres belonging to RPL for the construction of 6 units under Phase 1.

3. Social Protection for Unorganised Sector Workers

This scheme has three components:

a. Unorganised Daily Waged Employees Distress Relief Fund

This scheme was sanctioned in 2007-08 and implemented through the Labour Department to provide financial assistance of Rs 2,000 to workers defined as daily waged workers, workers not covered under any other welfare schemes and workers that have sustained injury during the course of employment

b. Tree Climbers Disability Pension Scheme

This pension scheme was introduced on January 1, 2012 to provide pension to the beneficiaries of deceased workers who have received a financial assistance under the Kerala Tree Climbers Welfare Scheme.

c. Maternity Allowances to Workers in the unorganised Sector

The Government commenced a Maternity Allowance Scheme for workers in the unorganised sector in 2011-12. This is to ensure a uniform pattern of assistance in the payment of maternity benefits provided by the various Welfare Fund Boards and to ensure that minimum eligible wages are paid as maternity benefit. The maternity benefit amount is being disbursed to workers through the various welfare fund boards. An amount of Rs 5.44 crore has been spent on 3,771 beneficiaries in 2024-25 through the Social Protection for unorganised sector workers scheme.

4. Employees State Insurance (ESI) Scheme

The ESI Scheme of GoI aims at providing assistance to employees in case of sickness, maternity, disability, or death due to employment-related injury and to provide medical care to insured persons and their families. The comprehensive social security provisions are based on the ESI Act, 1948. This scheme covers all the employees working in non-seasonal factories running on power that employ 10 or more persons and factories not using power that employ 20 or more persons (As per the new Labour Code of Central Government there will be change in the number). It also includes those working in shops, hotels, restaurants, cinemas, road motor transport undertakings and newspaper establishments. Each insured employee and their employer are required to contribute a certain per cent of their wages to the ESIC every month. The ceiling wage rates are revised from time to time. The payments are to be made on a monthly basis. There are 147 ESI dispensaries and 9 ESI hospitals in Kerala. District wise details of ESI Dispensaries and Hospitals are given in **Appendix 7.1.11**.

Welfare activities for guest workers in Kerala

A major hurdle to ensuring welfare for migrant workers in Kerala is the lack of accurate data on the number of guest workers. As per Parida and Raviraman's study in 2021, the number of guest workers is nearly 31 lakh. The number of registered workers under the Aawaaz scheme of the Labour

Commissionerate is over 5 lakh. The current migration pattern of these workers is to stay and work in Kerala for a short period of time and return to their home State. It is therefore difficult to make an accurate estimate of this kind of migration flow. Till 2001, migrants to Kerala were primarily from neighbouring States including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. However, in recent years, migrants are mostly from West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Bihar. The largest number of migrant workers are in the construction sector (17.5 lakh), followed by the manufacturing sector with 6.3 lakhs migrants. The distribution of registered migrant workers from other States/ Union Territories in various districts of Kerala under the Awaaz registration (as on 31.08.2023) is shown in **Appendix 7.1.12** and **7.1.13**

1. Centralised Registration of Guest Workers as per Athidhi portal Registration

The Athidhi portal, developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and launched by the Kerala Labour Department in August 2023, aims to streamline the registration and welfare of migrant workers in Kerala. Its primary objective is to create a central database and issue a unique ID to each worker, thereby enhancing safety, ensuring access to social security schemes and enabling the effective management of the State's migrant worker population. As on 20.11.2025, 4,31,975 guest workers are registered on this portal. The distribution of registered migrant workers from other States/Union Territories in various districts of Kerala registered under Athidhi portal (as on 20.11.2025) is shown in **Appendix 7.1.14**

2. Apna Ghar

The Government of Kerala initiated building dormitory facilities for migrant labourers in select centres under Apna Ghar scheme (a similar scheme finds a mention in the Union Budget only in 2024-25). These facilities are designed with shared rooms, multiple kitchens, mess areas, bathrooms, toilets and recreational facilities. They also have sewage treatment plants, rain water harvesting systems, diesel generator backup and CCTV systems. A dormitory facility with 620 beds has been completed under Apna Ghar in Palakkad district. The 100-bed facility at Kinalur, Kozhikode district (Phase 1) has also been completed in 2023. BFK is in the process of implementing the 'Apna Ghar Project at Kalamassery, in Ernakulam District.

3. Health Insurance for Interstate Migrant Workers (AAWAZ)

The Government of Kerala has introduced a health-cum-death insurance scheme for guest workers under which an insured person is eligible for health insurance of up to Rs 25,000 and Rs 2 lakh of accident death insurance claim. A total of 5,16,320 guest workers have registered under this scheme. The State is aims to expand the coverage of this scheme to more of the migrant labour force.

4 .Awareness Programme for Guest Workers

The scheme was introduced to improve the socio-economic conditions of guest workers and to address their social security issues. It includes initiatives such as medical camps, contact classes on labour laws, health, personal hygiene and social well-being. In addition, short films and advertisements are produced to raise awareness about health, labour rights, drug abuse and other related issues, all aimed at facilitating their overall upliftment.

Way Forward

In light of the recent enactment of the four new Labour Codes by the Central Government, a national-level Labour Conclave was organised by the State Government. The State Government reiterates challenges of safeguarding the workers welfare by considering provisions in the new Labour Codes. The Government of Kerala aims to ensure peace and industrial harmony in the labour sector to increase efficiency, protect workers' rights and develop a new and transparent work culture. The Department of Labour also places a strong emphasis on strengthening the bond between workers and employers while educating workers about their responsibilities as well as their rights.

7.2 EMPLOYMENT

Global Employment Perspective

According to the International Labour Organization's World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2025, global labour markets continue to face multiple challenges, including sluggish job creation, persistently high youth unemployment, and growing disruption from technological advances such as artificial intelligence. In 2024, global employment growth broadly matched the expansion of the labour force, resulting in an unchanged global unemployment rate of 5 per cent, the same level as in 2023.

Despite stable unemployment rates, the global jobs gap—defined by the ILO as the total number of jobs needed to provide employment opportunities for all who seek work—remained substantial at around 402.4 million in 2024. This gap comprises approximately 186 million unemployed individuals, 137 million people who are part of the potential labour force, largely discouraged workers, and about 79 million individuals who wish to work but are unable to do so due to constraints such as care responsibilities.

Youth unemployment remained elevated at 12.6 per cent in 2024, indicating that young people have gained less from the economic rebound than the overall workforce. Significant gender disparities

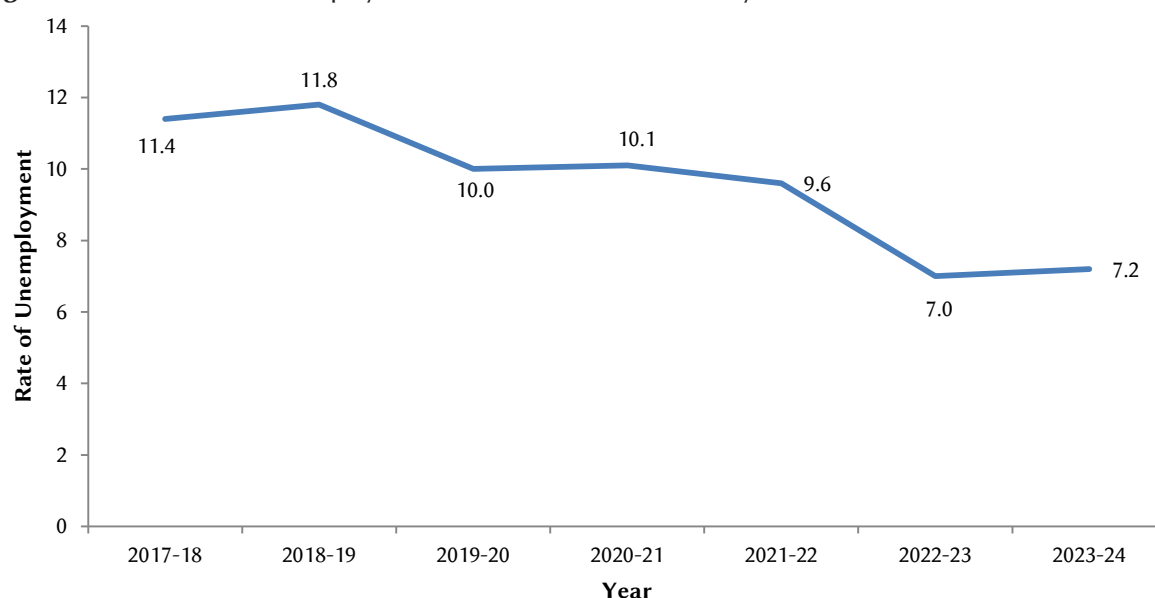
persist in labour market outcomes, with the jobs gap rate differing by nearly 4.5 percentage points between men and women. High-income countries record the lowest jobs gap rates, estimated at 7.1 per cent for men and 9.3 per cent for women. In contrast, developing and emerging economies experience considerably higher gaps, particularly among women. In low-income countries, the jobs gap rate for women stands at 22.5 per cent, compared with 15.2 per cent for men, while middle-income countries display an intermediate pattern, with women consistently facing much higher job gaps than men.

Employment Scenario: India and Kerala

Unemployment Rate

The government has been successful in reducing unemployment in Kerala by creating job opportunities. Compared to 2017–18, the unemployment rate has declined by 4.2 percentage points, from 11.4 per cent to 7.2 per cent in 2023–24. The unemployment rate as per usual status (ps+ss) for persons aged 15 years and above in Kerala for the year 2023–24 is 7.2 per cent against the all-India average of 3.2 per cent. The PLFS Annual Report 2024–25 has not yet been published by the NSO, MoSPI. From the year 2025 onwards, the National Statistical Office

Figure 7.2.1 The trend of unemployment in Kerala for the last seven years



Source: Quarterly Bulletin, PLFS, July- September 2025, Government of India

has changed the reporting cycle of annual PLFS results from July - June to January – December. Unemployment rate in Kerala among male is 4.4 per cent against 3.2 per cent of all India average in 2023-24 and for female 11.6 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively. In rural areas, the unemployment rate in Kerala for male is 4.6 against all India average of 2.7 per cent and for female 12.1 against all India average of 2.1 per cent for corresponding period. In urban areas it is 4.2 per cent for males

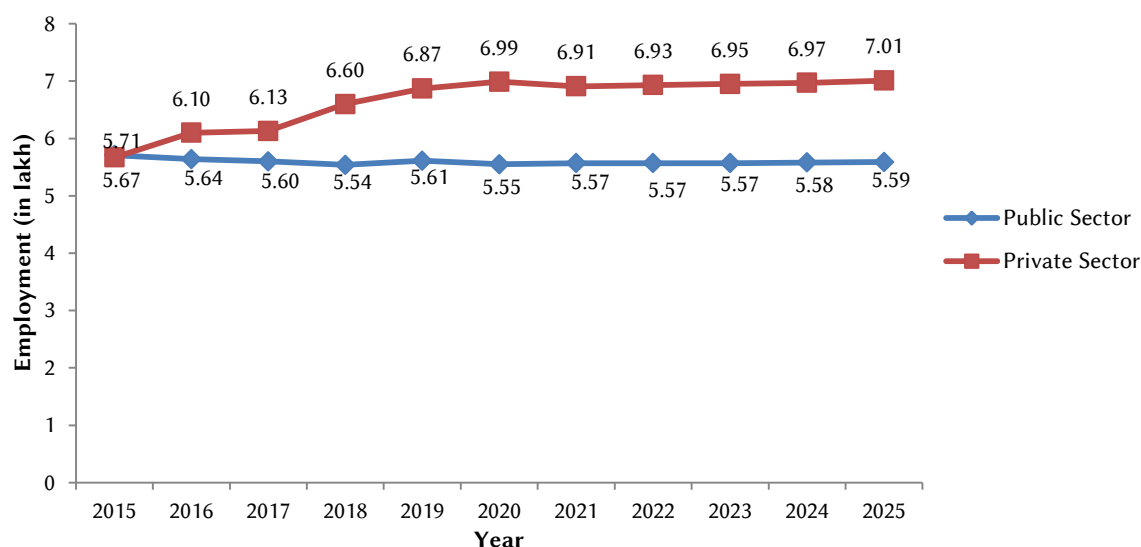
against all India average of 4.4 and 10.9 per cent for females against all India average of 7.1 per cent. The trend of unemployment in Kerala for the last seven years is given in **Figure 7.2.1**.

Overall, it is clear that the unemployment rate in Kerala has declined over the period. The state government has also been actively involved in employment generation through various modes. Appointments made through the State Public

Box 7.2.1

PLFS was launched in 2017 to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) and to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both usual status (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually. Considering the need for generation of high-frequency labour force indicators with enhanced coverage, the sampling methodology of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has been revamped from January 2025. The revamped PLFS design is envisaged to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators on a monthly basis for rural and urban areas in the Current Weekly Status (CWS1) at all India level, to extend the coverage of the Quarterly results of PLFS to rural areas and thereby producing quarterly estimates covering both rural and urban areas of India in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) and to estimate important employment and unemployment indicators in both Usual Status (ps+ss) and CWS for rural and urban areas annually. Hence, the quarterly bulletin estimates key labour force indicators, viz., Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Unemployment Rate (UR), distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in the Current Weekly Status (CWS) are presented separately for rural areas, urban areas and rural and urban areas combined.

Figure 7.2.2 Employment in the organised sector in Kerala (in lakh)



Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

Service Commission (PSC) clearly reflect this effort. From the month May 2016 to July 2025, the Kerala PSC sent advice to 289434 candidates, it is 55,296 for the period 2024 and July 2025. The UPSC newsletters (87th & 88th issue), 2024 shows that the recommended candidates through the KPSC is more than half of all PSC appointments across India. As part of 'Year of Enterprises 1.0', in 2022-23, new employment opportunities were generated for 3,00,049 people, and the 'Year of Enterprises 2.0' of 2023-24 generated 2,18,179 new employment opportunities in the State. The 'Year of Enterprises 3.0', started in the year 2024-25, has generated 2,48,810 employment opportunities till November, 20, 2025. Under the Knowledge Economy Mission, 2,38,069 placements have been achieved.

The Labour Force Participation (LFPR) in Kerala increased from 46.5 per cent to 56.2 per cent for the period 2017-18 to 2023-24. Similarly, Worker Population Ratio (WPR) has increased from 32.4 per cent to 42.01 per cent for the same period.

Employment in the Organised Sector in Kerala

In Kerala, employment in the organised sector has increased from 11.4 lakh in 2015 to 12.6 lakh in 2025 (as on March 31, 2025). The organised sector comprised of both private and public sectors. It is noteworthy that private organised sector employment showed an increasing trend up to 2020, slightly declined in 2021, and then increased. In 2025, out of the 12.6 lakh persons employed in

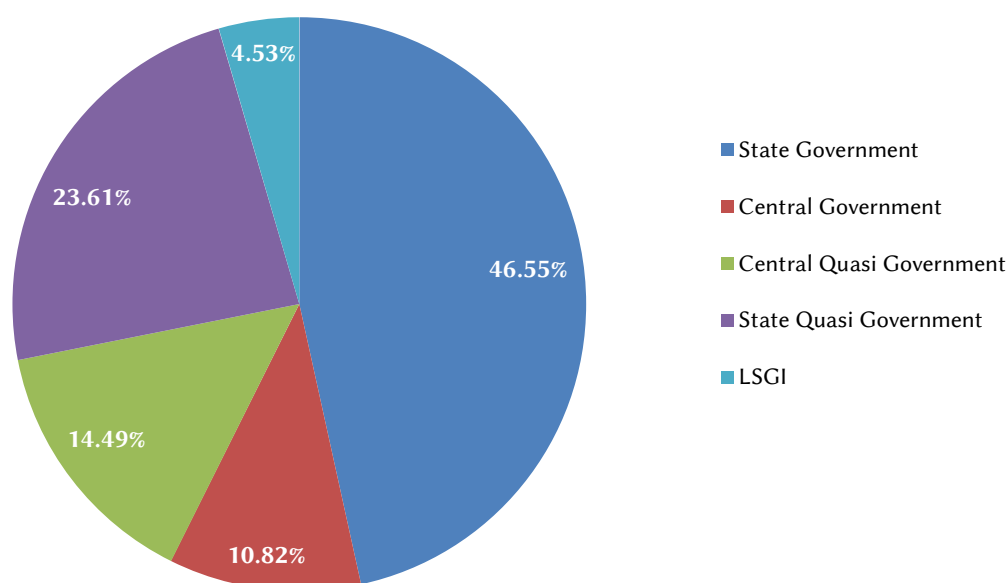
the organised sector, 5.6 lakh (44.4 per cent) are in the public sector and 7.0 lakh (55.5 per cent) are in the private sector. Timely reporting of vacancies and proactive involvement of Kerala Public Service Commission in recruitment, attributed to the public sector employment in Kerala. Employment in the organised sector is shown in (Appendix 7.2.2 and, Figure 7.2.2).

Within the public sector, 46.6 per cent are employed in State Government, 10.8 per cent in Central Government, 23.6 per cent in State quasi-institutions, 4.5 per cent in LSGs, and 14.5 per cent are in Central quasi-institutions in 2024-25. The distribution of employment in various branches in public sector in Kerala is detailed in (Figure 7.2.3 and Appendix 7.2.3).

Data on district-wise organised sector employment as on March 2025 shows that Ernakulam and Wayanad account for the highest and lowest employment, respectively. In Ernakulam this is 2,68,460 persons, which accounted for 21.3 per cent of the State's total. In Wayanad, employment in the organised sector is 35,411 persons, which accounted for 2.8 per cent of the total employment. The district wise employment in various branches under public and private sector in Kerala is detailed in (Appendix 7.2.4)

In the organised sector, male public sector employees outnumber women. In the public sector, as on March 31, 2025, 3,63,970 men

Figure 7.2.3 Distribution of employment in various branches in public sector in 2025



Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

Table 7.2.1 Share of men/women workforce participation in organized public sector (%)

Sl. No.	Branch	No. of Women Employed	No. of men Employed	Total (Men+women)	Women Share (%)	Men Share (%)
1	State Government	105906	154145	260051	40.73	59.27
2	State Quasi Government	39230	92637	131867	29.75	70.25
3	Central Government	14797	45623	60420	24.49	75.51
4	Central Quasi Government	25451	55523	80974	31.43	68.57
5	Local Self Governments	9283	16042	25325	36.66	63.34
Total		194667	363970	558637	34.80	65.20

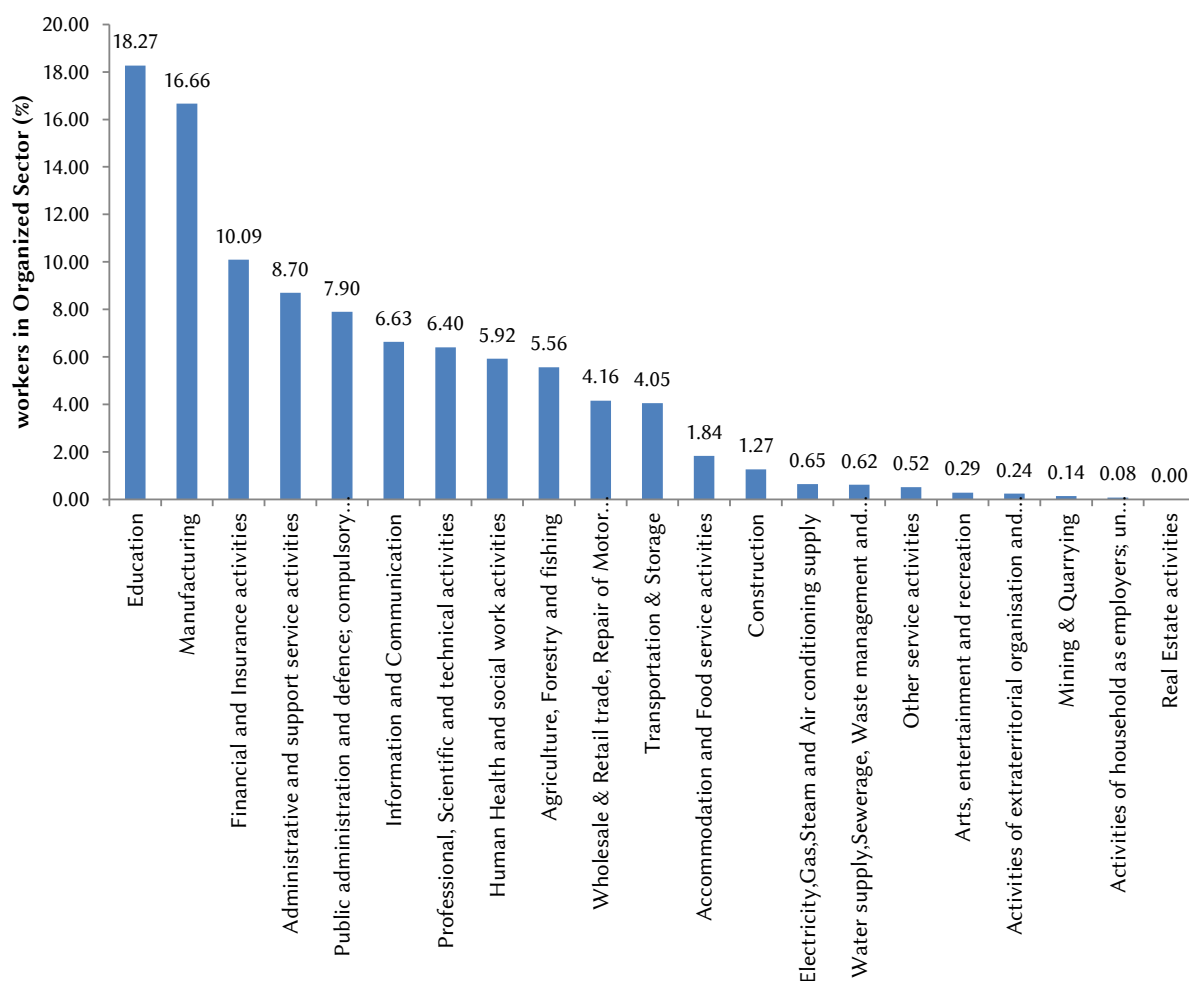
Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

and 1,94,667 women are employed. However, the organised private sector employs slightly more women than men- 3,59,979 and 3,40,988, respectively (**Appendix 7.2.2**). In 2024-25, the share of men in public sector employment was 65.1 per cent, while that of women was 34.9 per cent. Thiruvananthapuram (30,714) and Idukki (3,464) account for the highest and lowest women employees in the public sector, respectively. Women's participation in the public sector employment is shown in (**Appendix 7.2.5**). The per cent share of men/women workforce

participation in organised sector is shown in **Table 7.2.1**.

Recent statistics on the industry-wise distribution of workers in the organised sector in Kerala indicates that the dependence on service sector continues to rise and the dependence on agriculture also shows an increase. The dependence on secondary sector also shows a slight increase. The shares of employment in education and manufacturing have risen. Major sectoral distribution of employment in the

Figure 7.2.4 Major sectorial distribution of employment in the organised sector in Kerala March 2025, (in per cent)



Distribution of workers in Public and Private

Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

organised sector in Kerala, in 2025, is detailed in **Appendix 7.2.6** and **Figure 7.2.4**.

Employment in the Unorganised Sector

The unorganised sector plays a crucial role in the Indian economy in terms of employment and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product, savings, and capital formation. In India, and in Kerala, a high proportion of the socially and economically weaker sections of society are dominated in unorganised economic activities.

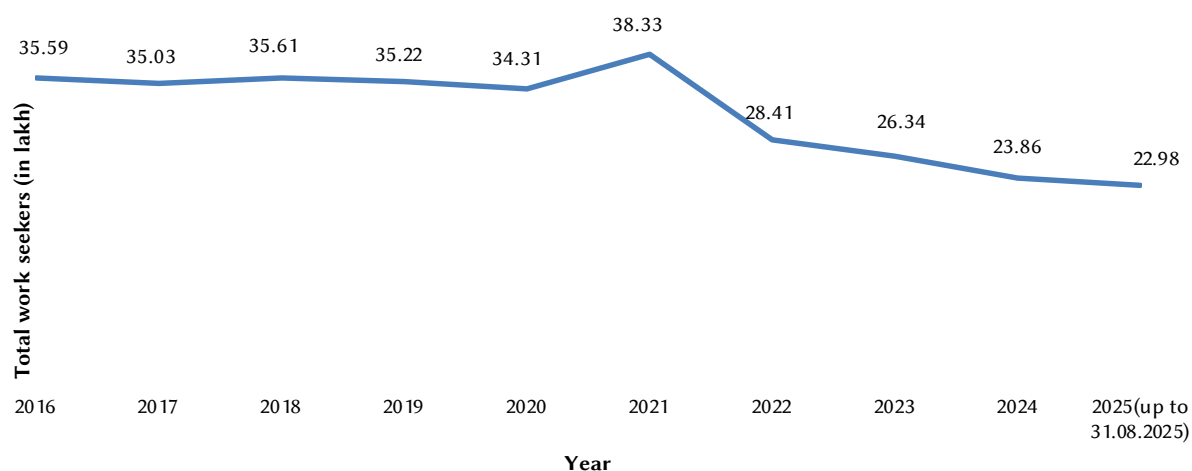
Employees of enterprises belonging to the unorganised sector have lower job security, no social protection, lesser chances of upward mobility, and no paid holidays. In Kerala, the Directorate of Employment is the nodal department entrusted with the responsibility of reducing unfair practices in the unorganised sector.

In recent years, the Government of Kerala has initiated several measures to provide social security to workers in the unorganised sector such as social security to unorganised workers through the Kerala State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Scheme (KSSWSS), consolidating various welfare funds for artisans, domestic workers, barbers, and others, offering pensions, marriage, and maternity benefits via the Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM), alongside specific schemes for agricultural and plantation workers.

Employment Exchanges and their Services Registered Job Seekers

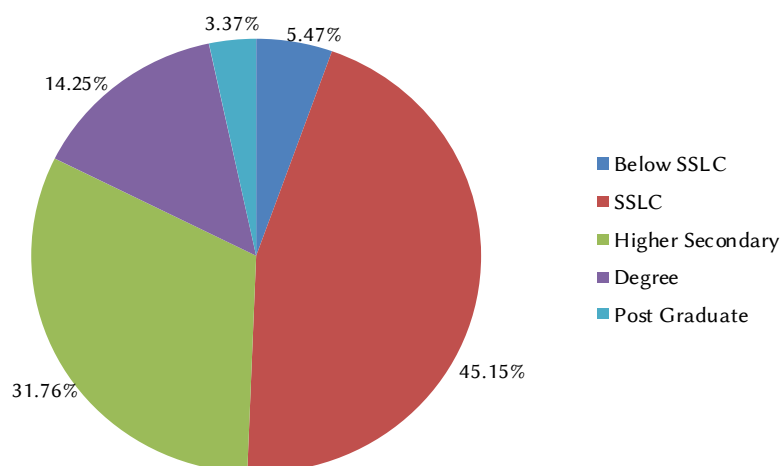
According to live registers of employment exchanges in Kerala, the total number of job seekers as on December 31, 2017 was 35.03 lakh, and it decreased to 23.86 lakh as on December

Figure 7.2.5 Work Seekers in Kerala, (number in lakh)



Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

Figure 7.2.6 Distribution of work seekers in Kerala by Educational-level in 2025 (as on August 31, 2025)



Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

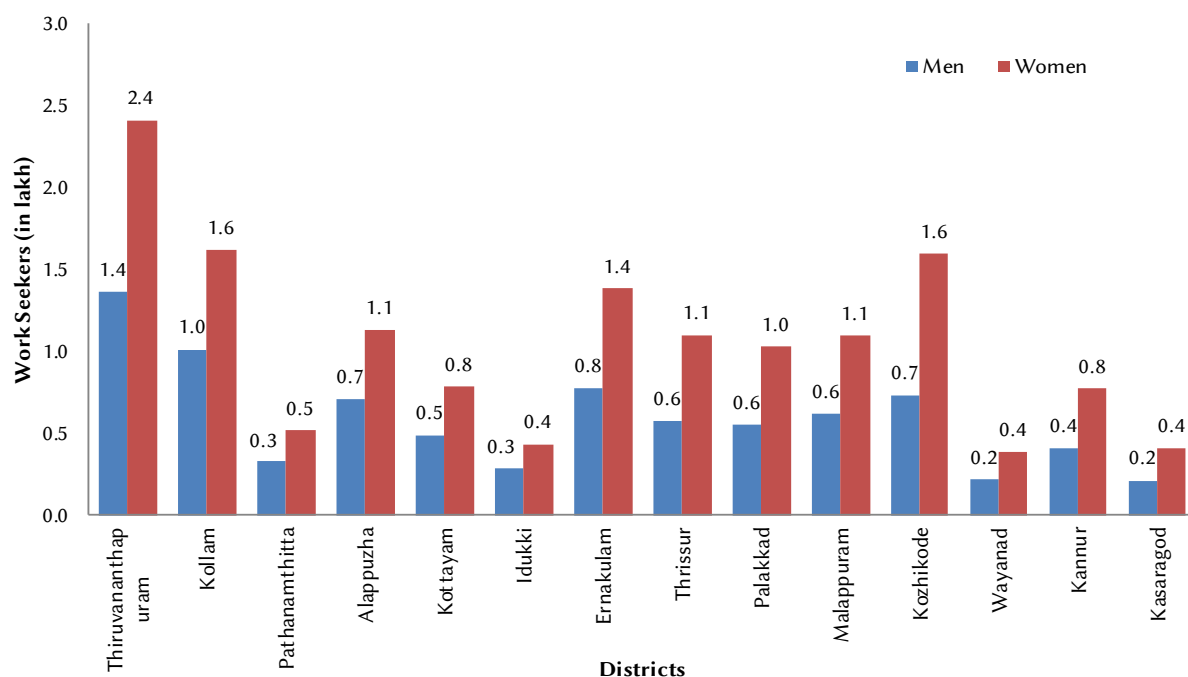
31, 2024. The number of job seekers up to August 31, 2025 is 22.98 lakh. Details of job seekers for various years are given in **Appendix 7.2.7** and **Figure 7.2.5**.

Live registers in Kerala indicate a larger number of women jobseekers than men. Of the total job seekers (up to August 31, 2025), 63.89 per cent are women. Distribution of job seekers by educational-level indicates that only 5.47 per cent have qualifications below SSLC. About 94.47 per cent of the job seekers have qualifications of SSLC and above. The distribution of work seekers in Kerala by educational level is detailed in **Figure 7.2.6** and **Appendix 7.2.8**.

The number of professional and technical job seekers as on August 31, 2025 is 1.31 lakh.. Of these, ITI certificate holders, diploma holders, and engineering graduates together constitute 88.53 per cent of the total professional and technical job seekers.

Among work-seekers in 2025 (as of August 31), 29,583 are engineering graduates, 5,514 are medical graduates, and 96,189 are other professional candidates. The number of professional and technical work seekers in Kerala by educational level is detailed in **Appendix 7.2.9**. District-wise job seekers in Kerala are shown in **Figure 7.2.7**.

Figure 7.2.7 Job seekers in Kerala, men and women in 2025 (in lakh)



Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

The district-wise details of work seekers as on August 31, 2025 show that Thiruvananthapuram District has the highest number of job seekers, followed by Kollam District. The total number of job seekers in Thiruvananthapuram District is 3,77,846, of which 2,41,305 are women and 1,36,541 are men. The lowest numbers are registered in Wayanad District – 60,794 persons. The details of work seekers are given in **Appendix 7.2.10**.

Kaivalya (Rehabilitation and welfare of persons with disabilities registered with the Employment Exchanges)

The National Employment Service (Kerala) has been implementing an employment rehabilitation scheme for candidates with disabilities, called *Kaivalya*, since 2016. The primary objective of the scheme is to create a social and physical environment that favours accessibility, integration, and the full participation of persons with disabilities. *Kaivalya* comprises of the following four components;

1. Vocational and career guidance
2. Capacity Building
3. Training for competitive examinations
4. Self-employment loan schemes.

This scheme provides career guidance classes, motivation, information on job opportunities

and services and benefits available to differently abled school and college students registered in employment exchanges. Details of amount disbursed and beneficiaries of Kaivalya are given in **Appendix 7.2.11**.

Self-Employment Schemes

Three self-employment schemes are implemented through the Employment Exchanges in Kerala.

1. **Kerala Self-Employment Scheme for the Registered Unemployed (KESRU):** KESRU has been implemented since 1999, and is intended for unemployed persons in the live register between the ages 21 and 50 years, with annual family income not exceeding Rs 1 lakh. Preference is given to those with professional or technical qualifications and beneficiaries of the unemployment dole scheme. Students are not eligible to apply for KESRU. Bank loans of up to Rs 1,00,000, with 20 per cent reimbursed as Government subsidy, are given for self-employment ventures to individuals.
2. **Multi-Purpose Service Centres/Job Clubs (MPSC/JC):** This is a group-oriented, self-employment scheme for the development of enterprises in the unorganised sector. Bank loans up to Rs 10 lakh, with 25 per cent subsidy

(subject to a maximum of Rs 2 lakh), are given to start self-employment group ventures. Groups of two to five members between the ages of 21 and 45, who are registered as unemployed in the live registers, are eligible. Preference is given to those with professional or technical qualifications and beneficiaries of the unemployment dole scheme. The scheme offers Credit Guarantee.

- 3. Saranya:** This employment scheme for destitute women aims at uplifting the position of women in the State such as widows, divorcees, deserted, unmarried women above the age of 30, unmarried mothers belonging to Scheduled Tribes, women with physical disabilities, and wives of bed-ridden persons. Under this scheme, interest-free bank loans up to Rs 50,000, with 50 per cent subsidy, are given to start self-employment ventures.

Model Career Centre

Model Career Centre is a joint venture of the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, and the Department of National Employment Service, Government of Kerala. The Centre acts as a one-stop solution centre for all assistance needed by aspiring youth to find suitable careers that match their qualifications and skills. The Centre's activities include skill mapping, career counseling, placement drives etc. The centre connects aspiring youths with all possible job opportunities in the country in a transparent and effective manner through the use of technology. There are 13 Model Career Centres functioning now at Kattakkada, Thiruvananthapuram, Attingal, Mavelikkara, Kottayam, North Paravur, Aluva, Mmuvattupuzha, Kochi, Kothamangalam, Thalappally, Irinjalakkuda and Kannur.

Navajeevan

The *Navajeevan* scheme, implemented through the Employment Department, aims to ensure the financial independence of senior citizens in the age group of 50 to 65 years, who are unable to secure employment despite registration at Employment Exchanges in Kerala, by providing suitable means of livelihood. Loans of up to Rs 50,000 are granted, 25 per cent of which (up to Rs 12,500) can be subsidy, and 75 per cent can be bank loan. Applicants should not have an annual income over Rs 1 lakh, and no collateral security is required.

Samanwaya

This scheme is a Comprehensive Career and Employability Development Programme for SC/ST communities all over the State. Various services such as coaching classes for competitive examinations (online/offline), skill development programmes, support for self-employment, practical training for interview and group discussion and assistance for online registration for competitive examinations, entrepreneurship development, career guidance, career seminars etc. The focus of the programme is to make the employment seekers competent enough to gain employment or to start self-employment ventures.

Niyukthi Mega Job fair

The National Employment Service Department has started mega job fairs with the title Niyukthi throughout Kerala, from 2015. Niyukthi acts as a platform for potential job seekers to find suitable jobs. These Job Fairs facilitate hassle-free interface between employers and the candidates. During 2024-25, three job fairs were conducted at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.

As part of the career awareness drive, Career Jwala, conducted by the Employment Department across Kerala, 1,32,446 students have been provided with career awareness.

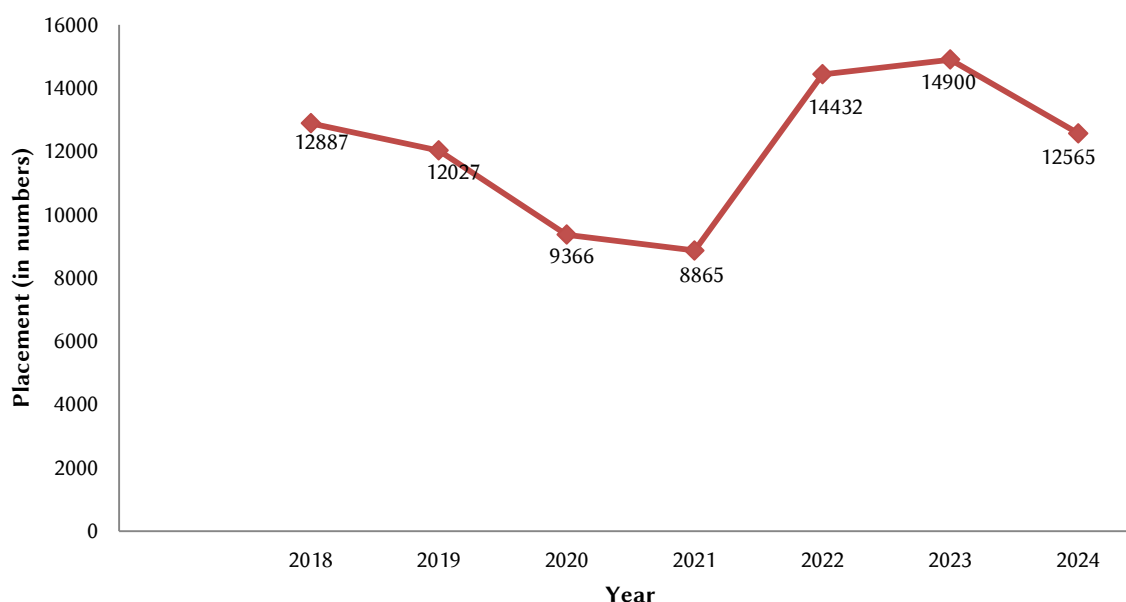
Employability Centre

Employability centre is a flagship project of the National Employment Service Department, Government of Kerala. The project aims at the sustainable development of the skills of the youth to meet global standards, so that they become readily employable anywhere in the world. It seeks to facilitate the placement of unemployed youth in the private sector by providing the necessary skills training to meet the competency requirements of the corporate sector. The Employability Centres are part of the District Employment Exchanges. At present, Employability Centres are functioning in 11 districts of the State.

Career Development Centres

The Career Development Centre (CDC) is an initiative of National Employment Service Department, Government of Kerala, to troubleshoot career issues. The services offered by CDC, mainly aimed at rural students, include resume preparation, pre-interview training, soft skill training, and coaching classes for various competitive examinations. The services of the

Figure 7.2.8 Placement through employment exchanges-Kerala



Source: Directorate of Employment, GoK, 2025

CDC are free of cost. Seven such Centres are functional in the State.

Private Job Portal

Private Job Portal will facilitate placement of skilled and unskilled jobseekers of Kerala to innumerable vacancies arising in the Private sector via an online portal exclusively for Private jobs.

Model Employment Exchanges

Employment Department is in the process of upgrading existing Employment Exchanges to Model Employment Exchanges. This has been completed in Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur. Model Employment Exchange will provide services such as smart identity card with QR code for registrants, registration information / services, single window system for registration, renewal and other activities.

Unemployment Allowance Scheme

The Government of Kerala had introduced an unemployment assistance scheme in 1982. Under the scheme, unemployed youth over the age of 18, having passed SSLC (SC/ST and persons with disabilities candidates need only have appeared for the examination), with family income below Rs 12,000, monthly personal income below Rs 100, and having remained in the live register for over three years (two years for persons with disabilities), are eligible for an unemployment assistance of Rs 120 per month, up to the age of

35. With the enactment of the Kerala Panchayati Raj Act and Kerala Municipality Act, the unemployment assistance scheme was transferred to rural and urban Local Governments. Under the scheme, eligible candidates submit their application for unemployment allowance in the prescribed form to the Local Government.

Placement through Employment Exchanges in Kerala

The total placement through Employment Exchanges in Kerala has mostly fluctuated since 2015. In 2024, the placement through employment exchanges decreased to 12,565 persons, from 14,900 in 2023. In 2025, up to, August 31, the placement through employment exchanges is 8,742. The placement through employment exchanges in Kerala since 2015 is given in **Appendix 7.2.12** and **Figure 7.2.8**.

7.3 SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Skill development improves labour productivity, supports career advancement, and contributes to economic growth by enhancing employability. Skilling is crucial to modern employment, and Kerala has the potential to be India's skilled-labour hub. The State's skilled professional workers have been the preferred choice of employers in India and other parts of the world. The State's industrial policy and information technology policy envisages rapid increase in investment in different sectors. This calls for the highest levels of skill development and training to be made available to the youth of Kerala for participation in the process of structural transformation of Kerala's economy. Skill training programmes should also be used as instruments of empowerment and social change. They should include, for instance, Specialised training in emerging areas for women and young men and women of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes. The International Labour Organisation in particular has delineated three areas with respect to skilling, that is, (i) linking training to current labour market needs as well as anticipating and building competencies for the jobs of the future; (ii) building quality apprenticeship systems and incorporating core skills into training for young people; and (iii) expanding access to employment-related training in order to equip women and men to work in the formal economy. These areas are of significance to Kerala.

Women's participation in the workforce is projected to rise to 47.5 per cent by 2025, according to the CII Wheelbox India Skills Report 2026. The world of work is undergoing a major reset. Technology, demographic trends, climate transition, and new production models based on Artificial Intelligence are reshaping hiring patterns, wage structures, and skill requirements. Artificial Intelligence, big data, and analytical creativity are expanding rapidly, while clerical and routine processing tasks are declining. Governments need to align strategies, skills, and systems with current market demands, which increasingly require speed, evidence based decision making, and adaptability, as highlighted in The Future of Jobs Report 2025 by the World Economic Forum.

Kerala maintained a strong position in the youth employability landscape, emerging fourth among States in India, according to the India Skills Report 2026. The State recorded a youth employability rate of 72.16 per cent, which is also the fourth highest in the country. Kerala is among the top 10 preferred States for women professionals, reflecting its gender inclusive labour ecosystem. Kochi ranks fourth among top performing cities, ahead of major metropolitan cities such as Delhi and Hyderabad, with an average employability score of 76.56 per cent. Tier 2 cities such as Kochi,

Lucknow at 79.45 per cent, and Pune at 78.92 per cent are emerging as strong talent hubs and are narrowing the urban rural skill gap.

Women's employability in the country is projected to rise to 54 per cent in 2026, surpassing men at 51.5 per cent. Kerala, along with Uttar Pradesh and Telangana, leads this trend with strong female participation in banking, financial services and insurance, as well as health care and education sectors, where flexible and remote work models are expanding rapidly, according to the CII Wheebox India Skills Report.

Skill development is particularly important in India due to the country's large youth population. Indian youth need to adapt and innovate to remain globally competitive and to support long term economic growth. Despite rapid economic growth, India continues to face unemployment and under employment, mainly due to skills mismatch. Skilling initiatives aim to bridge this gap and align workforce capabilities with market requirements.

Kerala places high priority on equipping its youth with employable skills, supported by its educated young population and large diaspora working across the world. The State's economy is shifting from traditional sectors to modern industries such as information technology, tourism, health care, and renewable energy. This transition has increased the demand for a skilled workforce. Rising global demand for skilled labour in sectors such as information technology, manufacturing, and health care also provides Kerala with the potential to emerge as a global supplier of skilled professionals.

The Convergence of human & digital intelligence

The accelerating rhythm of technological progress is reshaping not only jobs, but the very foundations of human endeavour. Artificial intelligence (AI), automation and algorithmic decision systems are transforming how individuals learn, communicate and create. Yet, even as these systems become more capable, they reaffirm the irreplaceable value of human ingenuity. The essence of employability in the age of AI lies not in competing with machines, but in complementing them, combining emotional insight, ethical reasoning and imaginative problem-solving with the computational precision of intelligent systems. By 2025, over 40 per cent of global jobs will require advanced digital and cognitive capabilities (World Economic Forum, *Future of Jobs Report*

2025). However, the skills that define adaptability, creativity, communication, leadership and critical reasoning, remain inherently human.

National Skill Development Mission (NSDM)

The National Skill Development Mission (NSDM) was launched by the Government of India in 2015, to implement and coordinate all skilling efforts in the country towards the objectives laid down in the National Skill Policy. It aims to create convergence and expedite cross-sectoral decisions through a high-powered decision making framework. It has the mandate to converge, coordinate, implement and monitor skilling activities on a pan-India basis. The Mission consists of a three-tier institutional structure, providing policy directives and guidance, reviewing and monitoring overall progress and implementation in line with Mission objectives.

Challenges in Skilling and Entrepreneurship in India

By 2030, global labour shortages are projected to reach 85 million, while India is forecast to supply a surplus of 45 million skilled professionals, positioning it as the world's primary talent hub. Bilateral mobility frameworks, mutual recognition of qualifications and new digital systems for credential tracking are redefining how nations exchange skilled talent (India Skill Report 2026).

Countries with higher levels and better standards of skills adjust more effectively to the challenges and opportunities in domestic and international job markets. As per the NSSO, 2020-21 (78th round) Multiple Indicator Survey, the percentages of persons of age 15-35 years in formal and non-formal education and training during the last 12 months (from date of survey) at the all-India level are 25.6 per cent and 29.6 per cent in rural and urban area, respectively.

India currently faces shortage of well-trained and skilled workers. As per PLFS, 2023-24, 4.9 per cent persons in the age group 15-29 have received formal vocational/technical training (rural + urban). One of the biggest challenges of skill development in India is that about 73.2 per cent of the workforce is engaged in informal/unorganised sector. Consequently, it is difficult to map existing skills in the unorganised sector and gauge skilling requirements.

Women constitute almost half the population in India. The key challenge here is to increase

women's participation in labour force, which is directly linked to the economic growth of the country. According to the Quarterly Bulletin, PLFS July - September 2025, all India Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (in per cent, current weekly status for selected States and all ages) of women in rural areas is 28.2 per cent and 20.7 per cent in urban areas. In Kerala, this is at 27.8 per cent and 24.9 per cent, respectively.

Incremental Human Resource Requirements across 24 Sectors (2017-22)

The Human Resource Requirement Reports have been commissioned by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The reports aim to understand the sectoral and geographical spread of increasing skills requirements across 24 high priority sectors between 2013-17 and 2017-22. The Human Resource Requirement across 24 Sectors in 2016 and projected estimates of 2022 are listed in **Appendix 7.3.1**

Skill Development initiatives in Kerala

Skill development plays a pivotal role in ensuring swift, sustainable and inclusive growth while creating decent employment opportunities for Kerala's youth. With its strong social development and high human capital indicators, Kerala is well positioned to supply a technically skilled workforce, not only to meet the needs of India's expanding economy but also to cater to global demand.

As per the 2011 Census, Kerala is the most literate State in the country, with a literacy rate at 94 per cent, as against Indian average of 74.0 per cent. The male literacy rate was at 96.1 per cent and female literacy rate at 92.1 per cent. The literacy levels in urban and rural areas are 95.1 per cent and 93 per cent respectively. However, In Kerala, there is a gap in terms of skills suitable for the internal and international labour markets.

The convergence of skilling activities across various departments is essential to prevent overlap and to create unity among different initiatives. In this regard, the Government of India launched the Skill India Mission Operation (SIMO)/ Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) scheme, which provides a pan-India framework for coordinating skill development activities. Under this scheme,

each state is mandated to establish a State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) to ensure cohesive planning, implementation and monitoring of skilling initiatives.

For institutional strengthening at the National, State and District levels, Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE) under the department of Labour and Skills has been designated as the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM). The Mission guides, coordinates, monitors and evaluates skilling initiatives and brings all skill development activities of the State under a single umbrella.

Skill Training Programmes through various department

1. Polytechnics Colleges

Polytechnic Colleges in Kerala are providing professional technical courses with practical hands-on training that leads to a faster entry into the workforce, making them an affordable and accessible pathway to skilled employment. Courses include traditional engineering fields like Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics and Computer Engineering, as well as more specialised options such as Chemical, Automobile, Aeronautical, Artificial Intelligence & Data Science and Computer Engineering. Additionally, some institutions offer non-engineering diplomas in areas like Hospitality Management, Fashion Design and Tourism Management. There were 46 Government polytechnics and six Government-aided polytechnics in Kerala in 2024-25. Out of this, seven are women's polytechnic colleges. The annual intakes of students in Government polytechnics and Government-aided polytechnics in 2024-25 were 10,636 and 1,342 respectively. The total number of students in Government polytechnics in 2024-25 was 29,988 and that in Government-aided polytechnics was 4,404. (For more details, see chapter 6.1)

2. Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) Kerala

ASAP Kerala (Additional Skill Acquisition Programme), an ISO 21001:2018 certified PSU under the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala, which serves as the State's operational backbone for implementing large-scale skilling in emerging domains. ASAP Kerala's Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Electric Vehicles (EV) and Augmented and Virtual Reality (AR/VR) established within Community Skill Parks act

as micro innovation hubs that simulate industry environments. These centres provide R&D-linked, project-based learning that enables learners to transition smoothly into advanced tech roles or entrepreneurial ventures.

Skill training is imparted both online and in-person at schools, colleges and Community Skill Parks. Major achievement of ASAP include the following. (For more details, see chapter 6.1)

- The multi-pronged skilling initiatives of ASAP Kerala were acknowledged in the 9th edition of the 'CII-Wheelbox India Skills Report 2024'.
- ASAP Kerala has received approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to establish a Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
- ASAP Kerala has been approved by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as a licensed Recruitment Agency (RA) for international mobility.
- ASAP Kerala signed an agreement with the Kerala State Higher Education Council to implement K-REAP, an e-governance platform for admissions, examinations and student lifecycle management.
- ASAP Kerala partnered with the Centre for Aero Space Research (CASR) under Anna University to establish a DGCA-approved Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Technology
- ASAP Kerala collaborated with MILMA to conduct a three-day induction training program for newly hired personnel
- ASAP Kerala successfully placed 983 candidates in prominent MNCs in the financial year 2024-25, contributing to a total of 11,892 placements as of 31.03.2025

3. Skill Development Programmes of the Scheduled Tribes Development Department

The Scheduled Tribes Development Department assists ST families with skill training in modern skill sets and in earning a livelihood by giving assistance to individuals and self-help groups for self-employment. Various skill training programmes and career guidance campaigns have been organised. Details of skill training and placement in the last 5 years are listed in the **Table 7.3.1**

Development Directorate

The Department has conducted 28 skill training courses in the last five years, with 1001 participants and resulting in employment for 754.

4. Skill Training Programmes under SC Development Department

Skill development training programmes, including human resource development training and job-oriented training programmes, are being implemented by the Scheduled Caste Development Department for Scheduled Caste (SC) persons.

Apart from providing high-end skills in collaboration with other agencies, skill training is also provided for those who would like to start a small enterprise. The District-wise details of the persons that have benefitted from these skill trainings and self-employment schemes are given in **Table 7.3.2**.

During 2024-25, 273 persons got employment through the self-employment training programme conducted by the Department and an additional 84 in 2025-26 (up to October 31st).

Table 7.3.1 Details of skill training and Placement for ST youth

Year	No. of skill training course conducted	No. of person attended	Placement
2021-22	2	100	84
2022-23	2	150	140
2023-24	7	374	330
2024-25	8	260	200
2025-26 (up to 31.08.2025)	9	117	Training going on
Total	28	1001	754

Source: Scheduled Tribes

Table 7.3.2 Number of SC persons that benefited under Self Employment scheme during 2024-25 and 2025-2026

Sl. No.	District	2024-25	2025-26*
		No. of beneficiaries	(as on 31.08.25)
1	Thiruvananthapuram	26	1
2	Kollam	12	11
3	Pathanamthitta	7	2
4	Alappuzha	13	2
5	Kottayam	27	2
6	Idukki	6	2
7	Ernakulam	30	4
8	Trissur	21	8
9	Palakkad	34	12
10	Malappuram	46	17
11	Kozhikode	12	6
12	Wayanad	3	2
13	Kannur	22	11
14	Kasaragod	14	4
Total		273	84

Source: Scheduled Caste Development Directorate

* (up to 31.08. 2025)

5. Skill Training Programmes under Kudumbashree

Kudumbashree, the State poverty eradication mission, was formed with the objective of

poverty eradication through the empowerment of women. As a part of skill development among women, this agency conducts several training programmes. It is the nodal agency of the centrally

Table 7.3.3 DDU GKY status in Kerala

	DDU GKY status			
	Commenced	Completed	Appointed	3 months Job Completed
Cumulative	86423	78,104	55,801	46,131
2025-26 (as of October 2025)	19	333	254	334
2024-25	1802	2389	1861	2368
2023-24	3,584	5,146	3,404	3,422
2022-23	7,020	8,234	6,124	4,326
2021-22	5,664	5,718	1,568	3,143
2020-21	3,358	3,152	1,787	2,931
2019-20	15,221	12,812	9,957	9,100
2018-19	16,428	13,736	10,972	9,656
2017-18	12,998	10,693	9,196	5,093
2016-17	10,722	11,630	8,232	5,077
2015-16	9,607	4,261	2,446	681

Source: Kudumbashree

sponsored Deendhayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). Under this job-oriented skill development scheme jointly implemented with the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), skill-based training is provided to men and women, among whom large numbers are Kudumbashree members.

DDU-GKY is uniquely focused on rural youth between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families. As on October 2025, 78,104 persons have completed training. Among them 55,801 were placed and 46,131 persons have completed three months in a job.

6. Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC)

K-DISC is the primary agency for promoting innovation in the State. K-DISC has been given the additional task of facilitating Kerala's transition to a knowledge economy. Promoting innovation for local economic development and local employment generation are also a priority.

One of the most important objectives of K-DISC is the strengthening of skills, behaviours and

attitudes of the knowledge economy talent pool, particularly of the youth, to strengthen innovation and eliminate barriers to physical, human and knowledge capital.

Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission

The Government of Kerala launched the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) with the goal of providing employment to educated youths of Kerala. The Kerala Development and Innovation strategic council (K-DISC) was entrusted with the implementation of the scheme. As part of the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission, the government envisions creating gainful employment opportunities for jobseekers through local demand generation and employment facilitation at both local and international levels.

Vijnana Keralam project, a public programme of Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission, addresses the educated unemployment crisis faced by Kerala empowering communities, bridging skills and driving Kerala's journey to a knowledge economy. The first track of Vijnana Keralam is mobilizing job seekers especially women, fisher folk, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and

Table 7.3.4 Achievements of the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission KKEM

Sl.No	Components	Achievements (up to Oct. 2025)
1	Employers Registered	8239
2	Job Seekers registered	20,60,095
3	Vacancies Mobilized through DWMS	32,58,302
4	Vacancies mobilised through Kudumbashree campaign	1,09,029
5	Total vacancies mobilised	33,67,331
6	Employment provided directly through DWMS	60,097
7	Third Party (Employment Exchange, KASE, ASAP, Kudumbashree)	75,989
	Employment Exchange	21,107
	Kudumbashree	43,087
	KASE	4,961
	ASAP	1,847
	NORKA	3,274
	ODEPC	1,713
8	Apprenticeship and campus placements	26,837
9	Employment provided through Kudumbashree campaign	75,312
10	Total Employment provided through Vijnanakeralam	2,38,235
11	Number of Jobseekers- Skilling provided through DWMS	1,17,054

Source: Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission

conducting job fairs. Through this, the aim is to provide employment to 3-5 lakh people by the end of 2025 implemented in coordination with fisheries, SC/ST and LSG departments. Till October, 2025, a total of 60,097 candidates were placed directly through DWMS and 26,837 through apprenticeships and campus placements under track 1. The third track of Vijnana Keralam is hyper-local job creation. Presently, the following categories of hyper-local jobs are being focussed viz., care worker, multi-level worker, construction worker and responsible tourism. Local jobs mobilized from micro, small medium and large enterprises in an area are known as hyper-local jobs. Under track 3, through Kudumbashree interventions, 75,312 candidates were provided employment. Altogether, a total of 2,38,235 placements have been achieved. The components wise details of Vijnana Keralam project and its achievements up to October 2025 are given in **Table 7.3.4**.

7. Industrial Training Department

The Industrial Training Department (ITD) functions under the Labour and Skills Department, Government of Kerala, with the objectives of providing Skill and Apprenticeship Training. ITD runs a variety of skill training programmes in Industrial Training Institutes in the State. It also registers youth for Apprenticeship training across various establishments in the State.

It is also the State-level nodal agency for implementing various skill development activities of the Director General of Training (DGT), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. The department implements the major two schemes introduced by the DGT, namely Craftsman Training Scheme and Apprenticeship Training Scheme, through various Government and private Institutes in urban, semi-urban and rural areas of the State. The free training and other assistance given to the trainees help bring marginalised sections of society to the mainstream of technological advancement.

a) Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS)

The Craftsman Training Scheme was introduced by the Government of India in 1950 to ensure a steady flow of skilled workers in different trades for domestic industry, to quantitatively and qualitatively raise industrial production through systematic training and

to reduce unemployment among educated youth by providing employable training. The National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) is the apex authority in the country for the implementation of the scheme. As per the scheme, National Trade Certificate (NTC) is issued to the trainee who completes the training in a particular trade and passes the All India Trade Test. There were 3,57,298 trainees enrolled under CTS from 2014-15 to 2024-25 in Kerala.

b) Apprenticeship Training Scheme (ATS)

The Apprenticeship Training Scheme is conducted as per the provisions mentioned in the Apprentices Act 1961. This Act was enacted to regulate the programme of training apprentices in the industry so as to conform to standard syllabi, period of training, skill sets, etc. and to utilise the facilities available in industry for imparting practical training with a view to meet industry requirements of skilled labour. Apprenticeship is a contract between an apprentice and an employer to provide a stipend fixed as per the Apprentices Act, 1961. The Central and State Governments act as the third party in regulating contracts and monitoring the process. The details of apprentices under Industrial Training Department are shown in **Appendix 7.3.7**.

c) Industrial Training Institutes

There are 108 Government Industrial Training Institutes, one Advanced Vocational Training System and 9 Related Instruction Centres are functioning in the State, with a total capacity of around 33,000 seats (1st year and 2nd year), of which 30 per cent seats are reserved for women candidates. This includes 14 women ITIs in the Government sector.

The List of Government and Private ITIs and year-wise enrolment details, trade-wise details (1st year and 2nd year courses), institution-wise details of apprentices and placement details, are shown in Appendices. **Appendix 7.3.2, Appendix 7.3.3, Appendix 7.3.4, Appendix 7.3.5, Appendix 7.3.6, Appendix 7.3.7 and Appendix 7.3.8**

As seen in **Appendix 7.3.2**, the total seat strength in Government ITIs in 2024-25 is 23801 and the total enrolment of students is 22,483. Among the total enrolment in 2024-25,

5409 are women. The numbers of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students are 5020 and 1099, respectively. The number of women students and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students has shown a slight increase as compared to the previous year.

Appendix 7.3.8 indicates the placement details of ITI students in the last nine years from Government and private ITIs. In 2024 and 2025, 3,033 students from government ITIs and in 2024, 4,508 students from private ITIs have been placed in jobs. The total placements during the year 2024 and 2025 include 1,467 women and 202 SC/ST students.

d) Skill Updating Institute for Industrial Training (SUIIT):

SUIIT was started in 1999 at Kazhakkuttom, Thiruvananthapuram, to update the skills and knowledge of instructional staff and others, in pace with technical developments. SUIIT conducted 55 training programmes with 2132 participants and Officials Deputed for 25 Central Government Sponsored Training Programmes Conducted by Institute of Management in Government (IMG)

Major Achievements

Major achievements include sanctioning of four new ITIs with new-generation trades and acquisition of land for three ITIs. Administrative sanction has been issued for starting production centres in two ITIs, implementing the Green Campus project in eight institutions and installing solar street lights in ten institutions. Nutritious food has been provided to around 32,000 trainees across 104 Government ITIs. Construction of new buildings for four institutions (RIC Palakkad, ITI Nenmara, ITI Thiruvambady and ITI Malampuzha) has also been completed as part of the ongoing development initiatives.

8. Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE)

KASE (Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence), the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) of Kerala, has emerged as a leading institution in fostering skill development initiatives in Kerala. Established with the vision of nurturing talent and bridging the gap between education and industry, it stands as a symbol of skill development and empowerment in the State. By aligning its initiatives with the evolving needs of the industry, KASE has become a catalyst for socio-economic

growth, transforming lives and propelling Kerala towards a brighter future.

KASE has been set up to act as the apex entity to initiate, regulate and co-ordinate focused skill development for different industrial domains. KASE is also designated as the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) to function as the nodal body for the convergence of all skill training initiatives of the State. The main objectives of SSDM are to promote, establish, setup, monitor, govern and regulate institutions and academies for skills excellence for development.

Skill Convergence in Kerala

Various departments have their own skilling programmes and this emphasises the need for convergence across departments under a mission at the State level.

A brief overview of major initiatives of KASE is as follows;

District-Level Skill Development and Community Engagement

Recognising the unique demands of different regions, Kerala has adopted a decentralised approach to skill development. Through the formation of District Skill Committees under the chairmanship of District Collectors, KASE empowers local governments to identify skill requirements within their districts. These committees gather insights on local demands and evaluate proposals from district-based agencies to bridge specific skill gaps.

District Skill Development Centres

District Skill Development Centres (DSDCs), formerly known as Kaushal Kendras, are rural skill hubs specifically focused on youth in rural areas. The scheme aims to create skill development opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds. DSDCs provide skill training across various domains at the local level and serve as facilitation centres for district-level skill information. Currently, DSDCs are operational in Kasaragod, Kozhikode, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts. KASE also plans to set up DSDCs across all districts.

Key achievements during the year 2024-25 includes 1 batch of Full Stack Development course conducted in Alappuzha and Kottarakara and placement given for 10 students from Alappuzha.

placement processes are on-going to students, who successfully completed course in Kottarakara. Mobilisation activities started for the 2nd batch of Full Stack Development Course at Kottarakara and 1st batch at Thiruvananthapuram. 2 batches of Diploma in Warehouse Management and 1 batch of Lasher was conducted at DSDC Thiruvananthapuram with majority of students receiving placements

Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)

SANKALP, an initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is aided by the World Bank, with the Central share of the total fund allocation being 60 per cent and the State share, 40 per cent. SANKALP aims to address the on-going challenges including the universalisation of the National Skills Qualification framework (NSQF), standardisation of certification and assessments, bringing about convergence, infusing quality in skill development programmes and making them market relevant while ensuring private participation, specifically in the context of short-term training. SANKALP promotional activities have been conducted across Kerala along with District Skill Committees through Keraleeyam, Ente Keralam fairs, Freedom Fest, etc.

District Skill Committee: As part of the SANKALP Scheme, District Skill Committees have been formed in all the districts under the Chairmanship of District Collector. District Skill Committees work as a group to plan, coordinate and monitor the various Skill development initiatives in the district.

District Skill Development Plan: Training projects are progressing in accordance with the District Skill Development Plan prepared in association with the District Skill Committees. District Skill Development Plans submitted by the districts were evaluated using the Project Evaluation Matrix developed by KASE. Targets for districts are to train 1,792 candidates in the first phase and 1,295 candidates in the second.

Short-Term Training under the Inclusion Component: Based on the District Skill Development Plans submitted, skill training programmes were organised for candidates from marginalised communities. Under the inclusion component of

the scheme, 675 candidates have been trained, 451 candidates have been certified and 43 candidates are reported to be placed. Other skill training initiatives are on-going.

Job Fairs and apprenticeship promotion activities: Job Fairs were conducted in all the districts through the Kerala State Job Portal. The Job Fairs aimed to provide placement to the general public and to candidates who have completed short-term skill training programmes. A total of 3,233 candidates were offered placements through these fairs. Apprenticeship awareness programmes were also conducted across the State along with the job fairs.

Skill Summit/Training Service Provider's Summit (TSP Summit): As part of expanding the Skill Convergence activities in the State, SSDM conducted the first Skill Summit for industry personnel and training partners, with over 200 participants, in Trivandrum. The summit was inaugurated by the Honorable Minister for Labour and Skills, Government of Kerala. Following this, summits were held in the remaining 13 districts of Kerala with over 200 participations from each district.

Training Service Providers Summit 2024-2025

The Training Service Providers (TSP) Summit was successfully conducted across all 14 districts of Kerala. The summit mobilised over 2,800 stakeholders, including 1,851 training providers, reflecting a robust commitment to public-private partnerships.

Skill Training Programs for Women's Empowerment

Various skill training programmes aimed at the upliftment of women were implemented through the Indian Institute of Infrastructure & Construction (IIIC), a Centre of Excellence under the State Skill Development Mission (KASE). During this financial year, a total of 23 female students received skill training through the Women's Empowerment initiative across 4 courses and all 23 students successfully secured employment.

"Unnathi" Training Program for Scheduled Castes (SC) Youth

Skill training programs in various sectors for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes youth have been decided for implementation under the leadership

of the State Scheduled Castes Development Department, through the “Unnathi Training Program”. These training sessions are being organized in the Animation, Nursing and Logistics sectors through the State Skill Development Mission’s partner institutions: Toonz Animation, ESPOiR and IIB. To date, 19 candidates have completed training in the Animation sector, 35 candidates have completed training in the Nursing sector and 100 candidates are currently undergoing training in the Logistics sector.

Accreditation of Skill Training Institutes

Reputed skill training institutions can associate with KASE for accreditation, to enhance their reach and acceptance in attracting suitable candidates. The training and placement details are made through Centres of Excellence and accredited institutes under- iSTEP. There are 465 candidates were placed during 2024-25 under- iSTEP.

The Government of Kerala recognises that skill training and development play a crucial role in promoting economic growth. A relative abundance of educated and skilled workers, a history of entrepreneurship and exposure to the wider world are our strengths. As global manufacturing becomes more automated and knowledge-intensive, Kerala’s strengths with respect to school and higher education make it better equipped than most other States to deal with the new challenge.

CHAPTER

08

INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL
INCLUSION

INITIATIVES FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

8.1 GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT

Women's empowerment plays a critical role in building resilient and sustainable societies. *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The Gender Snapshot 2025* report shows that empowering women strengthens economies and improves community health. Key areas identified for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5 include digital access, safe working environments, equal participation in decision making and protection from gender based violence. The United Nations emphasises that accelerating women's empowerment is a fundamental human right and a necessary condition for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The Gender Development Index and the Gender Empowerment Measure, developed by the United Nations Development Programme, are widely used to assess gender-related development. The Gender Development Index focuses on basic capabilities and living standards and uses the same indicators as the Human Development Index, while highlighting disparities between men and women. India's Human Development Index value stood at 0.685 in 2023, placing the country at rank 130 among 193 countries and territories. Although debates exist regarding the reliability of the Gender Development Index for cross country comparisons, it highlights the need for gender sensitive and inclusive development. Countries are classified into five groups based on deviations from gender parity in Human Development Index values

and India falls under Group 5, indicating low equality between women and men, according to the UNDP Human Development Report 2023–24.

India is ranked 131st among 148 countries in gender parity, as per the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2025. The Gender Inequality Index also highlights gender disparities in India across health, empowerment and labour market participation. Lower values of the Gender Inequality Index indicate lower inequality between women and men. Kerala's performance record on gender related human development presents a picture that is significantly different from the all-India picture.

Indicators of Women's Development in Kerala: A Comparison with India

Kerala took a historic step from 2010 onwards by implementing legislation to reserve 50 per cent of seats for women in Local Government. Kudumbashree Mission, one of the largest women empowerment programmes in India has also played a key role in women's development. Women's participation in LSGs needs to be seen also as a reflection of Kudumbrashree's constant involvement in empowering lakhs of women through training, entrepreneurship support and education. Social spending in Kerala is still sensitive to areas like gender and development. The Government of Kerala and its various agencies play a significant role in paving

Table 8.1.1 Percentage of literacy at various levels in adults (age 15-49), in India and Kerala Source: NFHS-5, 2019-20

Rural/Urban	Kerala			India		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Male literacy	99.2	97.4	98.2	89.6	81.5	84.4
Female literacy	99.1	97.5	98.3	83.0	65.9	71.5
Male who ever used Internet	78.3	74.2	76.1	72.5	48.7	57.1
Female who ever used Internet	64.9	57.5	61.1	51.8	24.6	33.3

Source: NFHS-5, 2019-20

the way towards a gender-equal society.

As per the 2011 Census, the ratio of women to men in Kerala is 1,084, which is high compared to the national figure of 940. Women constitute 52 per cent of the total population in Kerala. Children aged 0-14 years represent 23.4 per cent of the total population in Kerala, 48.9 per cent of whom are girls. In contrast to the national average of 11 per cent, 22 per cent of all households in Kerala are female-headed. In recent years, there has been an increase in women's employment in Departments such as Police and Excise. In 2025, 197 women police personnel were recruited. In the Excise Department, 678 women were inducted for patrolling in 2025. The total number of beat officers in the forest department is 3,126 of which 756 are women. After the pandemic, a substantial number of health workers have been recruited, a large share of which are women.

Education and Gender Parity

The socio-cultural development of the State can be attributed to its high female literacy and education, among other factors. Kerala has the highest female literacy rate among Indian States at 92 per cent and the gender gap in literacy is very small (Census, 2011). It is also seen that the gender gap has narrowed during these six decades in Kerala (for more details see Chapter 6 of this Review). As per NFHS-5, 2019-20 statistics, the literacy rate of women (age 15-49) in Kerala has further increased to 97.4 per cent. However, women lag behind men in terms of other levels of literacy such as computer literacy and basic internet knowledge. This is prominent in rural areas. The gender as well as rural-urban differences in different levels of literacy is given in **Table 8.1.1**.

In the case of general education, enrolment is universal at the primary-level and gender parity has been achieved. Girl students constitute 49.1 per cent of the total student enrolment in schools. Girls outnumbered boys in terms of enrolment in higher

secondary education at 50.5 per cent. At the tertiary-level as well, the enrolment of girls is higher than boys. However, the percentage of girls in technical schools is very low, at 6.4 per cent. Details are given in **Table 8.1.2**.

Table 8.1.2 Enrolment of Girls at Different Levels, Kerala 2024-25

Area	Total	Girls	Percentage
LP	11,87,517	5,84,664	49.2
UP	10,94,072	5,38,161	49.2
HS	12,53,113	6,13,040	48.9
*HSS	3,86,393	1,95,180	50.5
VHSS	53,904	21,194	39.3
Technical High schools	7,228	463	6.4

*Data pertains to 2024-25

Source: DGE, DVHSE, DTE, DHSE

The enrolment of girls in undergraduate and post-graduate courses in Arts and Science colleges in Kerala was 65.4 percent in 2024-25. Out of the total annual intake of students in engineering colleges and polytechnics girls constitute 48.8 per cent in engineering colleges and 26.0 per cent in polytechnics. The enrolment of girl students in agricultural courses under Kerala Agricultural University is 78.2 per cent. More than 60 per cent of students in Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University in 2024-25 were girls. Similarly, more than 70 per cent of students at the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) are girls. **Table 8.1.3**

Girls constitute a large majority in students in medical science-related courses. Annual intake of students in medical education shows that more than 80 percent of students in medical education in Kerala are girls. (**Table 8.1.4**)

Table 8.1.3 Enrolment of Girls at Different Levels, Kerala 2024-25

Category	Girls	Boys	Total	Percentage
UG and PG (Arts and Science)	2,31,932	1,22,480	3,54,412	65.4
Poly Technic*	2,766	7,870	10,636	26.0
B.Tech and M.Tech*	4,058	4,251	8,309	48.8
UG and PG (KAU)	893	249	1142	78.2
UG and PG (KUFOS)	361	133	494	73.1
UG and PG (KVASU)	363	175	538	67.5
Health and Allied Sciences*	23856	5684	29540	80.8

* Annual intake details

Source: DTE, DCE, KAU, KUFOS, KVASU, KUHS

Table 8.1.4 Proportion of Annual Intake of Girls in Medical Education, Kerala 2024-25 as on March 2025

Name of Branch	Male	Female	Total	Female percentage
Modern Medicine	2130	4214	6344	66
Dental	362	1957	2319	84
Homeo Medicine	32	361	393	91
Ayurveda Medicine	219	1101	1320	83
Unani Medicine	30	31	61	51
Sidha Medicine	9	24	33	73

Source: Kerala University of Health Science (KUHS)

Health Status of Women in Kerala

Kerala has achieved a high status in terms of most indicators related to women's health such as maternal mortality, life expectancy and sex ratio. Life Expectancy at birth of women in Kerala is 78.4 years, the highest in India and much higher than that for women in India as a whole, that is 72.5 years. The high health status of women in Kerala compared to women in other parts of the country reflects the overall social development of the State. As per the figures released by the Registrar General of India, all demographic indicators are favourable to women in Kerala (**Table 8.1.5**).

Low maternal mortality rate and high female life expectancy in Kerala are attributed to the extensive public provisioning for maternal health care in the State. As per the SRS Statistical Report 2023 the total fertility rate of women in Kerala in the age group

of 15-49 who are illiterate is 2.1 and that of literate women is 1.5. At the national level, it is 3.3 and 1.8, respectively. The universal access to health care institutions helps to ensure maternal care, as well as institutional delivery, to all. For more details of maternal care indicators of Kerala, see **Table 8.1.6**. These achievements are the results of decades-long efforts of the Government of Kerala since its formation, in providing public health care.

The high literacy, educational status and favourable health indicators are however not reflected in the lifestyle health indicators. In terms of Body Mass Index, obesity and anaemia, women in Kerala do not fare as well, as per the reports of NFHS 5, 2019-20. In Kerala, as well as India, the percentage of women with Body Mass Index below normal is high compared to their male counterparts, even though Kerala women fare better in comparison with all

Table 8.1.5 Health Status of Women in India and Kerala

Sl. No.	Indicator		Kerala	India
1	Infant Mortality Rate #	Total	5.0	25.0
		Male	9.0	26.0
		Female	2.0	25
		Female	2.0	25.0
2	Mean age at effective marriage of female *	Below 18	16.2	16.5
		18-20	19.1	19.2
		Above 21	25.7	24.4
		All age	24.4	22.9
3	Maternal Mortality Rate**		18.0	88.0
4	Expectancy of Life at Birth***	Total	75.1	70.3
		Male	71.9	68.5
		Female	78.4	72.5

*SRS Statistical Report 2023 **Special Bulletin on MMR 2020-22 ***SRS Life Table 2019-23

SRS Bulletin 2023 October

Table 8.1.6 Indicators of Maternal Care

Indicators	India			Kerala		
	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-20)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-20)
Adolescent pregnancy	16.0	7.9	6.8	5.8	3.0	2.4
Mothers with Antenatal Check-ups	43.9	58.6	70.0	91.9	95.1	93.6
Institutional Births (per cent)	38.7	78.9	88.6	99.3	99.8	99.8
Mother and Child Protection (MCP) card holder (per cent)	NA	89.3	95.9	NA	84.2	91.3
Total Fertility Rate (children per women)	2.7	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.6	1.8
Full Antenatal Care (per cent)	11.6	21.0	NA	66.7	61.2	NA
Mothers received post natal care (per cent)	34.6	62.4	78.0	84.6	88.7	93.3
Delivery by caesarean (per cent)	8.5	17.2	21.5	30.1	35.8	38.9
Anaemic adolescent (per cent)	55.3	53.1	57.0	32.8	34.3	36.3
Experienced violence during pregnancy (per cent)	NA	3.9	3.1	NA	1.2	0.5

Source: National Family Health Survey

India average. In the case of obesity, the percentage of women in Kerala is higher than that of India, as well as that of their male counterparts in the State. In the case of anaemia, the percentage has increased from 2015-16 to 2019-20, though Kerala's situation is better than all India average (**Appendix 8.1.1**). Adolescent pregnancy is also very low in Kerala. As the proportion of the ageing population in

Kerala is high, non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases are also on the rise. The lack of physical activities creates several health issues such as obesity and a high prevalence of non-communicable diseases among women. According to NFHS-5 statistics, 24.8 per cent of women in Kerala have diabetes mellitus and 30.9 per cent have hypertension.

As per NFHS-5, anaemia among women and children in Kerala has also increased as compared to NFHS-4. This is despite various schemes such as Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Poshan Abhiyaan and First 1,000 days implemented by the Women and Child Department (WCD) to improve the nutritional status of women and children. In addition to this, the State Government has initiated a new programme to provide either egg or milk, to children in Anganwadis in all days a week in 2024-25. To address the issue of malnutrition, health and nutrition platforms must be integrated at the community-level, along with awareness creation among the public. The VIVA Programme to address anaemia among women was launched on January 12, 2021. The programme is implemented by the Health department, in collaboration with LSGs and WCD. Regarding family planning, the knowledge of contraception is almost universal in Kerala. The availability of contraception within and outside marriage is a concern. Male participation in contraceptive methods is negligible as per NFHS 5. Data indicates that the female sterilisation rate in Kerala is 46.6 per cent, as opposed to the male rate of 0.1 per cent. At the national-level, it is 37.9 per cent among females and 0.3 per cent among males.

Participation in the Economy

Though in terms of health, education and many other development indicators, the women of Kerala fare better than their male counterparts, there is room for improvement in their participation in the economic domain. During the previous rounds of NSSO, there were wide gaps between men and women both in terms of the Labour Force Participation Rates (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR). The gender paradoxes in contemporary Kerala society are

particularly reflected in the low labour participation rate and a disproportionately high unemployment rate of women. Labour force participation rates of women in urban areas have always been much higher in Kerala, reflecting the advantages of a literate State. The recent Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) shows that gap between men and women has been reduced to some extent, in this regard. Likewise, in 2021-22, they have reached a better position when compared to their counterparts in India (Appendix 8.1.2). As per PLFS 2018-19, both male and female LFPR and WPR had increased slightly when compared to their counterparts at national-level. This has again reduced in 2020-21, with the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the economy. Female WPR in Kerala has increased from 20.4 per cent in 2018-19 to 29.5 per cent in 2023-24 in all age groups. In the productive age group of 15-59 years, the WPR of women in Kerala is 39.6 while all India average is 43.7, in 2023-24. Women's participation in Labour Force in Kerala and India (All Ages) is depicted in

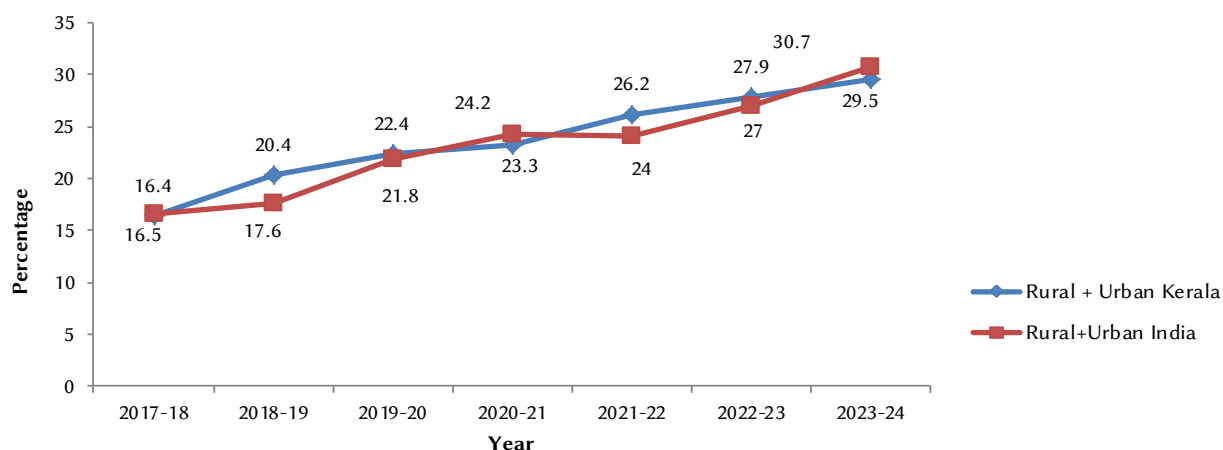
Figure 8.1.1

WPR in India and Kerala is brought out in Figure 8.1.2. Though both male and female WPRs show upward trends, the increase was taken up by self-employment and casual labour, especially in rural areas. The detailed discussion on LFPR and WPR is given in Labour and Labour Welfare section in Chapter 7 of this Review

Inequality in Wage Rates

In terms of wages and remuneration, significant gender inequality exists in the State, as well as at national level. The prevalence of inequality in the wage rates among men and women in salaried jobs, self-employment and casual work has been detailed in

Figure 8.1.1 Women's participation in Labour Force in Kerala and India (All Ages)



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24

the section on Labour and Labour Welfare in Chapter 7 of this Review.

The gender disparity in wage rate is prevalent not only in informal or unorganised sector, but also in regular/salaried employment, as shown in Appendix 8.1.3. The gender difference in earnings is more prevalent in casual labour work than in salaried jobs and self-employment. Though women and men in Kerala are better paid in casual work than their counterparts in India, the gender difference in wage rates persists in Kerala as well (**Table 8.1.7**).

The economic empowerment of women is attained when they become an integral part of labour force and are gainfully employed without having to bear the full burden of household and care responsibilities.

Recognising the value of unpaid domestic labour and care work done by women in homes is a significant step towards engendering development and rethinking women's participation in production. The 14th Five-Year Plan supports measures to reduce the burden of household drudgery on women.

Industrial Distribution of Women Workers

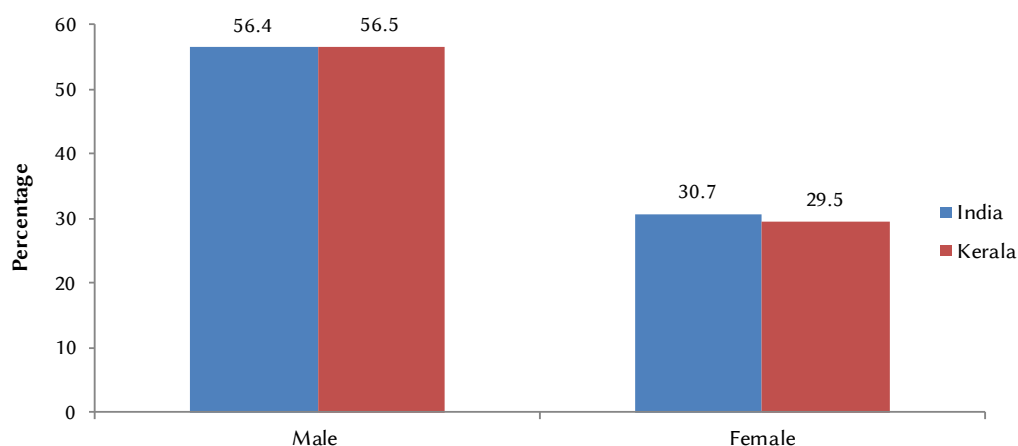
As per PLFS 2023-24, the proportion of women in manufacturing is high in Kerala, compared to all India (Figure 8.1.3). This may be because large numbers of women are engaged in low productive, labour intensive, traditional industries such as handloom, khadi, coir and cashew. The concentration of women in low remunerative industries is clear from the membership of women in different Welfare Fund Boards in Kerala.

Table 8.1.7 Gender Difference in Average Wage/Salary/Earnings per day from casual labour work other than public works

Period	Kerala/India	Rural		Urban	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
July-Sep 2019	Kerala	667.7	372.0	744.5	385.7
	India	297.3	185.0	375	243.4
Oct-Dec 2019	Kerala	721.4	395.6	736.5	369.4
	India	305.4	193.1	384.3	244.1
July-Sep 2021	Kerala	758.4	439.8	812.6	490.2
	India	381.0	260.7	450.4	317.4
Oct-Dec 2021	Kerala	824.5	452.0	821.0	412.1
	India	387.0	260.8	466.1	322.1
Jan- Mar 2023	Kerala	834.5	431.5	881.0	440.8
	India	413.2	280.2	506.7	343.0
April- June 2023	Kerala	845.6	418.9	903.3	493.5
	India	416.1	286.7	515.3	332.8
July- Sep 2023	Kerala	858.0	363.0	906.0	553.0
	India	423.0	289.0	520.0	345.0
Oct- Dec 2023	Kerala	855.0	434.0	914.0	508.0
	India	435.0	287.0	530.0	348.0
Jan- Mar 2024	Kerala	889.0	440.0	914.0	540.0
	India	437.0	286.0	529.0	358.0
April- June 2024	Kerala	884.0	454.0	932.0	505.0
	India	444.0	299.0	537.0	364.0

Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24, CWS

Figure 8.1.2 Worker Population ratio of Males and Females in Kerala and India (All Ages)



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24

Status of Employment

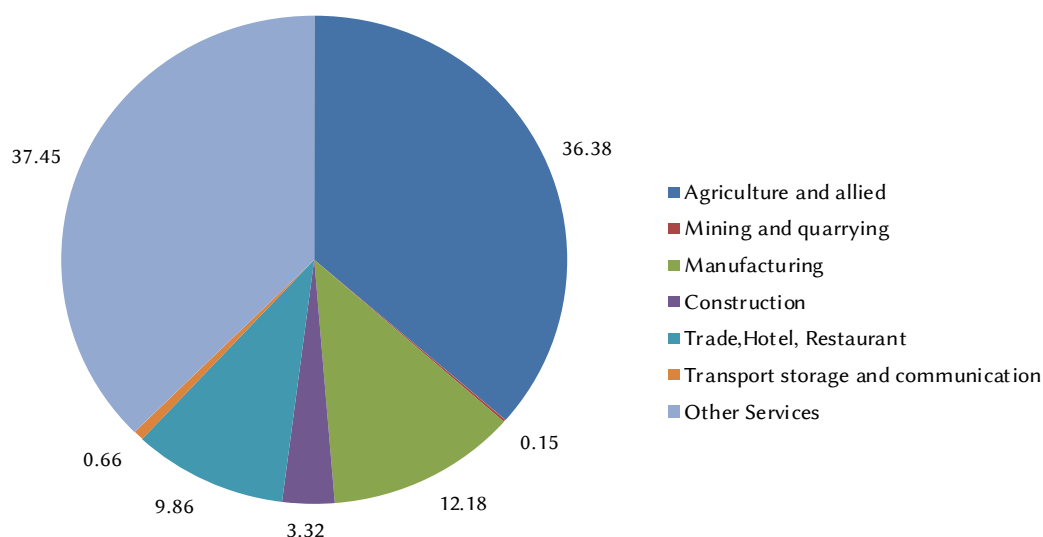
The status of female employment given in **Table 8.1.8** shows that out of total employed women in Kerala, nearly half were in regular salaried employment, which is more than double that of the rest of India. It is also more than the share of self-employed women in Kerala. While “helper in household enterprise” occupied much of the female workforce in the rest of the country, in Kerala, this accounts for only 10.1 per cent. This points towards the better quality of employment that the State has been able to provide its female workforce. Kerala has a relatively good share of women regular salaried employees compared to all India-level in 2022-23 and in 2023-24. Kerala has a small share of women casual labourers compared to all India level. (**Figure 8.1.3**)

Women in Organised Sector

In 2024, the proportion of women workers (44 per cent) in the organised sector in Kerala was low compared to that of men (56 per cent). However, the total number of women workers in the organised sector has increased during the last ten years (Appendix 8.1.4). Out of the total women workers (5,54,646) in the organised sector, a majority (64.9 per cent) are engaged in the private sector (**Table 8.1.9**). Table 8.1.9 Employment in the Organised Sector in Kerala, in number and in per cent Source: Directorate of Employment

An examination of sector-wise percentage shares of employment statistics in the organised sector shows that females are in a disadvantaged position compared to their male counterparts in the public

Figure 8.1.3 Worker Population ratio of Males and Females in Kerala and India (All Ages)



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24

Table 8.1.8 Percentage distribution of working women in India and Kerala (CWS)

Employment Category		2022-23		2023-24	
		India	Kerala	India	Kerala
All self employed	Own Account Worker, Employer	64.3	35.9	66.6	33.9
	Helper in household enterprises				
Regular salaried		18.6	47.4	18.5	49.7
Casual labour		17.1	16.7	14.9	16.4

Source: PLFS

Table 8.1.9 Employment in the Organised Sector in Kerala, in number and in per cent

Year	Public Sector		Private Sector		Total	
	Women	Total	Women	Total	Women	Total
2020	1,93,224	5,54,919	3,68,153	6,99,447	5,61,377	12,54,366
Percentage to the total	34.8	100	52.6	100	44.7	100
2021	1,94,080	5,56,634	3,49,978	6,91,134	5,44,058	12,47,768
Percentage to the total	34.9	100	50.6	100	43.6	100
2022	1,94,191	5,56,933	3,51,822	6,93,146	5,46,013	12,50,079
Percentage to the total	34.9	100	50.7	100	43.7	100
2023	1,94,323	5,57,495	3,54,098	6,95,293	5,48,421	12,52,788
Percentage to the total	34.9	100	50.9	100	43.8	100
2024	1,94,473	5,58,079	3,56,415	6,97,480	5,50,888	12,55,559
Percentage to the total	34.8	100	51.1	100	43.9	100
2025	1,94,667	5,58,637	3,59,979	7,00,967	5,54,646	12,59,604
Percentage to the total	34.8	100	51.4	100	44.0	100

Source: Directorate of Employment

sector. Women's employment in the public sector is 1.9 lakh, which accounts for 34.8 per cent in 2025. The situation is better in the case of the private sector, where 3.6 lakh women (51.4 per cent) are employed.

The employment of women in the organised sector has been growing over the last 6 years, both in public and private sectors (**Figure 8.1.4**). The increase in private sector employment is more than that of the public sector and women outnumbered men in the private sector in 2024 and 2025.

An examination of the distribution of public sector employment of women in different types of Government organisations as shown in **Table 8.1.10** reveals that the proportion of women was high in the State Government in 2023-24 and in 2024-25.

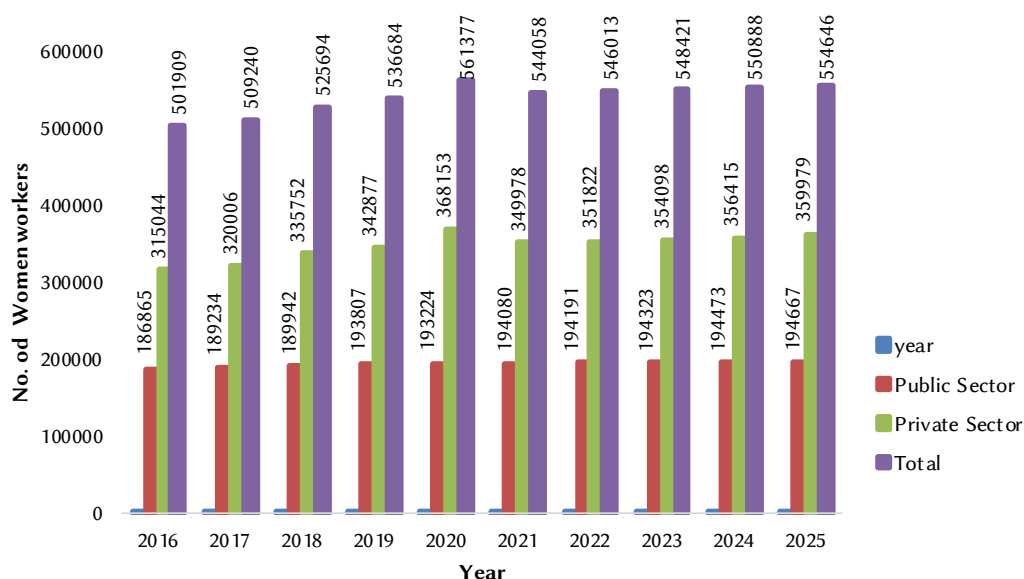
The District-wise employment of women in different type of Government organisations is given in Appendix 8.1.5. The number and proportion of

women workers in the public sector are highest in Kollam, followed by Wayanad. The highest number of women workers in State Government are in Thiruvananthapuram, followed by Thrissur. In the case of women in Central Government employment, Thiruvananthapuram followed by Ernakulam, stand ahead.

Skill and Entrepreneurship Development

Kerala State Industrial Department, Kudumbashree, Women Development Corporation and several other Government Departments conduct various programmes including Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs), to cater to the needs of potential women entrepreneurs who may not have adequate educational background and skills. There are also several other schemes of the Governments at Central and State-levels, which help set up training-cum-income generating activities for needy women, to make them economically independent. Some banks and financial institutions

Figure 8.1.4 Worker Population ratio of Males and Females in Kerala and India (All Ages)



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24

Table 8.1.10 Distribution of Women Employees in Different Levels of Government in Kerala

Year		2024-25		2023-24		
Type of Government	Total	Women	Percentage to the Total	Total	Women	Percentage to the Total
Central Government	60420	14797	24.5	60,360	14,782	24.5
State Government	260051	105902	40.7	2,60,353	1,05,802	40.6
Central Quasi	80974	25451	30.2	80,893	25,424	31.4
State Quasi	131867	39230	29.7	1,31,173	39,191	29.9
LSGI	25325	9283	36.7	25,300	9,274	36.7
Total	558637	194663	34.8	5,58,079	1,94,473	34.8

Source: Directorate of Employment

like NABARD also implement special schemes for women entrepreneurs. In addition to the special schemes for women entrepreneurs, various Government schemes such as Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), MSME schemes of Kudumbashree and entrepreneur support scheme for small and micro enterprises of the Industries department also provide certain special incentives and concessions for women entrepreneurs. The Government has also made several relaxations for women to facilitate their participation in these schemes. Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE), Kerala Start Up Mission and the Labour Department have various skilling programmes for women, to create a skilled labour force of women and to create more opportunities for women.

Women in IT Sector

The IT sector (Techno Park, Cyber Park and Info Park) has shown an increase in employment in 2023-24 and 2024-25. The proportion of women employees remained constant in this period for Techno Park, Info Park and Cyber Park. (**Table 8.1.11**). Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology–Women Incubation, Start-ups and Entrepreneurship (WISE) scheme aims to empower woman through entrepreneurship. Start-up Mission of Industries department has given employment opportunities to 60,000 employees, of which 22,400 are women.

Economic Participation of Women through Kudumbashree

Kudumbashree, a community organisation of Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) of women set up

Box 8.1.1 Women Initiatives in STEM

Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) are a critical area of focus globally, aiming to address the historical and systemic underrepresentation of women in these fields. Promoting gender diversity in STEM is essential not only for equity, but also for fostering innovation and progress. Equal access and participation in STEM for women and girls is key to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A 2020 report by the World Bank on global trends in the participation of women and girls in STEM found that even though graduation rates are higher among women than men, women are less likely to undertake studies in STEM fields, particularly engineering, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and physics.

Women-centric activities of the State have resulted in nudging more women to pursue careers and courses in STEM than in the past. This is evident from the fact that nearly 40 per cent of total students in higher education are women pursuing courses in Science and Technology. Even more interestingly, 66 per cent of the total students in science are girl students. The trend is also very impressive when we consider the fact that the proportion of girls in science are 62 per cent and 67 per cent, respectively, for UG and PG courses.

The following are the two initiatives by the Government in this regard

- **WESAT (Women Engineered Satellite)**

The satellite project, WESAT (Women Engineered Satellite) is a ground-breaking mission, initiated by the Space Club of LBS Institute of Technology for Women, Poojappura. It is the first satellite project led by an all-women institute in the Country. The purpose of WESAT is to measure the UV rays in space and on the earth's surface and their influence on the warm temperatures and climate change phenomena in Kerala. This is an important area addressed by the Government of Kerala in view of the severe floods in 2018

- **Scheme for Her Empowerment in Engineering education (SHE)**

To enable girl students to realise their potential and support achievements in technical fields. Major programmes conducted under this initiative include THE LOCKDOWN TALK SERIES which consisted of 13 online sessions that covered a variety of topics, right from competitive exams to general topics like mental and physical health and an inter-collegiate debate competition for female engineering students of the State, on whether the pandemic work culture is detrimental to women in tech.

Table 8.1.11 Employment generation in Information Technology (IT) sector in Kerala

IT Parks		2022-23		2023-24		
	Total	Women	Per cent	Total	Women	Per cent
Techno Park	75,000	33,750	45.0	80,000	36,000	45
Info Park	70,000	28,000	40.0	73,500	29,400	40
Cyber Park	2,200	900	40.0	2300	920	40

Source: Techno Park, Info Park, Cyber Park

in 1998 as the State Poverty Eradication Mission, functions under the Local Self Government Department. Women's empowerment is one of the stated goals of Kudumbashree. Initially focused on thrift and loan activities, the NHGs empower women through income generation activities and micro-credit and engage in a range of activities such as health, nutrition, agriculture and social development. Kudumbashree has played an important role in the financial inclusion of underprivileged women and has enhanced their financial status through its thrift and credit programmes. Internal loans are given to the members from the pooled small regular savings (thrift) of neighbourhood groups. Though an NHG is autonomous and has a discretionary role in financial activities, each NHG is bound to act in accordance

with Kudumbashree by-laws. Their activities are to be reported to the respective Area Development Societies (ADS) and Community Development Societies (CDS). The total thrift collected by NHGs in 2024-25 was more than Rs 629.69 crore and the internal loan generated out of this thrift amount is more than two times the thrift amount (**Table 8.1.12**)

In 2018, realising the opportunities in the service sector in Kerala. Harsham aims at providing an intensive training of 15 days to women to equip them to provide service in the geriatric care sector. Training for caregivers was provided with the assistance of doctors, nurses and hospital managements in selected hospitals in the State. Harsham team is all set to provide full-time professional care on an enterprise

Table 8.1.12 Financial Inclusion through Neighbourhood Groups

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No of NHGs	2,87,723	2,94,436	3,06,551	3,17,226	3,17,526	3.17724
No of NHG Members (in lakh)	45.1	45.8	45.9	48.0	48.1	48.08
Amount of Thrift (in crore)	443.7	406.7	514.0	532.0	707.5	626.69
No of Bank linked NHGs	73,522	2,50,018	52,837	93,080	63,579	58283
Disbursement of bank loans(in crore)	2,670	4,070.3	3,436.0	6,550.8	4,634.0	5412.1
Internal Loan (in crore)	1,778.4	1,323.1	2510.0	2,660.0	2,438.7	1303.4

Source: Kudumbashree

model to the elderly, provide daytime care, provide service as bystanders in hospitals and extend service as caretakers for the elderly in care homes. Training has been provided to 636 people, out of which 198 have already had the opportunity to serve on a monthly salary basis in various firms/care homes/houses.

The major income generation activities under Kudumbashree are Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and enterprises. Women are aggregated into small farming groups called Joint Liability Groups and are supported by Kudumbashree with training, financial assistance, convergence opportunities facilitated by District missions and are provided exposure to a vast arena of livelihood ventures for income enhancement. Most of the women involved in collective farming activities have previous experience in farming as wage earners, workers, or helpers in their family farms, or as casual labour in agriculture. This project has transformed them from the status of labourer to women farmers. For sustainable financial growth and quality of life, the support extended apart from the above include linkage loans from nationalised banks at practically a zero-per centage interest with no collateral security and the continuous and uninterrupted service of Community Resource Persons called Master Farmers

throughout the year for all activities. As shown in **Table 8.1.13**, more than 4 lakh women farmers are actively involved in farming, cultivating more than 17,000 hectares of land in 2024-25.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)

In Kerala, over 90 per cent of the workers in MGNREGA are women. There has been a slight decrease in person days of employment generated in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 and the percentage of women person days generated through MGNREGA is 89.1 per cent (**Table 8.1.14**).

Women's Participation in Decision Making

Women need to play a proactive role in decision-making at home, as well as in the policy decisions of the State. This would ensure an integration of their needs and interests into the development process and in developing a gender-just society. In Kerala, 72.7 percent women in the age group 30-39 and 56.5 percent in the age group 20-24 participate in decision-making process such as in healthcare, major household purchasing and their visits to family or relatives. Further, 73.1 per cent of employed women are involved in everyday decision-making, while it is 67.8 per cent among the women who are not

Table 8.1.13 Joint Liability Groups and Micro Enterprises under Kudumbashree

Year	Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) under Kudumbashree		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
No. of JLGs	74,783	87,323	94594
No of JLG members	3,73,915	4,03,809	432667
Total area cultivated (in Ha)	38,956.8	16,417.1	17997.02
Area of Fallow land cultivated (in acre)	4,468.7	47	624
Women Enterprises under Kudumbashree			
No of Enterprises	1,06,981*	1,41,407*	1,78,864
No. of Women Members	2,83,512	3,22,576	3,42,802

*including Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP)

Source: Kudumbashree

Table 8.1.14 Status of MGNREGA Employment Provided in Kerala from 2019-20 to 2024-25

Year	No. of Active Job Cards (No. in Lakh)	No. of households got Job (No. in Lakh)	Per cent of women person days generated	Person days generated (No.in Lakh)	Average wage rate per day per person in Rs	Average days of employment provided to a household	No. of H Hs completed 100 days of wage employment
2019-20	20.0	14.4	89.8	802.3	274.3	55.7	2,51,141
2020-21	20.4	16.2	90.5	1023	294.6	63.2	4,70,410
2021-22	21.6	16.4	89.6	1059.7	294.9	64.4	5,12,823
2022-23	21.8	15.5	89.8	955.01	310.5	62.3	4,49,638
2023-24	21.6	14.69	89.3	979.6	331.8	67.7	5,69,108
2024-25	22.7	13.72	89.1	895.2	344.24	66.17	5,19,619

Source: MGNREGA data base

employed. Decision making power also increases with education. Only 65 per cent of women with less than five years of schooling participate in decision making, whereas 70 per cent of women with 12 or more years of schooling are involved in decision making.(NFHS-5, 2019-20)

Of women aged 15-49 years, 76.5 per cent have bank accounts in their names. In the age group of 40-49, 61.4 per cent women and in the age group of 30-39, 62.6 percent women have bank accounts and are aware of micro-credit programmes. However, only 35.9 per cent women in the age group 15-19 know about micro-credit programmes. Also, 15.4 per cent of employed women and 7.8 per cent unemployed women have taken loans from micro-credit programmes. Further, 24.5 per cent women own a house individually or jointly with their partners among the women aged 15-49 years, whereas only 11.5 per cent women own land alone or jointly. Some 86.5 per cent of women in the age group 15-49 years have mobile phones.

Women's participation in the decision-making within the family is considered here in terms of three indicators, as in NFHS, 2019-20- the percentage of women who usually participate in the household decisions, the percentage of women having a bank/savings account that is operated by them and the percentage of women having a mobile phone that they themselves use. As shown in **Table 8.1.15**, women in Kerala actively participate in the decision-making process, more than their counterparts at the all India level.

The participation of women voters in the Lok Sabha elections has increased over the years from 46.6 per cent in the third Lok Sabha election in 1962, to 65.78

per cent in the election for the 18th Lok Sabha. The participation of women voters in Kerala is very high compared to the all-India average. However, in terms of women's representation in Parliament and Legislative Assembly, Kerala lags behind. In the 18th Lok Sabha, women constitute 13.6 per cent of the total Members of Parliament, while one woman (5 per cent) could reach the Parliament from Kerala. The representation of women in the State Assembly is also low.

However, the participation of women in Local-Self Governments is higher than the all-India average and half the position in elected bodies of LSGs is reserved for women. Women's representation in the apex bodies of social, political and religious significance is negligible, despite there being adequate representation at the lower rungs of such institutions. The number of women MLAs in present Kerala's Legislative Assembly, is only 12. It is remarkable that the number of women ministers in the present government is three, the highest in the history of the state.

Combating Violence Against Women in Kerala

Violence against women continue to be a significant worry in Kerala, though the total number of crimes against women has decreased in the last two years. The Crime Record Bureau in Kerala gives data on crimes against women in the categories of rape, molestation, kidnapping and abduction, eve teasing, dowry death, cruelty by husband/relatives, other offences. The highest proportion of crimes committed are in the category of other offences (33 per cent) and cruelty by husband/relatives (24.1 per cent). Crimes against women in Kerala during the year 2016-2025 is shown in Appendix 8.1.6. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data

Table 8.1.15 Women's Participation in Decision Making in India and Kerala

Indicators	India			Kerala			
	NFHS-5 (2019-20)			NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-5 (2019-20)		
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Currently married women who usually participate in household decisions (per cent).	91.0	87.7	88.7	84.0	93.6	94.6	94.0
Women having a bank/savings account that they themselves use (per cent)	80.9	77.4	78.6	53.0	78.9	78.2	78.5
Women having a mobile phone that they themselves use (per cent)	69.4	46.6	54.0	45.9	86.2	86.9	86.6

Source: NFHS

for 2018-19, 9 per cent of women in Kerala have experienced physical violence and 1 per cent have experienced sexual violence.

Programmes Initiated by the State Government to Address Gender-Based Violence

The prevention and redressal of gender-based violence and rehabilitation of the survivors are important for women's development. This includes several departments like WCD (the nodal agency) and the police and judiciary critical for redressal. A large number of measures ranging from gender sensitisation, public awareness, community-based crime and vulnerability mapping, counselling to adolescent girls, self-defence training, pink police control rooms, shelter homes, short stay homes, one stop crisis centre, medical care for victims of violence and so on are part of the programme.

Department of Women and Child Development

One significant achievement of the Government was the setting up of the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) in June 2017, bifurcating the Social Justice Department to give a more focussed thrust to activities aimed at social assistance and empowerment of women and children. It is an umbrella structure that includes the State Women's Commission, State Women's Development Corporation, State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Gender Park, Nirbhaya project, women and children homes, ICPS and ICDS, with a large network of Anganwadis. A large part of its work is concerned with running 44 welfare institutions for the care, protection and rehabilitation of women and children (16 for women and 28 for children);

NGOs and voluntary organisations also play a major role in providing institutional care to the vulnerable population. The Department of Women and Child Development works to ensure the holistic, physical, psychological, cognitive and emotional development of women and children and to build a gender-sensitive family and community.

Nirbhaya Policy: The Government of Kerala formulated the Nirbhaya Policy to combat sexual violence against women and children and to safeguard them against trafficking for exploitation. The Nirbhaya cell has been formed under the Directorate of Women and Child Development. Nirbhaya programmes include shelters for women experienced sexual abuse, where they are provided with life skill education to earn a living and gain employment. The Nirbhaya Cell has set up 23 child care institutions across the State, including, 14 Entry homes, 3 SOS homes, 1 Model Home, 1 Mental Health Home, 1 Thejomaya After Care home, 1 Integrated care Centre and 2 After care homes (for rehabilitation of CSA survivors who are above 18 years).

One Stop Centres: These centres by WCD provide support to women affected by violence in public and private places, within the family, community and at the workplace. These Centres provide a range of integrated services including, transportation, medical assistance and facilitation in dealing with the police and accessing legal aid, psychosocial counselling and temporary shelter, if required. In 2019-20, Kerala became one of the first States in India to have One Stop Centres in all the districts. In 2024-25, 4127 beneficiaries were supported through One Stop Centres.

Aswasanidhi: Realising the need to provide financial support to victims of sex crimes and heinous gender-based violence, the State Government has announced the establishment of a corpus fund of Rs 300 lakh in the State Budget of 2018-19 to provide interim relief to such victims. The Department of Women and Child Development maintains it for release to victims of sex crimes, domestic violence, acid attacks and heinous gender based violence. The expenditure incurred in 2024-25 was Rs 3 crore for 256 beneficiaries.

Dheera: An innovative project named Dheera is being implemented by the Women and Child Development Department, through the Nirbhaya Cell, with the help of the Police Department, in order to instil confidence and courage, improve physical and mental health, raise awareness on the elimination and prevention of violence and provide self-defence training to girl children. In each district, 3 Panchayats are selected and 30 children from each Panchayat are given martial arts training in Karate, Taekwondo and Kalaripayattu by master trainers.

Dowry Prohibition: A popular campaign to eradicate dowry was initiated by WCD in 2019-2020. A five year long action plan has been prepared aiming at the complete eradication of dowry through awareness creation and empowerment. The importance of women's education and economic independence are highlighted to ensure an umbrella approach. The initial phase of the campaign was a success mainly because of the use of novel tools like memes to address the youth. The campaign will continue over the next 3 years. As per the amendment (July 13, 2021) of the Kerala Dowry Prohibition Rules, District Dowry Prohibition Officers (DDPOs) were appointed to create awareness about the ill effects of dowry among the public and to manage the activities against dowry in all the districts.

Dowry Complaints portal: As part of the effective implementation of the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Department has launched a Dowry Complaints portal. Through this portal, individuals, the public, or organisations can submit a complaint regarding the receiving or payment of dowry.

One Day Home: With an objective to ensure safe accommodation for women who travel alone and reach the capital city for various purposes, a One Day Home was started in the 8th floor of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation building in the heart of Thiruvananthapuram city, as a joint venture of the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation and

the Women and Child Development Department. The main objective of the scheme is to provide a safe stay and food at a reasonable rate. The One Day Home started functioning from March 7, 2020. In, 2024-25 Rs. 15,38,002/- has been spent on the One Day Home project.

Thejomaya After Care Home: It has been established at Edakkattuvayal, Ernakulam. It is intended for POCSO survivors in Women and Children Homes who have completed their studies and are interested in various vocations. In 2020-21, a career assessment programme was done with the help of HLFPPPT (Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust) and 42 residents were selected for various vocations including catering, tailoring, beautician, driving, etc. A psychological intervention programme/wellness programme was also conducted for 26 residents. In 2024-25, 31 children were placed at various institutions after vocational training.

Home for Mental Health: The Home for Mental Health is intended for POCSO survivors of Women and Children Homes with psychological problems. The Government has sanctioned Rs 39.9 lakh to start the Home for Mental Health in Thrissur and entrusted Gandhi Bhavan International Trust, an NGO, with it. The home started functioning in 2019-20. In 2024-25, 36 beneficiaries benefitted.

Kathorth: This online consultation programme of WCD for women commenced in February 2021 and is aimed at resolving their various issues through counselling, legal aid and police assistance. Complaints can be submitted through the website kathorthu.wcd.kerala.gov.in. In 2024-25, 166 beneficiaries benefitted.

SOS Model Home: This model shelter home was started in Thiruvananthapuram for POCSO survivor girls below the age of 12 years. In 2024-25, 12 beneficiaries benefitted.

Koode Nirtham: This is a camp conducted in coastal, tribal and plantation sector to understand their problem

Thurannu Parachil : It is a public hearing programme to understand the problems of selected sections of women who are facing more stress and strain in both professional and personal life

Unarvu: It is a programme aimed to providing proper guidance to adolescents and inculcating a sense of gender equity among them. During the period 2024-25, 62 programmes were conducted

Initiatives of WCD

In Kerala, women not only outnumber men, but also outlive them. The marital status of women could influence the overall level of support and economic security they receive from their family and community. Statistics shows that only 3.5 per cent of the total male population in Kerala are widowers, while the proportion of the widowed female population is 11.6 per cent. This gender gap adversely affects women in every sphere of her life. It is in this context that the Government of Kerala introduced a scheme, Mangalya, to encourage widow remarriage. The scheme imparts financial assistance for widows and divorced women to remarry. With an objective of providing a safe and better living environment to destitute and homeless widows, the Abhayakiranam scheme provides monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to the close relatives of destitute widows who provide protection and shelter them. The Sahayahastham scheme proposes to extend a helping hand to these families by way of providing financial assistance for self-employment. Padavukal is a scheme which gives educational assistance for professional courses to the children of widows whose annual income is less than Rs 3,00,000.

Snehitha: The Kudumbashree Gender Help Desk, Snehitha, provides services to women and children in distress. The services include short stay homes for women and children facing atrocities and violence, individual, adolescent and premarital counselling, awareness campaigns, legal and medical assistance and rehabilitation through convergence with other departments and NGOs.

VIVA Programme: The VIVA Programme to address anaemia among women was launched on January 12, 2021 to study the problem of anaemia among women in Kerala and devise programmes to eradicate anaemia. Steps have been taken to implement various programmes to spread the message through mass media to raise anaemia awareness in the public domain. The programme is implemented by the Health department in collaboration with LSGs and WCD.

Bhoomika: The Government implements a programme on medical and psychological care for the victims of gender-based violence/social abuse with the support of NRHM. Bhoomika, a gender-based violence management centre provides social and psychological support to the victims.

Mithra Helpline (181): This helpline was initiated by the Kerala State Women's Development Corporation

(KSWDC) and is presently functioning successfully as a 24/7 accessible and emergency response service for women in need.

Aparajitha is online: This is a quick-response mechanism for grievance redressal on the harassment of women and girls and is operated by the Department of Police.

Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC)

KSWDC aims at the all-round development of women in the State to make them active participants in social development and progress. The Corporation focuses on providing financial support to women entrepreneurs, training and gender awareness programmes. The Corporation has been implementing the "She Pad" project since 2016 for the benefit of girl students of Government/Aided schools across the State. During the financial year, 2024-25, 67 LSGs have successfully implemented the project in 397 schools across the State and around 1 lakh students have benefitted. KSWDC conducts the Menstrual Hygiene Awareness Programme for students of Government/Aided schools where the "She Pad" project has been implemented. KSWDC successfully executed this programme in 25 schools and more than 3750 students were benefitted. The KSWDC launched the M Cup programme in the year 2021-22 for the supply of menstrual cups, free of cost, to women above 18 years. The programme includes awareness sessions on the use of menstrual cups for the beneficiaries. KSWDC has distributed 5433 menstrual cups to women beneficiaries across the State.

KSWDC currently operates 12 Vanitamitra Kendra-Working Women's Hostels in various districts. In 2024-25, Govt, sanction was accorded to conduct new hostels at Idukki and Alappuzha.

The Safe Stay project is to ensure safe, secure and affordable short-stay facilities for women travellers. A comprehensive app called "Safe Stay" has been developed and the Corporation has partnered with 30 women's hostels for the programme. In the financial year 2024-25, more than 200 women have benefited from the service.

Bodhyam: (Gender Sensitisation Programme for Police Personnel) Gender sensitisation programme for police personnel was launched by KSWDC on September 4, 2019. The training was conducted in batches coordinated from Police Training

College (PTC), Thiruvananthapuram and Kerala Police Academy (KEPA), Thrissur. The aim of the programme is to improve the effectiveness of emergency response services for women, as well as to create a gender-friendly environment in the State. In the financial year 2024-25 the Corporation has successfully trained and sensitised 902 police personnel.

Women Cells in Colleges: As part of its gender awareness programmes, KSWDC has started Women Cells in selected colleges in the State which have initiated various programmes including gender awareness trainings, open forums, cultural programmes, manuscript publishing, training in IT/soft skill, creative workshops and community intervention programmes in selected colleges in Kerala. The main objective of a Women Cell is to make the youth aware of social issues and to equip them with adequate management skills to handle day-to-day affairs. During 2024-25 KSWDC women cell functioned in 102 women colleges with over 25000 members. Women Cells were started in co-ed colleges to promote the idea of gender equality and create gender-friendly campuses in the State.

Finishing School for Women: KSWDC started “Reach” for enhancing employable skills among women to improve their job prospects. In 2024-25, 2,925 students were provided training. Through the advanced skill enhancement programme in nursing (ASEPN), 175 nursing professionals were trained.

Project Consultancy Wing: In the FY 2024-25, KSWDC constituted a project consultancy wing for promoting and facilitating women entrepreneurship.

Future Women Leaders Grooming Programme: It is a leadership development workshop for the students nominated by the women cells of KSWDC from the respective college.

LEAD (Learn, Empower, Achieve and Develop): Finishing Programme for Final Year Girl Students in Polytechnic College. It is a customized plan to empower the girl students at Poly technic colleges across Kerala. In 2024-25, REACH finishing school has provided LEAD training for 37 polytechnic students in Trivandrum

Gender Park: This is an initiative under the aegis of the Women and Child Development Department to pioneer gender equity and empowerment in the State. Its main campus located at Kozhikode

is a convergence centre for various projects and cultural and academic programmes. It includes an International Convention Centre (ICC), Amphitheatre, Library and the Heritage Museum. The library has been specifically designed to stack books relating to gender studies. As the first gender-based initiative of its kind in the country, the library aims to enhance research and learning, promote gender awareness and foster the empowerment of distinct gender groups in society. A Gender Data Hub was established in collaboration with UN Women, along with the Heritage Museum and Library, which would make Gender Park the South Asian hub for gender related activities. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Gender Park and UN Women in December 2020 to come together as equal partners to address gender equality in the South Asian region. The Gender Park, in partnership with UN Women, aims to examine gaps in the urban planning process. The broad idea behind this project is to examine how the planning and development of urban spaces including land use planning, regional/city/zonal planning and the provisioning of public infrastructure affect women and transgender persons’ access to public spaces. Aarppo is a festival-like event that celebrates the diversity and creativity of women and transgender individuals. This innovative platform empowers them to express their thoughts and ideas through art and culture, showcasing their unique talents and perspectives.

Gender Self-Learning Programme (GSLP): GSLP was initiated by Kudumbashree in 2007 to make women capable of learning and understanding the gender issues themselves. It is a “participatory education programme through which women in NHGs address gender and its manifestations in their lived experience.” The learning process helps the women to develop a collective consciousness on women’s issues and an understanding of how to express their views. Under this programme, 86,307 women were trained as resource persons for a cascading training programme till NHG-level and in all, 4,33,313 women underwent training, including resource persons and 3,47,006 support team members. The programme is expected to cover 35 lakh women in the State. The five thematic areas selected for the learning process are: (1) women and employment, (2) women and health, (3) women and mobility and (4) gender justice and equality and (5) theme against dowry and gender-based violence. The theme against dowry and gender-based violence started in 2021 with the name Sthreepaksha Navakeralam programme. Gender awareness trainings are organised at various levels for Kudumbashree officials, resource persons,

officials from other departments, Kudumbashree workers, students and auxiliary group members. Recently, an international seminar on Women Empowerment Strategies in the post Covid World viz 'Revitalizes' was organised under the leadership of the Thrissur District Mission at KILA, Thrissur, regarding gender development activities and the post-covid context. Currently, gender point persons are selected from NHG, ADS and CDS-levels and training has been planned with the available modules through activity based, theatre activity based and AI activity based learning.

Kerala Women's Commission:

Gender Awareness Programme: A significant activity of KWC is the training of Jagratha Samithi (a watchdog institution at the grassroot-level), which can work effectively in the prevention of crime with community participation. The Commission conducts seminars/legal workshops and training programmes for Panchayat Jagratha Samithis on various laws related to women and other legal procedures and adalaths. In order to sensitise the youth about issues in adolescence, a year-long awareness programme, Kaumaram Karuthakkoo, was conducted by the Commission. During 2011-2025 (as on March 31, 2025), the Women's Commission received a total of 83276 complaints of various natures including violence against women, property-related issues, domestic violence, issues related to family problems and so on. The highest number of cases was in Thiruvananthapuram (29,904 complaints) followed by Kollam with 7782 complaints. Out of the total, 14308 complaints were related to family problems, 8243 domestic violence cases and 6862 were property-related. Category-wise and district-wise details of complaints received as on March 2025 are given in **Appendix 8.1.7**.

Saranya is a self-employment scheme to provide financial assistance to unemployed widows, deserted/divorced/unmarried women, unwed mothers, women with disabilities and wives of bed ridden persons. It is implemented by the Employment Department. In 2024-25, 1399 women benefitted from the scheme. In 2024, 61 women and 40 women in 2025 (Till September 2025), received financial assistance through Kaivalya, a rehabilitation and welfare scheme of registrants with disabilities in employment exchanges, implemented by the Employment Department.

The International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) provides support through gender

and technology hackathon, back to work, women winter school and summer school, virtual training, campaigns and fellowships in their gender technology initiative component.

Transgender Community in Kerala

The Government of Kerala issued a rights-based transgender policy in 2015, after the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court of India in 2014 which firmly established the right to equality and equal protection for transgender persons (TGs). The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, has raised several concerns regarding the status of transgender people in India, especially with respect to the right of self-identification. The visibility of transgender people in the public sphere in Kerala has also increased in the last few years. However, the issues of people with other sexual identities are still not highlighted in this manner. The survey conducted by the Social Justice Department on transgender persons revealed that they are unable to acquire even basic capabilities essential to a life of well-being and dignity. Hence, interventions for the inclusion of transgender persons cannot be limited to merely economic measures.

Various schemes for the welfare of transgender persons are being implemented by various departments, but primarily the Social Justice Department. Likewise, schemes/programmes aiming at the welfare of LGBT individuals have been initiated under the Health and Family Welfare department. DHS has initiated steps for sex reassignment surgeries in Kottayam Medical College. A programme, Nisarga, has been started by the Directorate of Homeopathy to provide counselling and medication for transgender persons. Apart from these, the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (KSLMA) has initiated a special literacy programme which focuses on providing free and continuing education for transgender persons in the State. As part of the Samanwaya programme, they have joined the 4th, 7th, 10th and 12th standard equivalency programme of KSLMA. In 2024-25, 145 transgender persons registered for the various equivalency courses when the scholarship program was formalized. In As part of the continuing education programme, KSLMA conducted a survey among 918 persons from the transgender community, which revealed that 20.3 per cent were unemployed and 16.7 per cent worked in the private sector. While 1.6 per cent had Government jobs, 5.9 per cent were working in semi-Government institutions. Over 30 per cent were engaged in some form of self-employment. Most of the people who were

employed had not disclosed their distinct gender identity in any official records. The survey also found that 6 out of 100 transgender persons were engaged in begging and 8 out of 100 in sex work. Over 4 per cent did not have any documents to prove their identity. The survey found that only 1.2 per cent of the transgender persons surveyed were unable to read or write. The number of school dropouts among transgender persons increased as they progressed to higher classes, mostly due to social stigma. While 10.6 per cent of transgender persons dropped out of school between classes IV and VII, around 40 per cent dropped out between classes VII and X. Among the transgender persons surveyed, 26.5 per cent had passed the plus two courses. While 13.6 per cent transgender persons were graduates, 2.1 per cent were post graduates. Around 67.1 per cent of the persons surveyed were keen to enroll in the continuing education programmes of KSLMA.

Various schemes are implemented by the Government of Kerala on a rights-based approach for the well-being of transgender persons. In 2018-19, the Transgender Person Cell in the Social Justice Directorate was set up for the design, coordination and implementation of various activities for transgender persons, giving them a voice in their own planning. Since then, all the schemes under SJD have come under this comprehensive umbrella scheme, Mazhavillu. Community-level programmes, institutional intervention, research and survey, sensitisation and workshops and skill development are the major components of the scheme. 'Transgender persons' arts festival was organised, marriage assistance was provided and they are included as a priority category in the LIFE Housing Mission project. A transgender persons helpline was established. Financial assistance is given for education (the number of school drop outs being high), vocational training, self-employment and to write competitive exams. Financial assistance for Sex Re-assignment Surgery (SRS) in hospitals based on medical advice was increased to Rs 2 lakh in 2019 and further to Rs 5 lakh by 2020. The National Portal for Transgender Persons (NPTP) is a platform that allows transgender people to apply for and receive identity cards and certificates online.

Hostel facility, beautician course, continuing education scheme, sewing machine distribution, entrepreneurship development programmes (KSWDC), TG short stay/shelter homes, further treatment post SRS surgery, HIV zero surveillance

centre, driving training, TG-friendly toilet, self-employment assistance, Varnam (TG fest) and sensitisation in schools/colleges and among various officials and elected representatives are the other schemes for transgender persons implemented by SJD. Under the Yathnam scheme, the department provided educational assistance to transgender persons who prepared for examinations such as PSC, UPSC, Banking Services, RRB, UGC NET, JRF, CAT, MAT etc. Mahatma Gandhi University has built a hostel for Transgender students this year to provide safer and good accommodation for TG students in the campus. This is to promote the participation of TG persons in higher education.

KSWDC launched a self-employment loan scheme for transgender persons in 2020-21 to help them become self-reliant through self-employment. This scheme is being implemented with the funding support of the Directorate of Social Justice. An amount of Rs 30 lakh was sanctioned in the initial phase for the disbursement of loans and 22 transgender persons benefitted from the scheme. In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 7,55,000 was utilized for providing scholarships to 34 beneficiaries under the Transgender Scholarship Programme. In 2024-25, 97 beneficiaries were supported through the SRS and After-Care Scheme.

Gender Budgeting

A gender-responsive budget at the local-level was introduced in Kerala at the time of 9th Five Year Plan, with the mandatory inclusion of the Women Component Plan (WCP) in Local Self-Governments' Annual Plan. With the devolution of 35-40 per cent of plan funds from the State to the LSGs, the first form of gender budgeting in the State was in 1996, when each Panchayat was directed to prepare a chapter on the status of women in their Development Plan document. During the 9th Plan, 10 per cent of the Plan Outlay of LSGs had to be set apart to address the needs of women, or women-specific projects, which came to be known as the Women Component Plan (WCP).

To institutionalise the process of Gender Budgeting, the Gender Budget Statement was introduced in the Union Budget 2005-06. In Kerala, conscious efforts have been taken to make the State Budget gender responsive. While the process started with the 11th Plan, the first Gender Budget for the State Plan was released in 2017-18, aggregating resources earmarked for girls/women across departments as a separate document included in the Budget papers.

In 2024-25 an amount of Rs 2291.69 crore (10.5 per cent) has been provided for women-specific schemes (Part A) and an amount of Rs 2369.82 (10.85 per cent) for composite schemes in Part B has been made available for women. A total amount of Rs 4661.51 crore has been earmarked for women, which is 21.35 per cent of the total plan outlay. Out of this amount, Rs 6.21 crore is allocated to support transgender persons with education, housing subsidies, livelihood and welfare. Gender budgeting in the State has a total outlay of Rs 4840.12 crore for 2025-26 financial year. It is 20.8% of the total Plan Budget, marking a 3.8% year-on-year increase. The allocation is divided into Part A (women-specific schemes, Rs 2521.20 crore) and Part B (integrated schemes, Rs 2318.92 crore). The budget also earmarks Rs 1713.26 crore for child welfare and Rs 6.93 crore for pioneering transgender welfare initiatives.

Way Forward

Advancing gender equality involves reinforcing existing achievements while implementing targeted interventions to dismantle persistent structural barriers. Despite leading other regions in human development indices, this state must urgently address the significant gender wage gap and the high concentration of women in low-income jobs through innovative, high-value skilling programmes and robust policy enforcement. Furthermore, tackling gender-based violence remains a societal imperative, requiring comprehensive community action and improved support systems. A primary structural imperative is to significantly increase the participation of women in higher-level decision-making bodies, such as the Legislative Assembly and Parliament, through proactive measures like reservation or specific recruitment drives. Ensuring a consistently safe and secure environment is fundamental, as it directly correlates with enabling women's freedom of movement and, consequently, their full economic and social participation.

8.2 ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes constitute 9.10 per cent and 1.45 per cent of Kerala's population, respectively. District wise details are provided in **Appendix 8.2.1** and **Appendix 8.2.2**. Comparative data on literacy rates and sex ratios of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Kerala and at the national level are presented in **Appendix 8.2.3**.

Rule 14(a) of the Kerala State and Subordinate Service Rules 1958 provides for 10 per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government services, comprising 8 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 2 per cent for Scheduled Tribes. This applies to Gazetted, Non Gazetted, and Last Grade posts. According to the annual review data of the General Administration Department (Employment Cell A), as on January 1, 2024, 78 out of 86 State Government departments reported Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes representation of 12.75 per cent, including 9.65 per cent Scheduled Castes and 3.10 per cent Scheduled Tribes. The same review indicates that as on January 1, 2023, 86 out of 89 departments reported representation of 9.60 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 2.90 per cent for Scheduled Tribes.

The Government of Kerala has successfully reduced backlog vacancies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government services. Backlog vacancies for Scheduled Castes declined from 1,120 in 2017 to 203 in 2025, as on June 30, 2025, while vacancies for Scheduled Tribes declined from 1,148 to 157 during the same period. Between 2016 and 2024, a total of 3,334 backlog vacancies were filled through special recruitment processes. Detailed data are provided in **Appendix 8.2.4**.

Development Programmes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The Government of Kerala is committed to the development and well-being of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is the policy of the Government to allocate a share of the total State Plan Outlay which is higher than the proportional representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the total population, to support their welfare and development. At present, 9.81 per cent of total State Plan outlay is earmarked for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and 2.83 per cent for the Scheduled Tribes. The Government of Kerala allocates Plan fund to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes Development Departments and the Local Governments for implementing

various development programmes. Besides this, the Central Government also provides funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Out of the total State Plan outlay, around 45 per cent of funds allocated for Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and 23 per cent of funds allocated for Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) are directed to the Local Self Government Institutions for implementing schemes under decentralised planning, and the remaining funds are allocated to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Development Departments. The Plan Outlay set apart for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 2025-26 is Rs 3188.25 crore and Rs. 920 crore respectively out of the total State Plan outlay of Rs 32,500 crore. Year-wise details of allocation from 2017-18 to 2025-26 under SCSP and TSP is given in **Table 8.2.1**.

Development of Scheduled Castes

According to the 2011 Census, the Scheduled Castes population of Kerala is 30.39 lakh, constituting 9.10 per cent of the total population of the State. There are 53 Scheduled Castes communities and 26,342 Scheduled Castes Nagars in the State and the communities like Vedar, Nayadi, Kalladi, Arundhathiar/Chakkiliar are identified as the vulnerable communities among Scheduled Castes representing 3.65 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population in the State.

In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 2,979.40 crore was earmarked in the Budget for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. Out of this, an amount of Rs 1,638.10 crore was allocated to the Scheduled Castes Development Department and Rs 1,341.30 crore to Local Governments. The Scheduled Castes Development Department had spent Rs 1346.26 crore (82.18 per cent) while the Local Governments utilised Rs 1141.25 crore (85.09 per cent) out of the allotted budgeted outlay. Out of Rs 3,188.25 crore earmarked for the welfare of Scheduled Castes in the 2025-26 Budget, Rs 1753.00 crore was allocated for the Scheduled Castes Development Department and Rs 1435.25 crore was allocated for the LSGIs. The details of the allocation of SCSP funds from State Plan Outlay and its utilisation from the year 2017-18 to 2025-26, is given in **Appendix 8.2.5**. Likewise, the scheme-wise outlay and expenditure and the physical achievements for the years 2024-25 and 2025-26 of the schemes implemented by Scheduled Castes Development Department are given in **Appendix 8.2.6** and **8.2.7** respectively. The Scheduled Castes Development Department is implementing a variety of schemes and programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes. Some of the major programmes and schemes are summarised below.

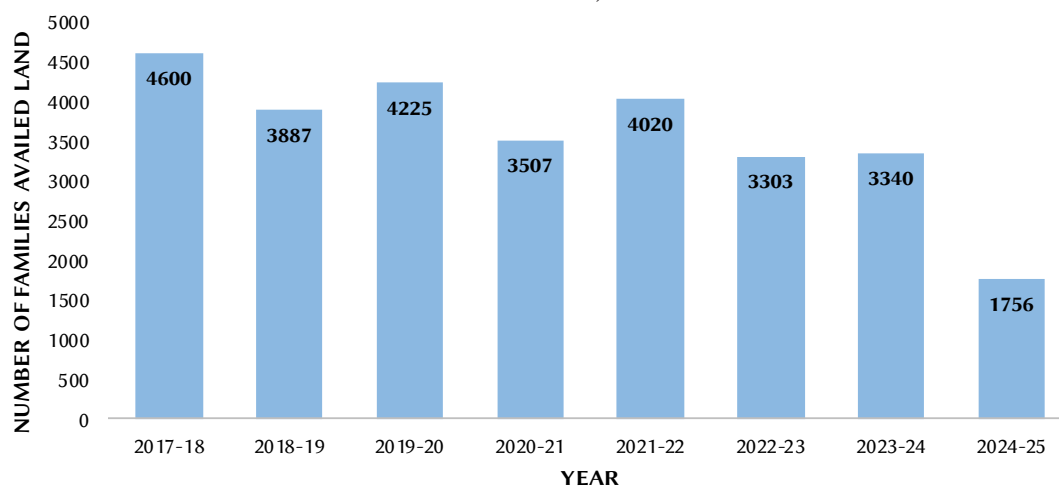
Table 8.2.1 Year-wise Outlay for SCSP and TSP 2017-18 to 2025-26, in Rs. crore

Year	Total State Plan Outlay	SCSP Outlay				TSP Outlay			
		Sched-uled Castes Depart-ment	LSGIs	Total	Per cent of Total State Plan	Sched-uled Tribes Depart-ment	LSGIs	Total	Per cent of Total State Plan
2017-18	26,500	1,427.60	1,172.05	2,599.65	9.81	575.08	176.00	751.08	2.83
2018-19	29,150	1,570.36	1,289.26	2,859.62	9.81	632.59	193.60	826.19	2.83
2019-20	30,610	1,649.00	1,353.84	3,002.84	9.81	663.27	202.99	866.26	2.83
2020-21	27,610	1,487.39	1,221.15	2,708.54	9.81	598.26	183.10	781.36	2.83
2021-22	27,610	1,487.39	1,221.15	2,708.54	9.81	598.26	183.10	781.36	2.83
2022-23	30,370	1,638.10	1,341.30	2,979.40	9.81	657.95	201.55	859.50	2.83
2023-24	30,370	1,638.10	1,341.30	2,979.40	9.81	657.95	201.55	859.50	2.83
2024-25	30,370	1,638.10	1,341.30	2,979.40	9.81	657.95	201.55	859.50	2.83
2025-26	32,500	1,753.00	1,435.25	3,188.25	9.81	704.26	215.74	920.00	2.83
Total	2,65,090	14,289.04	11,716.60	26,005.64	9.81	5,745.57	1,759.18	7,504.75	2.83

Source: Budget Documents, GoK.

'Through G.O (Ms) No:16/2024/SCSTD, dated 18/06/2024, Govt. of Kerala directed to use terms such as 'Nagar', 'Unnathi' and 'Prakrithi' instead of 'Colony', 'Settlement' and 'Ooru' for referring to the residing areas of the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Communities.

Figure 8.2.1 No. of Scheduled Castes Families Aailed Land, 2017-18 to 2024-25



Source: Scheduled Castes Development Department

Major Development Programmes for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes

Land and Housing

The Government of Kerala provides financial assistance for purchasing land to the landless Scheduled Caste households under the scheme 'Land to Landless Families for Construction of Houses'. In 2024-25, 1,756 families were assisted under this scheme and in 2025-26 (as on August 31, 2025) 1060 families received assistance to purchase land. Number of families benefited under this scheme from 2017-18 to 2024-25 are given in **Figure 8.2.1**.

District-wise details of land provided to Scheduled Caste under the land to landless scheme from 2023-24 to 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) is given in **Appendix 8.2.8**.

Under the housing scheme, LIFE Mission has undertaken the construction of new houses and completion of incomplete houses undertaken by Scheduled Caste Development Department from 2007-08 to 2016-17. From 2017-18 onwards, construction of new houses is being implemented under three phases of LIFE Mission. As on October 31, 2025, construction of 1,25,360 houses of the

Scheduled Caste beneficiaries is completed so far in all the three phases, along with the additional beneficiary lists, LIFE 2020 and Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP). Also, the construction of 30,575 houses is progressing. The progress in house construction for Scheduled Caste as on October 31, 2025 is provided in **Table 8.2.2**.

In the first phase of LIFE Mission (completion of incomplete houses), construction works of 19,153 houses were completed out of the eligible 19,566 incomplete houses identified.

In the second phase (housing for homeless with land), out of the total 71,577 eligible beneficiaries, 65,068 families executed agreement and 53,642 beneficiaries completed house construction. The construction of 11,426 houses is progressing. In the third phase (housing for landless and homeless), out of the total 22,570 eligible beneficiaries, 8,523 families executed agreement for construction, and 6,618 families completed the construction. The construction of 1,905 houses is progressing.

In the additional list for Housing for homeless with land, 21,987 of the 32,870 eligible beneficiaries executed agreement and 19,621 houses were

Table 8.2.2 Details of House Construction for Scheduled Caste under LIFE Mission (All Phases Combined)

Stages of Construction	Total No of Houses/ Beneficiaries (as on October 31, 2025)
Beneficiaries who executed agreement	1,55,935
Completed Houses	1,25,360
Ongoing	30,575

Source: LIFE Mission, GoK

Box 8.2.1 Land to Landless Scheduled Castes

The Government of Kerala gives utmost importance to solve the issue of landlessness and homelessness among the people of the Scheduled Castes. Through the 'Land to Landless Families for Construction of Houses' scheme of Scheduled Castes Development Department, the government provides financial assistance of Rs.3.75 lakh to the landless SCs included in the LIFE Mission's beneficiary list for purchasing minimum of 5 cents in Grama Panchayats. In Municipalities and Corporations, the financial assistance is Rs. 4.50 lakh and Rs.6.00 lakh for purchasing minimum of 3 cents of land. For the people of vulnerable communities among Scheduled Castes, Government provides Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 6 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh in Grama Panchayat, Municipality and Corporation respectively for purchasing land for house construction. Apart from that, assistance of Rs 10.00 lakh is provided to these vulnerable communities for purchasing minimum 25 cents of agricultural land. Over the nine-year period from 2016-17 and 2024-25, a total of Rs.1,664.97 crore was earmarked for the 'Land to Landless' scheme and 78.26 percent (Rs. 1302.99 crore) of the allocated fund were utilized to provide land for the landless SCs for the construction of their houses. From 2016-17 to 2024-25, a total of 33,102 families were assisted under this scheme.

Source: Scheduled Castes Development Department

completed and construction of 2,366 houses is progressing. Likewise, in the additional list of Housing for landless and homeless, 3,120 of the 17,709 eligible beneficiaries executed agreement and 1,692 houses were completed and the construction of 1,428 houses is progressing.

As regards LIFE 2020 (Housing for homeless with land), 35,010 of the 68,147 eligible beneficiaries executed agreement and construction of 24,136 houses were completed and construction of 10,874 houses is progressing. Likewise, in LIFE 2020 (Housing for landless and homeless), out of the total eligible beneficiaries 2,661 beneficiaries executed agreement, 498 finished construction while construction of 2,163 houses is progressing. District-wise details of the house construction under LIFE Mission is given in **Appendix 8.2.9**.

An initiative called SAFE (Secure Accommodation and Facility Enhancement) has been introduced for maintenance, completion and renovation of houses built after the year 2010 that are technically completed but uninhabitable. Under this initiative, Rs 2.00 lakh is provided for the renovation/maintenance of the houses. A total of 3273 people received assistance through this initiative in 2024-25.

Education

Scheduled Castes Development Department runs 87 nursery schools, 11 Model Residential Schools, 44 Industrial Training Institutes, 86 pre-matric hostels, 19 post-matric hostels, 7 subsidised hostels, 4 Pre-Examination Training Centres, an Institute for Civil Services Exam Training Society (ICSETS), a Community College in Vadakkancherry, Centre for

Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST) in Kozhikkode and a Medical College in Palakkad for imparting education to Scheduled Castes students. Palakkad Medical College is a pioneering initiative of the Scheduled Castes Development Department which creates opportunities for around 70 Scheduled Castes students annually to pursue MBBS. The 44 ITIs affiliated to NCVT offers training in 11 trades and gives admission to around 1600 trainees per year. Two new Model Residential Schools were started in Kozhikkode and Kannur Districts in 2020-21. Government provides various types of educational assistances such as primary/secondary education aid, lump sum grant, monthly stipend, pocket money, tuition fee re-imbursement for unaided school students, special incentive, medical and engineering coaching assistance, pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, overseas scholarships etc. for improving the educational status of Scheduled Castes students. Major educational assistances given to Scheduled Castes students in 2024-25 is listed in **Box 8.2.2**. An online centralised system called 'E-grantz' is in place for the disbursement of scholarship to all pre-matric and post matric students belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Backward Class communities. The E-Grantz pre-matric platform covers more than 3.5 lakh Scheduled Castes students annually, and its post-matric platform covers nearly 1.5 lakh Scheduled Castes students each year. In 2019-20, the rate of assistances, including lump sum grant, stipend and scholarships given to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OEC students for pre-matric, post-matric and professional courses were enhanced.

Details of lump sum grant, stipend and pocket money provided to Scheduled Castes students in 2024-25

Box 8.2.2 Major educational assistances given to Scheduled Castes students in 2024-25

<i>Educational Assistance</i>	<i>No. of Students</i>
• Pre-matric scholarships	3,73,769
• Post-matric scholarships	1,34,662
• Primary education aid	2,35,903
• Additional State Assistance to Post-matric students	1,56,140
• Assistance for studying abroad	211
• Assistance for studying in other States	406
• Assistance for purchasing laptop	1,265
• Assistance for purchasing stethoscope	278
• Ayyankali Talent Search scholarship	6,500
• Special incentive (Cash award given to those students who achieve excellence in annual examinations including SSLC to PG and other professional courses)	13,682
• Initial expenses to those admitted to Engineering/Medical Courses	728
• Vision-2013 (Medical and Engineering Coaching)	549
• Study Tour	5,884

Source: Scheduled Castes Development Department

and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) are given in **Appendix 8.2.10** and the number of students who availed various kinds of scholarships and assistance from 2019-20 to 2025-26 (as on August 31, 2025) are given in **Appendix 8.2.11**.

‘Construction of Study Rooms (*Padanamuri*)’ scheme was introduced in the year 2017-18 aiming to support around 6 lakh Scheduled Castes students studying in various Pre- Matric and Post Matric institutions across Kerala. Providing a conducive study environment at house is essential as the economic condition of the parents may prevent the arrangements of such facilities to their children. This initiative intends to provide financial assistance of Rs 2.00 lakh for the construction of an additional room of 120 sq.ft to the existing house of Scheduled Castes Students studying in class V to XII in Government, aided, special, technical schools and Kendriya Vidyalayas and whose family/parents have an annual income of up to Rs. 1 lakh. Furthermore, the project aims to provide additional facilities such as bookshelf, chair, table, fan, light, computer and computer table. Construction of 6,622 study rooms were completed in 2024-25 for the students of high school and higher secondary classes. Likewise, 334 study rooms were constructed in 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025).

The ‘Unnathi Overseas Scholarship’ scheme is another significant government intervention for the educational development of SCs. This merit-cum-means scholarship is catering to the higher educational aspirations of the talented and meritorious Scheduled Castes students who wishes to pursue post-graduate-level (or above) courses in prestigious foreign universities. Along with facilitating their access to a broader area of knowledge and ensuring bright career prospects, the scholarship helps to widen their global exposure and thereby helps in social mobility. As per the revised guidelines of the scheme (G.O.(P)5/2023/SCSTDD dated 01/08/2023), the courses covered under the scheme includes Post-Graduate Degree, Post Graduate Diploma considered equivalent to Post Graduate Degree, M Phil and equivalent programmes, Ph.D. and Post-Doctoral programmes. The scholarship amount is determined based on the following three annual family income slabs of the students.

- Students with an annual family income up to Rs 12.00 lakh will be awarded full scholarship of Rs 25.00 lakh. A total of 175 scholarships will be awarded annually.
- Students with annual family income above 12.00 lakh and upto Rs 20.00 lakh will be entitled to get a total of Rs. 20.00 lakh (which includes

tuition fee of Rs. 15.00 lakh and Rs. 5.00 lakh for accommodation and living expenses, visa charges, air fare admissible etc.). A total of 25 scholarships will be awarded annually.

- Students with an annual family income above Rs. 20.00 lakh will receive tuition fee assistance of upto Rs. 15.00 lakh. A total of 25 scholarships will be awarded annually.

In addition to the above categories, 25 students with an annual family income above Rs 20.00 lakh will be provided with interest free education loan by the Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Ltd. And the Government will bear the interest component. In 2024-25, Government supported 211 Scheduled Castes students to study in reputed foreign educational institutions.

Health

Under the health care scheme, treatment assistance is provided to the deserving patients through 'T-Grants' site. Financial assistance of Rs. 2.00 lakh provided as relief for the death of sole income earning member of a Scheduled Castes family is also a part of the scheme. Treatment assistance for various diseases was given to 13,183 persons in 2024-25 across the State. As on August 31, 2025, total of 4,223 persons received treatment assistance under this scheme. In the case of financial assistance for the death of sole income earner of Scheduled Castes households, 1,716 families in 2024-25 and 492 families in 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) received assistance. Besides this, 29 homoeo dispensaries are functioning in Scheduled Castes nagars. In 2024-25, Rs. 64.56 crore and in 2025-26 (as of September 27, 2025), Rs. 20.89 crore were spent under health care scheme. Details of outlay and expenditure under health care scheme and number of patients availed treatment assistance for the last six years are given in **Appendix 8.2.12**.

Skill Training and Employment

For providing livelihood security to the weaker sections, various types of job oriented skilling programmes are implemented for the people of Scheduled Castes. In 2024-25, Rs. 52.87 crore was spent for the scheme. Self-employment assistance is given to individuals/self-help groups with one-third of the loan as subsidy for undertaking self-employment ventures. Self-employment subsidy was given to 273 beneficiaries in 2024-25. Details of assistance under the self-employment scheme for 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) is given in **Appendix 8.2.13**. Financial assistance of

upto Rs. 1.00 lakh is given for unemployed Scheduled Castes youth from families with an annual income limit of below Rs.2.5 lakh for seeking job abroad. In 2024-25, assistance was given to 2,798 persons for seeking job abroad and in 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) 593 persons availed this assistance. The details of foreign employment assistance are given in **Appendix 8.2.14**. In order to help Scheduled Castes youth to secure jobs and to start new enterprises, skill development trainings were conducted in areas like information technology, automobile, electrical, textile designing, health care, printing technology etc. through agencies like KELTRON, KASE, ASAP, CIPET, Kuttukkaran Institute etc.

The 'WINGS' scheme was introduced to expand scholarship opportunities for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes youth in commercial pilot training, aiming to secure employment in that field. Three Scheduled Castes students can avail this scholarship for studying at the Rajiv Gandhi Aviation Academy in the Commercial Pilot license course. The 'Lakshya' initiative was started with an aim to provide scholarship for Scheduled Castes youth to receive coaching for Civil Service Examination at recognised institutes across India. At present, 60 scholarships are provided and it includes course fees, hostel fees, book allowance and assistance for test series.

An initiative called TRACE (Training for Career Excellence) has been started to provide internships/ apprenticeships/ placement training for qualified Scheduled Castes youth for allowing them to acquire professional experience. TRACE offers qualified Scheduled Castes youths with the opportunity to gain work experience and skill development through apprenticeships/job training over a period of 2 years, in Government system and in the implementation of various schemes. In 2024-25, 279 B.Tech, M.Tech graduates and Civil Engineering diploma holders were appointed as Accredited Engineers and Overseers along with 223 Apprentice Clerks, 1,215 Scheduled Castes Promoters, 53 Community Social Workers and 68 law graduates under the Justice, Welfare and Legal Assistance (JWALA) project. These apprenticeship programmes will help them to gain experience in Government system and programme implementation.

One major initiative in the realm of employment is the inception of 'Unnathi-Kerala Empowerment Society'. It envisions a thriving, inclusive ecosystem empowering vulnerable Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities with livelihood opportunities and aims to transform educated

Box No.8.2.3 Samrudhi Keralam-Entrepreneurship Development Programme for Scheduled Castes

The 'Samrudhi Keralam' scheme was introduced to provide assistance to entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes communities to expand their enterprises and business ventures. Through the scheme, assistance in the form of term loan/ working capital loan either with an interest of 3 per cent or with a front end subsidy of 20 per cent of project cost will be given to the already operating business ventures/ enterprises/self-employment initiatives solely owned by individual Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs/ group of Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs for expanding their scale of operation/business ventures. The maximum loan amount will be limited to Rs. 10.00 lakh per individual business initiative which will be released through Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Ltd. Necessary handholding support will be provided for the beneficiaries to ensure the success of the initiative.

Source: Scheduled Castes Development Department

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youths into both entrepreneurs and employers. This is to be achieved by providing them with the necessary education, skill training, and job/entrepreneurship opportunities with the broader goal of socio-economic development in the changing modern world. The Empowerment Society will support Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth groups/co-operatives and individuals in their entrepreneurial endeavors and in the improvement of their livelihood opportunities. It has the potential to re-orient the employment, entrepreneurship and livelihood programmes of the Scheduled Castes Development Department and to facilitate the activities/programmes that needed to address the second generation needs of the Scheduled Castes communities.

Infrastructure Development in Scheduled Castes Nagars

For providing better infrastructure facilities in the habitats, 'Dr.Ambedkar Village Development Scheme' was launched in Scheduled Castes nagars, where more than 25 Scheduled Castes families reside. As part of the scheme, Rs 1.00 crore is provided to each nagar for undertaking various developmental activities including provision of drinking water,

toilet and sanitation, waste management, road connectivity, electrification, land protection wall, irrigation, playground, community hall, renovation of houses, financial support for income generating activities, assistance for protection and renovation of burial grounds inside/adjacent to the nagar. As per the revised guidelines of the Scheme (G.O.(Ms) No.4/2025/SCSTD dated 16/01/2025), if any village/nagar without the required 25 families is to be included in the programme, it can be operationalised by creating the cluster of minimum 25 families through combining another nagar in the same ward or adjacent wards and preparing estimate for Rs.1.00 crore. If the number of households are below 25 and it is difficult to implement scheme in clusters, scheme should be implemented through preparing DPR by proportionately reducing the cost. Towards this, up to Rs 75.00 lakh can be utilized if the number of families are between 20 to 24 and up to Rs. 50.00 lakh will be utilized if the number of families are between 15 to 19. Hence, the works of nagars with at least 15 SC families are covered under this scheme. Works have been undertaken in 61 nagars in the year 2024-25. The details of the 'Dr.Ambedkar Village Development Scheme' is given in **Appendix 8.2.15**. In 2025-26,

Box No. 8.2.4 Special Package for Addressing Critical Gaps in Basic Amenities (Aiswarya Gramam)

The 'Special Package for Addressing Critical Gaps in Basic Amenities (Aiswarya Gramam)' was introduced to provide assistance for filling the critical gaps in the basic amenities of Scheduled Caste nagars and Scheduled Castes living as scattered families outside nagars. As per the revised guidelines of the scheme (G.O.(Rt) No.899/2025/SCSTDD dated 06/11/2025), the scheme aims to undertake works such as provision of safe drinking water, electricity, waste management, road connectivity, sanitation facilities, internet connectivity, repair of old house/kitchen renovation (as per SAFE scheme guidelines), retaining wall/land protection wall adjacent to houses/nagars and renovation of traditional worship spaces in the Scheduled Caste nagars where 5 to 15 Scheduled Castes families reside.

Source: Scheduled Castes Development Department

the Government of Kerala introduced a new scheme called ‘Special Package for Addressing Critical Gaps in Basic Amenities (Aiswarya Gramam)’ for those Scheduled Caste nagars which are not included in the Dr. Ambedkar Village Development Scheme (**Box 8.2.4.**).

Other Social Development Programmes

Assistance for Marriage

Under this scheme, financial assistance is given to Scheduled Castes families to support the marriage of the girls. In 2024-25, 4,083 Scheduled Castes families were assisted under the scheme and Rs 49.96 crore was spent. In 2025-26, by disbursing Rs 29.79 crore, 2,150 Scheduled Castes families were assisted under the scheme (as of August 31, 2025). The rate of marriage assistance was enhanced from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 in 2016-17. It has been further enhanced to Rs 1,25,000 as per the announcement in the Budget speech of 2021-22. Number of persons benefited from the scheme for the last six years is given in **Figure 8.2.2**. Details of Outlay and expenditure under marriage assistance scheme is provided in **Appendix 8.2.16**.

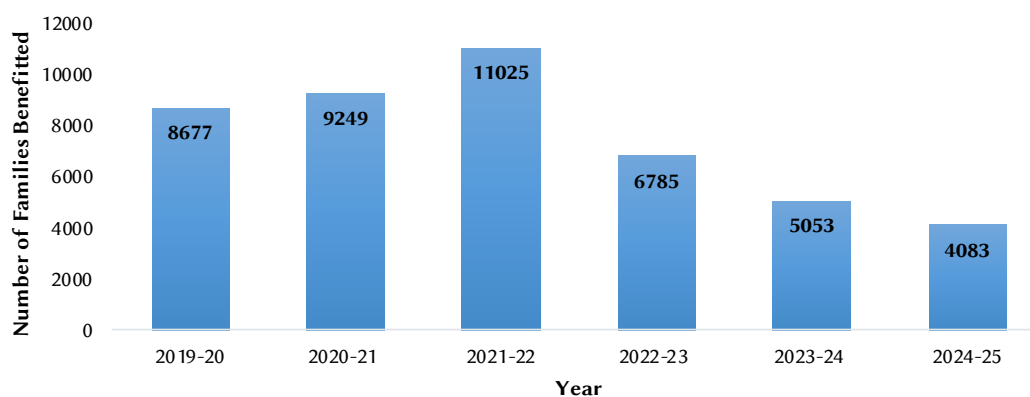
Special Package for Vulnerable Communities

Vedar, Nayadi, Kalladi, Arundhathiar/Chakkiliar are identified as the vulnerable communities among Scheduled Castes and the people of these communities constitute 3.65 per cent of the total Scheduled Castes population in the State. The Government of Kerala is giving utmost priority for the development and well-being of these communities. A separate scheme in Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) for these communities and allocation of sizable resources for the scheme underlines this commitment. Through this Scheme named ‘Development of Vulnerable Communities among SCs’, the Government is helping

them to improve their socio-economic status. As per the revised guidelines (G.O.(Ms.)No.33/2024/SCSTD dated 19/10/2024) of the scheme ‘Development of Vulnerable Communities’, the Government of Kerala provides assistance of Rs. 10 lakh for purchasing minimum 25 cents of agricultural land, Rs. 5 lakh, Rs. 6 lakh and Rs. 7.5 lakh in Grama Panchayat, Municipality and Corporation respectively for purchasing land for house construction, Rs. 6 lakh for house construction, Rs. 2.5 lakh for house renovation, Rs. 3 lakh for the construction of Padanamuri, Rs. 40,000 for toilet construction, Rs. 3 lakh for taking up self-employment initiatives on an individual basis and Rs. 5 lakh for self-employment initiatives which are started as group initiatives. Apart from the individual assistances, the scheme also envisions implementation of ‘Vulnerable Rehabilitation in Nagar levels’ which will take up common works in the various Nagars similar to Dr.Ambedkar Village Development Scheme. In 2024-25, Rs. 51 crore was earmarked for the development activities for the vulnerable communities. Altogether, assistance was provided to 51 beneficiaries for the purchase of agricultural land and 130 families for purchasing land for house construction in 2024-25. Besides this, assistance was provided for the construction of 255 study rooms, 571 houses, and 203 toilets. Additionally, in 2024–2025, 801 families received assistance for home repairs. Year-wise details of beneficiaries received assistance under the ‘Development of Vulnerable Communities among SCs’ scheme for the last ten years are given in **Appendix 8.2.17**

A micro planning programme called HOME (Household Oriented Micro Planning for Empowerment) has been designed for the comprehensive development of the families from the vulnerable communities among Scheduled Castes.

Figure 8.2.2 Number of Families Benefitted under Marriage Assistance Scheme



Source: Scheduled Castes Development Department

HOME is conceptualised and devised as a programme for the socio-economic and educational development of the families belonging to these vulnerable communities. The programme aims to devise and implement social welfare programmes and sustainable income augmenting projects as a permanent solution to the backwardness of these communities. The approach of the initiative is to assess the needs of each family through family based micro planning and to devise plans according to their needs with complete participation of these families. Its implementation is conceptualised in 4 phases, i.e., (1) house visit-data collection of the families of vulnerable communities included in the Extreme Poverty Survey list, (2) preparation of beneficiary list based on deprivation factors, (3) Micro-level plan formulation and (4) plan implementation and evaluation.

Legal services

The Government of Kerala shows its commitment in protecting the Constitutional rights of Scheduled Castes. It strives for the strict implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 by allocating the required resources. Special Courts, Scheduled Castes Protection Cell and Special Police Stations have been formed in the State for the trial of offences and provision of relief and rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities. Inter caste marriage assistance were provided to 812 couples under this scheme in 2024-25. Apart from this, 154 victims of atrocities received compensation grant. Year-wise details of beneficiaries received inter caste marriage assistance for the last six years are given in **Appendix 8.2.18**. As part of the strict implementation of the PoA Act, one legal councilor in each District, one legal advisor and three call centre assistants in State-level were appointed in order to hear atrocity complaints, find solutions for them, take steps for the timely provision of compensation assistance, give the victims necessary legal assistance and create awareness against atrocities.

Corpus Fund for SCSP (Critical Gap Filling)

Scheduled Castes Development Department earmarks a portion of outlay as Corpus fund in the Budget annually to fill critical gaps identified in the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan schemes. Corpus fund is intended to provide funds for addressing any critical gap in the SCSP provision under various schemes, on project basis with emphasis on human resource development, improvement of basic amenities and economic development of the people of Scheduled Castes communities. One third of the

total amount earmarked for the Corpus Fund scheme is allocated to the Districts for implementation. Administrative sanction for projects up to Rs.25 lakh can be accorded at the District-level by District-Level Committee for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, and the projects above Rs. 25 lakh is implemented with the approval of State-Level Working Group. In 2024-25, 87 projects were completed by using Corpus Fund for an amount of Rs.19.09 crore. Road works, drinking water schemes, cultural centres and side protections for Scheduled Castes houses are the major works undertaken under 'Corpus fund'. Outlay and expenditure under the scheme from 2019-20 to 2025-26 (as on September 27, 2025) is given in **Appendix 8.2.19**.

HOME Survey

Home Survey, a flagship initiative of the Scheduled Castes Development Department, is designed to conduct a comprehensive and accurate data collection of Scheduled Castes population in Kerala. The main objective of the survey is to gather reliable and accurate data on the demographic, socio economic and cultural profile of Scheduled Castes population as the planning and implementation of programmes for their development and welfare needs to be based on accurate data. The survey enabled through digital platform makes it possible to understand the real need of the people, to collect data on various aspects of their life and to update them in a very fast and time bound manner. The HOME Survey data collection was officially inaugurated on March 5, 2024. The survey is in its final stage and as on November 05, 2025, data collection of 5,74,258 Scheduled Castes households has been completed.

Central Assistance to Scheduled Castes Sub Plan in Kerala

Government of India has provided Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) to the States for undertaking mainly economic development programmes for the people of Scheduled Castes. It has helped the State Governments to fill the gaps that are not met from the Central, State and Local Government Plans. In 2022-23, by merging SCA to SCSP with other two Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) and Babu Jagajivanram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY), a new Central Scheme called Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PMAJAY) was formed. The new scheme aims to (a) reduce poverty of the Scheduled Castes communities by generating additional employment opportunities through skill development,

income generating schemes and other initiatives, (b) improve socio-economic developmental indicators by ensuring adequate infrastructure and requisite services in the Scheduled Castes dominated villages and (c) increase literacy and encourage enrolment of Scheduled Castes in schools and higher educational institutions by providing adequate residential facilities in quality institutions, as well as residential schools where required, especially in the aspirational Districts/Scheduled Castes dominated blocks and elsewhere in India. The Central Government supports the State in the implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. However, in recent years, Central Government is reducing its support for various scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes by changing the funding pattern of major schemes such as 'Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes Students', 'Pre-Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes Students Studying in Classes IX and X' and 'Pre-Matric Scholarships to the Children of those Engaged in Occupations Involving Cleaning and Prone to Health Hazards' from 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored schemes to 60 per cent Centrally Sponsored schemes for which 40 per cent of the cost has to be borne by the State Government. The Central Government earlier provided a portion of the share capital assistance to the Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Ltd through the Union Budget. However, following the discontinuation of the scheme 'Assistance for State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations', the State Government is now solely responsible for providing this assistance.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

The development of Scheduled Tribes in Kerala stands as a core pillar of the state's social and economic vision. Kerala's tribal development strategy is driven by a firm commitment in reducing deep-rooted inequalities and ensuring that tribal communities have full access to quality education, modern healthcare, dignified employment, and sustainable livelihood options. Flagship interventions, such as the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and focused programmes for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), underscore the state's commitment to resolving and empowering every tribal household and community.

By strengthening institutional support, preserving cultural identity, and expanding opportunities for skill

development and entrepreneurship, Kerala strives to eliminate systemic barriers and foster genuine inclusion. The government's approach champions a development model that values traditional wisdom alongside modern progress, ensuring that Scheduled Tribes are not merely beneficiaries but active partners in the state's growth story. This holistic and rights-driven framework reaffirms Kerala's dedication to social justice, economic equity, and a future where no tribal community is left behind.

Kerala is home to 37 Scheduled Tribes communities, accounting for 1.45% of the state's population (Census 2011). According to the latest Scheduled Tribes survey conducted by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, the total Scheduled Tribes population of 488,386, residing across 147,868 families, is spread across 6,578 unnathis. The largest concentration of the tribal population is in Wayanad (34 per cent) and Kasargod (17 per cent) Districts. Among these 37 communities, five are identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): Kadar, Kurumba, Kattunaikan, Koraga, and Cholanaikan. The distribution of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the State is detailed in **Appendix 8.2.20**

The State has consistently earmarked resources for the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) at levels exceeding the Scheduled Tribes' population share of 1.45 per cent. Since 2017, TSP allocations have remained stable at 2.83 per cent of the State Plan outlay.

The key sources of funding for Scheduled Tribes development include:

- (i) State Plan allocations,
- (ii) TSP components of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), and
- (iii) Grants provided under Article 275(1) of the Constitution.

During 2024–25, a total of Rs 859.50 crore was earmarked for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. Of this, Rs 657.95 crore was allocated to the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, and Rs 201.55 crore to Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs). Expenditure from this allocation amounted to Rs 460.88 crore by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department and Rs 145.69 crore by LSGIs.

For 2025–26, the total State Plan provision for Scheduled Tribes development stands at Rs 920 crore. Of this, Rs 704.26 crore (76.55 per cent) has been earmarked for the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, while Rs 215.74 crore (23.45 per cent)

has been provided as grant-in-aid to Local Self Government Institutions.

The outlay and Expenditure of the State Plan and the Central share from 2017-18 to 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 8.2.21**. Details of financial and physical achievements of schemes implemented by the Department in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on August 31, 2025) is given in **Appendix 8.2.22** and in **Appendix 8.2.23**.

Major developmental programmes undertaken for the welfare of the people of Scheduled Tribes are given below.

Land

The Tribal Resettlement and Development Mission (TRDM), established in 2001, is focuses on providing land to landless tribal populations and facilitating the holistic development of resettlement areas. The key activities encompass land distribution via the land bank scheme, allocation of vested forest land and enforcement of the Forest Rights Act. According to the latest TRDM data, 6,242 Scheduled Tribe families across the State remain landless. District-wise details on landless families for the year 2025-26 (as of August 31) is provided in **Appendix 8.2.24**.

Major achievements under the scheme in 2024-25 are outlined below.

- During 2024-25, TRDM distributed 187.62 acres of land to 191 tribal families.
- Under the Land Bank scheme, a total of 5.81 acres of land were distributed to 19 families in Kasaragod District.
- Under the Forest Rights Act, 181.81 acres of land were distributed to 172 tribal families of Attappady and Wayanad District. Of this, 173.57 acres were granted to 60 beneficiaries in Attappady, and 8.24 acres to 112 beneficiaries in Wayanad District. Out of the total land distributed under FRA, 95.46% of land were distributed to Attappady.

Major achievements under the scheme in 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025) are outlined below

- As part of the efforts for providing land to the remaining landless tribal families, a total of 107.46 acres of land was distributed to 243 families during 2025-26.
- Additionally, under the Land Bank scheme, a total of 2.34 acres of land were distributed to 20 tribal families in Wayanad District.
- Moreover, 105.12 acres of land was distributed

to 223 families under Forest Right Act in Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur District.

Details of land distribution from 2019-20 to 2025-26 are given in **Appendix 8.2.25**. District-wise details of land distribution to Scheduled Tribes under various schemes are given in **Appendix 8.2.26**. Year-wise details of outlay and expenditure under TRDM is given in **Appendix 8.2.27**

Other Major Development activities in rehabilitated areas

In 2024-25, an amount of Rs 1.23 crore has been spent for the purchase of land in Wayanad District under the Land Bank scheme. An amount of Rs 6.13 crore has been sanctioned for the house construction project implemented by the Tribal Resettlement and Development Mission in Tribal Resettlement Areas. As part of this project, construction of 103 houses has been completed, and construction work of 1025 houses is progressing in various stages. An amount of Rs 14.66 lakh has been sanctioned for land surveys across various Districts, while an amount of Rs 9.98 lakh has been sanctioned for electrification in Wayanad Districts. Additionally, an amount of Rs 21.75 lakh and Rs 7.02 lakh has been sanctioned for drinking water supply projects in Wayanad and Kannur Districts, respectively. An amount of Rs 34.36 lakh has been sanctioned for providing breakfast to the children studying in Government Higher Secondary School at Aralam in Kannur District. Furthermore, an amount of Rs 1.64 crore has been sanctioned to Aralam Farming Corporation Ltd. for repayment of loan amount of employees.

In 2025-26 (up to August 31, 2025), an amount of Rs 96.17 lakh has been spent for the purchase of land in Wayanad District under the Land Bank scheme. Additionally, Rs 4.69 crore has been sanctioned for the house construction project implemented by the TRDM in tribal resettlement areas (44 houses have been completed and construction of 957 houses is progressing in various stages), Rs 13.76 lakh has been sanctioned for land survey in various Districts, Rs 13.02 lakh has been sanctioned for soil conservation in Kottayam District, Rs 11.96 lakh has been sanctioned for providing breakfast to the children studying in Government Higher Secondary School at Aralam in Kannur District and Rs 83.00 lakh and Rs 10.00 lakh has been sanctioned for a drinking water project in Kozhikode and Wayanad Districts, respectively.

An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore has been allotted in 2025-26 under Wayanad Development Package for compensating the workers of Mariyanadu estate to resolve the long pending issue of land distribution to over 2000 Scheduled Tribes.

Housing

The Government of Kerala has given top priority to providing housing for the people of the Scheduled Tribes communities. The Scheduled Tribes Development Department also provides schemes for housing

LIFE Mission has emerged as a transformative force in strengthening housing security for Scheduled Tribe communities since 2017–18, backed by support from Local Self-Governments and the Prime Minister's Awaas Yojana. In Phase I, the Mission ensured dignity for tribal families by completing 17,400 previously unfinished houses.

Addressing the needs of homeless tribal families with land under Phase II, the Mission successfully completed 17,127 houses, while an additional 7,304 houses were delivered through the additional list. The LIFE 2020 + EPEP initiative further intensified this progress by completing 3,204 more houses, substantially reducing housing vulnerability among tribal communities.

In Phase III, focusing on the most marginalised tribal households who are both homeless and landless, 630 houses were completed, complemented by 280 houses from the additional list and 31 more under LIFE 2020 + EPEP.

Through consistent commitment, timely interventions, and converged funding support, LIFE Mission has enabled 45,976 Scheduled Tribe families to own safe and secure homes, marking a significant stride toward inclusive and equitable development of the state. Furthermore, 7,298 houses are currently under construction, underscoring the Mission's unwavering commitment to providing secure housing for every tribal family.

The Department has also initiated measures to renovate dilapidated houses in Scheduled Tribes Unnathies and to complete partially constructed houses through the SAFE (Secure Accommodation and Facility Enhancement) programme. As per Government guidelines, eligibility for SAFE includes households whose dwellings were completed after

April 1, 2006, who have not availed any Government support for house renovation or completion after April 1, 2018, and whose annual family income is below Rs 2.5 lakh. An assistance of Rs 2.5 lakh per house is provided based on approved estimates. Priority is accorded to households affected by floods, families identified in the Extreme Poverty Survey 2021–22, and those listed through the e-survey undertaken for micro-plan preparation. For the financial year 2025-26 (as of August 31), it is targeted to renovate/complete 3,450 houses and agreement execution procedures with beneficiaries are underway.

During 2024-25, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department incurred an expenditure of Rs 5,244.62 lakh for various housing programmes, benefiting 3,576 families. As on 31 August 2025, an amount of Rs 2,917.85 lakh had been spent during 2025-26, providing housing assistance to 3,450 families.

District-wise details of the house construction under the LIFE Mission are given in **Appendix 8.2.28**. Details of phase-wise house construction for the Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries under LIFE Mission are given in **Appendix 8.2.29**. The outlay and expenditure of the Department's housing scheme, along with the year-wise number of beneficiaries from 2019-20 to 2025-26 (as on August 31, 2025), initiated prior to the inception of LIFE Mission, including the latest SAFE Scheme, is given in **Appendix 8.2.30**.

Electrification in Unnathies

As part of the total electrification drive for tribal Unnathies initiated in 2017–18, Kerala aims to achieve 100 per cent electrification across all Unnathies. Out of the total 6,578 Unnathies, 6,523 have already been electrified; all Unnathies across the ten districts have attained complete electrification. Currently, the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) is in the final phase of its electrification drive, and Unnathies located in areas inaccessible to KSEB infrastructure are being electrified through renewable energy solutions implemented by Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (ANERT). The district-wise status of electrified Unnathies is presented in **Appendix 8.2.31**.

Educational Programmes

The Kerala Government envisions a transformative education ecosystem that addresses inequalities and enables every ST student to participate fully in the emerging knowledge economy. Anchored in principles of equity and sustainability, the State seeks

to nurture a culturally rooted, socially responsible and economically self-reliant generation by ensuring universal access to quality education from early childhood through higher education along with strengthened ICT integration, skill development and entrepreneurship promotion.

Major achievements in the education sector in 2024-25 are given below.

- As part of 'Ayyankali Memorial Talent Search and Development Scheme' 557 talented tribal students received assistance in 2024-25, and in 2025-26, up to 31 August 2025, 621 students received assistance.
- In 2024-25, 7557 students availed pre-matric scholarships and 14,438 students availed post-matric scholarships. During 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025), 9,293 students were provided with pre-matric scholarship, and 10,934 students were provided with post-matric scholarship.
- A total of 2,320 brilliant students were awarded special incentives in 2024-25, while 1,647 students were awarded these incentives during 2025-26, as on 31 August 2025.
- Scholarships for studying abroad and outside the state were given to 56 students during 2024-25 and 75 students during 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025).
- In 2024-25, special assistance was provided to 420 orphaned children. During 2025-26, up to August 2025, a total of 343 orphans received this support.
- Laptops were distributed to 202 students in 2024-25 and 217 students in 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025).
- The Scheduled Tribes Development Department provided special educational assistance such as lump sum grants, stipends and pocket money for about 1,26,903 ST students in 2024-25 and about 1,01,912 ST students during 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025).
- Civil Service Coaching: The scheme aims to empower Scheduled Tribe youth aspiring for civil services by facilitating coaching at recognised centres across India. So far, two batches have completed training (2022-23 and 2023-24), with 30 students in each batch. During 2024-25, 29 ST youth were enrolled for training at various institutions. Notably, one student from the 2023-24 batch has cleared the UPSC preliminaries and is now preparing for the mains examination. Following the completion of their civil service coaching, most students have continued their studies, while eight have secured placements in various positions, including Overseer, Police, Clerk, Teacher, Senior Assistant Prisoner, Junior Assistant at KSFE, among others. 12 students have been enlisted in different PSC rank lists for positions such as Panchayat Secretary, Assistant Geologist, HSA, Clerk, Teacher, and Police. The department maintains contact with all participants, providing ongoing guidance and motivation, recognising that success in such examinations often requires two to three attempts.
- Community Study centres in tribal hamlets (Samuhya Padanamuri): To enhance the educational outcomes of tribal children, 343 Community Study Centres (Samuhya Padanamuri) have been established across various unnathies. These centres provide tuition and e-learning

Box 8.2.5 Smart Study Room

In connection with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, as part of formulating new schemes with special emphasis on the education sector, the government has decided to allocate "Smart Study Room" with modern facilities as part of individual benefits in addition to the social study rooms currently being implemented by the department. This scheme is designed to provide Scheduled Tribe students with the necessary infrastructure to support their academic pursuits and bridge the educational gap. Under this programme, a maximum of Rs 2.50 lakh is allocated for constructing a smart study room with modern facilities adjacent to the residence of Scheduled Tribe students studying in classes VIII to XII in Government, Aided, Special Technical Schools, and Kendriya Vidyalayas. A total of 1000 beneficiaries will be considered for the current financial year. Priority will be given to students from Adiya, Paniya, and other PVTG communities, as well as to households with limited living space, families with more than one girl student, families with a terminally ill or bedridden parent or sibling, and students demonstrating strong academic performance in the previous year.

Source: Scheduled Tribes Development Department, GoK

Box 8.2.6 The THRIVE Project (Tribal Higher Education and Interactive Ventures for Excellence)

The THRIVE Project (Tribal Higher Education and Interactive Ventures for Excellence) is an ambitious initiative launched in 2024 aimed at bridging the educational and aspiration gaps among Model Residential School students in Kerala. Launched as a joint effort by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD), Directorate of Samoohika Sannadhasena (DSS), and Kerala Youth Leadership Academy (KYLA), the project focuses on academic engagement, leadership development, real-world exposure, and volunteer-driven mentorship. Implemented in 19 Model Residential Schools (MRSs), the THRIVE Project has made a significant impact on the educational landscape for tribal students in Kerala. A diverse group of approximately 72 colleges partnered with the project, contributing to a robust volunteer base. In total, nearly 900 dedicated volunteers from these colleges engaged with the students, delivering structured sessions every Saturday. These sessions encompassed interactive learning modules on soft skills, language, arithmetic, general awareness, and leadership, designed to bridge educational and aspirational gaps. As a result, thousands of tribal students have directly benefited from the program, with an estimated 1,360 beneficiaries statewide. The programme is built on four pillars: focusing on academic aspirations, strengthening the volunteer's capacity, creating a shared vision and motivation for change and drive accountability.

Source: Scheduled Tribes Development Department, GoK

facilities, help reduce dropout rates, improve school retention, and elevate the overall quality of education for tribal students. Additionally, the centres serve as hubs for digitally connected tribal hamlets wherever necessary, addressing the digital divide among Scheduled Tribes.

- The Bharatdarshan Study Tour Program is organized for Scheduled Tribe students in the State who have achieved high marks in the SSLC examination and belong to the PVTGs. The program provides these students, including those from PVTG communities, with the opportunity for exposure to visit significant places across India, thereby enhancing their awareness of the country and its diverse cultures.

Details of Educational Concessions distributed by Scheduled Tribes Development Department from 2019-20 onwards 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on as on 31 August, 2025) are given in Appendix 8.2.32. Details of Educational institutions run by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department is given in **Appendix 8.2.33**.

Health programmes

The Scheduled Tribes Development Department has implemented a range of health initiatives aimed at improving healthcare access and outcomes for tribal communities. Major programmes include the Comprehensive Tribal Health Programme, financial assistance for patients with sickle cell anaemia, and Janani Janmraksha, which addresses the nutritional needs of pregnant women and adolescents. Support is also provided to traditional tribal healers, and

Mobile Medical Clinics are operated to deliver healthcare services in remote and inaccessible areas. The Kaithang Scheme offers care and protection for orphaned tribal children, while KATADI (Kerala Accelerated Tribal Ability Development and Inclusion Initiative) supplies assistive devices—such as wheelchairs and hearing aids to differently-abled members of Scheduled Tribe communities.

Another key initiative, Oorinte Tharattu, focuses on reducing infant mortality among Scheduled Tribes in Attappady. The project forms adolescent groups to create awareness on pregnancy and lactation, provides neonatal kits to pregnant women, and offers training in essential childcare practices. The initiative aims to strengthen knowledge on neonatal care and thereby reduce infant mortality rates in tribal Unnathies. The Oorumithram ASHA Programme is a special initiative by the Government of Kerala to improve the health status of the tribal population by selecting and training educated women from within the tribal communities to serve as Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs). The program is implemented through Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD) in collaboration with the National Health Mission (NHM). The assistance provided in health sector in 2024-25 is detailed in **Box 8.2.7**.

In 2024-25, out of the budgeted amount of Rs32.00 crore for the Comprehensive Tribal Health Care scheme, an amount of Rs31.53 crore was spent on health programmes. As of August 31, 2025, Rs8.08 crore had been spent under the healthcare scheme for the period 2025 -26. Details of outlay, expenditure

Box No.8.2.7 Assistance provided in Health sector in 2024-25

- Monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,500 was provided to 930 sickle cell anemia patients.
- About 3,555 medical camps were arranged through mobile medical clinics for ensuring health Services to tribals at their door steps.
- Monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,000 was provided to 6,747 pregnant women and lactating mothers under the Janani Janmaraksha scheme.
- An annual grant was given to 930 tribal healers under the scheme 'Financial Assistance to Traditional Tribal Healers
- The Comprehensive Tribal Health Care Programme has had 24680 beneficiaries in 2024-25.

Source: Scheduled Tribes Development Department, GoK

and physical achievements under the health sector are shown in **Appendix 8.2.34**. Major Health institutions run by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department are given in **Appendix 8.2.35**.

Skill development, Employment and Livelihood programme

In an effort to reduce unemployment among Scheduled Tribes youth, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department has introduced a range of career guidance initiatives and skill-development programmes. These interventions have resulted in the successful placement of trained Scheduled Tribes candidates in both Government and private sectors, including employment opportunities with multinational firms overseas.

In 2024–25, a total of 8 skill-training courses were conducted, attended by 260 participants. Out of these, 200 individuals secured placements within India.

A total of Rs 310.65 lakh has been approved during the financial year 2025-26 for six skill development courses-Diploma in Multi-Skilled Tourism/Hospitality Executive, Post Graduate Diploma in Tourism and Hospitality Management, Diploma in Food and Beverage Service, Diploma in Food Production, Armed Forces Pre-Recruitment Training (Men Level), and Solar Panel Installation Technician. These programmes are expected to benefit 210 Scheduled Tribe youth.

The details of skill trainings conducted and placement achieved are given in **Appendix 8.2.36**.

The Training for Career Excellence (TRACE) programme provides young people from Scheduled Tribes with a distinctive pathway to improve their employability through structured job training, skill

development, and up to two years of work experience in Government Departments. The initiative has facilitated successful placements across multiple departments, offering participants practical exposure and professional competence. By strengthening the work readiness of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, TRACE has contributed meaningfully to their economic empowerment and broader social inclusion.

The 'WINGS' programme provides pilot-training scholarships that help Scheduled Tribes students from Kerala to access employment opportunities in international airports and related aviation sectors nationwide. The initiative has also achieved a significant milestone by training the State's first Scheduled Tribes cabin-crew professional.

The JWALA (Justice, Welfare and Legal Assistance) programme has played a pivotal role in offering hands-on legal training to law graduates from Scheduled Tribes, underscoring the Government's commitment to strengthening legal capacity within these communities. Through this initiative, a number of Scheduled Tribes law graduates have been placed in three-year internships at leading legal institutions, each supported by a monthly honorarium of Rs 18,000.

Special Package for Addressing Critical Gaps in Basic Amenities of Scheduled Tribe Unnathies

Food security and nutritional development programmes

To address malnutrition and poverty among Scheduled Tribes communities, the Government has implemented a range of food security initiatives. These measures include the distribution of food grains during the monsoon season, establishment of community kitchens for vulnerable groups, and

Box No.8.2.8 The Livelihood Mission for Tribal Unnathies and Special Package for Addressing Critical Gaps in Basic Amenities of Scheduled Tribe Unnathies

MLivelihood Mission for Tribal Unnathies

The newly introduced scheme, Livelihood Mission for Tribal Unnathies, is designed to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for Scheduled Tribe families in Kerala, with the objective of enhancing household income and promoting comprehensive human development through improved support systems. The scheme seeks to strengthen the financial security of selected families and villages by identifying and supporting a range of livelihood activities capable of generating stable and sustainable income for Scheduled Tribe communities across the state.

Special Package for Addressing Critical Gaps in Basic Amenities of Scheduled Tribe Unnathies

The new scheme is designed to provide essential infrastructure in Scheduled Tribe areas and to promote the overall welfare of Scheduled Tribes through inclusive development. Its focus is on ensuring access to drinking water, electricity connections, all-weather roads, childcare facilities such as Anganwadis and crèches, crematoriums and sanitation amenities in ST areas that are not covered under the Ambedkar Settlement Development Scheme and still require support for development initiatives.

Source: Scheduled Tribes Development Department, GoK

the implementation of various agricultural projects. Targeted programmes, such as the millet village initiative and the nutrition sufficiency program in Attappady, specifically focus on improving nutritional outcomes. In addition, food kits containing essential items have been provided to tribals over the age of 60 to further enhance their nutritional status. The innovative 'Haritha Rashmi' project in Idukki and Wayanad is designed to strengthen food security and nutrition within these tribal regions.

Haritharashmi

The Haritharashmi project, launched by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department in collaboration with the Centre for Management Development (CMD), seeks to promote sustainable agriculture among Scheduled Tribes on underutilized land in Idukki and Wayanad. The initiative benefits 4,113 individuals across 376 tribal unnathies and 163 farmer groups, offering awareness programmes, hands-on training, and continuous support, including seed distribution and market linkages. Key features of the project include diverse crop cultivation, organic markets, harvest festivals, and community markets. Initiatives such as organic markets during Onam and Vishu, along with the cultivation of specialty crops like golden cucumber and Chendu malli, have enhanced tribal incomes and reduced reliance on intermediaries. The project's decentralized, need-based approach has significantly strengthened the livelihoods and economic self-reliance of participating communities.

Millet Village Programme

The Millet Village programme, launched in 2017, aims to combat nutritional deficiencies among tribal communities in Attappady by promoting the cultivation and consumption of millets, a traditional staple. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Tribal Development, with an allocated budget of Rs 7.41 crore. Traditionally, all tribal groups in Attappady grew and consumed millets, but prior to the programme, cultivation had largely declined, persisting only among a few Kurumba unnathies. Since its launch, the programme has successfully revived millet cultivation in 96 tribal settlements, including the Irula, Muduga, and Kurumba tribes, thereby reintegrating millets into the daily diet of these communities.

Community Kitchen: Community kitchens were established to ensure access to nutritious food and are currently operating in 192 tribal villages across the Agali, Sholayar, and Puthur panchayats in the Attappadi block of Palakkad district. The beneficiaries include pregnant women, lactating mothers, children aged six months to 12 years, adolescents, individuals with mental or physical disabilities, bedridden patients, senior citizens, and widows. For the year 2025–26, an amount of Rs 272.88 lakh has been sanctioned to meet the expense of the programme.

Kerala Tribal Plus under MGNREGS

The Kerala Tribal Plus Scheme is a state-funded initiative implemented in 2017–18, providing eligible

tribal families in Kerala an additional 100 days of guaranteed employment upon completion of their 100 days of work under the MGNREGS. Kerala has emerged as a pioneering state in rural development, extending 200 days of wage employment to tribal households, thereby surpassing the national average. The scheme places an emphasis on infrastructure development within tribal regions, with key interventions in road construction, creating livelihood assets and land development.

By substantially increasing wage employment days and prioritizing the needs of marginalized Scheduled Tribe communities, Kerala has established a national benchmark in rural development and social welfare. This initiative reflects the State's commitment to inclusive growth and has contributed significantly to eradicating extreme poverty.

In the Financial Year 2024-25, a total of 12,41,429 person-days have been generated with the participation of 34,843 Scheduled Tribes families of which 3,513 families has completed 200 days, and an amount of Rs 41.54 crore has been spent.

The progress attained under the Kerala Tribal Plus Scheme from 2019-20 to 2024-25 (as on August 2025) is given in **Appendix 8.2.37** and the District-wise progress of the Tribal Plus scheme in the year 2024-25 is given in **Appendix 8.2.38**.

Scheduled Tribes and Kudumbashree

Kudumbashree's tribal interventions have made significant strides in enhancing community development and education among tribal populations. Tribal interventions of Kudumbashree covered a 98% inclusion of members in its NHG folders. Every programme reaches hamlets through community resource persons, who are known as animators. The primary objective of the tribal intervention schemes undertaken by Kudumbashree is to establish a stable platform for implementing development activities among tribal communities. The main strategy used is a continuous capacity-building programme at the hamlet level. Every programme reaches hamlets through the community resource persons with the support of the Community Development Society (CDS). Kudumbashree CDS and animators took the initiative to strengthen tribal NHGs. Here are the key highlights of their initiatives.

Achievements of 2024-25

- About 111 Self-reliant neighbourhood groups (NHGs) were identified and provided revolving

fund to 64 NHGs. All tribal NHGs capacitated in Pancha Sutra for these interventions and expended Rs 9.43 lakhs out of a total budget of Rs 15 lakhs.

- Started 316 goat rearing units and 167 backyard poultry units. Formed 122 new tribal member Joint Liability Groups (JLG) for farming activities. For these interventions, an amount of Rs . 72.48 lakhs was expended.
- Started new micro enterprises by the tribal families as 28 group units and 80 individual units, with their products marketed through Kudumbashree Bazaar.
- A total of 94 tribal JLGs received support through a corpus fund distribution of Rs 4,000 each.
- Bridge course for tribal school going students continued at 191 centres and 4016 students benefited for regular tuition program at Hamlets.
- 20 tribal NHGs supported corpus funds for their start-up activities. An amount of Rs . 15000 provided each tribal NHGs.
- 17 Tribal youth clubs were newly started. Sports-related support was also ensured for the existing youth clubs.
- As a result of the special interventions, 298 exclusive PVTG NHGs were formed and ensured the coverage of 4,115 families in Palakkad, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kasaragod and Thrissur District.
- As of now, there are 6,741 Kudumbashree neighbourhood groups operating in scheduled tribe Unnathies, comprising 95,507 members across 14 districts. Among these groups, 6,069 are exclusively formed by women belonging to Scheduled Tribes.
- Out of the 6,741 neighbourhood groups in 14 Districts, 2779 neighbourhood groups are currently bank-linked, which accounts for 41.23 per cent of the total neighbourhood groups in the neighbourhoods. Kudumbashree has been able to provide a total loan of Rs 253.49 crore to these groups.
- As part of the efforts to promote livelihood development, Kudumbashree has set up 478 production units across 14 districts and provided financial assistance amounting to Rs 1.96 crore. Kasaragod district has the highest number of operational units at 187, while Malappuram records the lowest, with 1 units.

Achievements of 2025-26 (till 31st Aug 2025)

- In the tribal sector, 57 new NHGs were formed, bringing 646 families into the CBO system.

Additionally, 51 new Balasabhas included 768 tribal children, while 26 Tribal Youth Clubs mobilized 408 youth. Twenty-five new tribal NHGs received comprehensive training on Panchasutra and related development programmes.

- Under livelihood interventions, 48 new tribal JLGs were made functional. 225 tribal families were engaged in farming. Out of this, Onam-based vegetable cultivation and flower cultivation, among others, were the main crops during this period.
- A total of 15 general orientation trainings and 2 Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) were conducted statewide, with tribal families participating in ongoing skill training programmes. Additionally, 73 individual and 13 group non-farm livelihood interventions are ready for implementation.

Major Projects/Programmes Completed

- *Bridge course*: A total of 270 bridge courses were started in the tribal hamlet for the regular educational support to the tribal students. Through this 3424 tribal children were supported.
- *K -TIC- Kudumbashree Tribal Enterprises and Innovation Centre* is an initiative for the development of innovative enterprises among tribal youths. Under K-TIC, 84 DPRs were submitted, with 2 units already operational; the rest will start after receiving approved subsidies.
- *Communicore* – a new initiative in the tribal sector to educate the English language in a special project area, focusing on PVTG students. 497 tribal students are being associated with these interventions.
- *Jana Galasa*- An initiative for tribal cultural art form development and cultural livelihood promotion team development was launched during this period.
- *COMPASS*- career guidance programme for Tribal Youth: Conducted 13 career guidance programmes across the state.
- *The 'DHRUVA'* project, jointly organised by Kudumbashree and HLL Lifecare for children in Thirunelly and Noolpuzha panchayats of Wayanad, aimed to build adolescents' confidence and life skills, fostering educational thinking, sports resilience, self-confidence, and a sense of purpose through life skills development.
- *The Kanas Jaga* is a flagship Kerala Government initiative implemented by Kudumbashree that promotes the holistic development and empowerment of tribal children by providing structured platforms for learning, creativity, and

leadership, while enhancing their awareness of social, cultural, environmental, and rights-based issues, thereby reflecting the Government's commitment to inclusive and child-centric development.

- As part of the project, tribal children produced 102 short films showcased at a state-level festival with 3000+ participants, earning a Talent World Record for the most films produced and screened by indigenous children simultaneously.

Detailed District-wise information regarding Kudumbashree neighbourhood groups operating in Scheduled Tribe areas is provided in the Appendix 8.2.39, and the District-wise details of Kudumbashree neighbourhood groups linked to banks in Scheduled Tribes areas are given in Appendix 8.2.40. The District-wise details of Kudumbashree units promoting livelihood are given in Appendix 8.2.41

Social Development programmes

Social security programmes for Scheduled Tribes are designed to address the distinct socio-economic challenges faced by these communities through a range of targeted interventions. These include marriage assistance, financial support, and specialised development packages for vulnerable groups such as the Adiyas, Paniyas and other Primitive Tribal Groups. Central initiatives—such as family and unnathi-based micro-plans and the Ambedkar Village Development Scheme play a critical role in strengthening infrastructure, improving livelihood opportunities and enhancing the overall quality of life in tribal areas.

Major physical achievements under social development schemes are given below.

- Marriage assistance was provided to 330 Scheduled Tribes families at the rate of Rs 1.50 lakh. during 2024-25.
- Under the Ambedkar Settlement Development Scheme, infrastructure development activities have been completed in 77 out of the 94 unnathies selected in 2017–18, and in 4 out of the 62 unnathies selected in 2021–22. Of the 76 unnathies identified in 2022–23, project are currently in progress. Under the programme 29 unnathies were selected for 2024–25 and 34 unnathies were selected in 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025).
- Assistance was provided to 185 beneficiaries in 2025-26 (as on 31 August 2025) under the Plan scheme for the Special Program for Adiyas, Paniyas, PVTGs, and Tribes living in forests.

- **Microplan** – A community-based empowerment strategy, the Micro Plan, serves as a roadmap for the development and maintenance of tribal unnathies. Kerala has 6,578 tribal unnathies, and a Micro Plan is prepared for each one based on its specific needs. As part of project implementation, data collection was carried out in 54 nagars during 2023–24.
- **Edamalakudi special package** – Under the Edamalakudi Special Package, Rs 13.70 crore was allocated for the construction of the 7.2 km Pettymudi–Idaliparakkudi road, of which 4.5 km has been completed. In addition, comprehensive basic infrastructure development is in progress in Edamalakudi, including the provision of drinking water, electricity, internet connectivity, additional road networks, and related facilities.

Major Farms under Scheduled Tribes Development Department

Aralam Farm

Established in 1970 as a Central State Farm spanning 7,000 acres in Kannur, Aralam Farm has played a significant role in promoting tribal welfare and agriculture. Half of the land was allotted to 3,500 landless Scheduled Tribes families, while the remainder continues to support farming activities. Currently, the Scheduled Tribes Development Department is running a project aimed at assisting 3,000 tribal families through various agricultural programmes.

Attappady Co-operative Farming Society

The Attappady Co-operative Farming Society was established in 1975 with the primary objective of promoting collective farming on assigned farmland and facilitating marketing operations. The society successfully settled 420 families in around 1092.79 Hectares of land, organising them into a structured farming community comprising four active farms: Chindakki, Karuvara, Pottuppady, and Varadimala. The society currently has 816 registered tribal members from the Irula, Muduka and Kurumba communities. In addition to its agriculture and economic initiatives, the society also runs an educational institution, Attapady Adivasi High School-Chindakki, to provide quality education to tribal communities.

In 2020, Kerala Agricultural University developed a 10-year renovation plan for Attappadi Farm under the Scheduled Tribes Development Department, allocating funds to the Attappadi Co-operative Farming Society (ACFS) for sapling planting, crop

management, fencing, and storage construction, which boosted tribal incomes. During 2025-26, an amount of Rs 292.29 lakh is sanctioned for the rejuvenation of coffee plantation in chindakki, varadimala, karuvara and Pothuppady Farms, rejuvenation of Cardamom Plantation in Varadimala farm and planting of black pepper in Chindakki, Karuvara farms.

Priyadarshini Tea Estate and Priyadarshini Tea Factory

Mananthavady Tribal Plantation Co-operation Ltd., also known as Priyadarshini Tea Estate, was established in 1984 to support bonded tribal communities in Wayanad District. The society has managed the estate for 38 years, overseeing 402.10 acres dedicated to tea cultivation and an additional 593.13 acres used for tea, coffee, and fruit farming. To broaden its scope, the estate has begun marketing Priyadarshini Agro products. The Tribal Development Department has introduced two projects aimed at enhancing employment and livelihoods for estate workers: the first focuses on tea plant infilling, coffee expansion and fruit cultivation, while the second promotes pepper planting and vegetable farming.

Legal Protective Measures: Protection of Civil Rights and Enforcement of Prevention of Atrocities Act.

Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, were enacted. These Acts contain provisions aimed at preventing offences against members of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

During 2024–25, relief funds were provided to approximately 104 victims of atrocities. In the same year, 40 inter-caste couples received assistance. In 2025–26, inter-caste marriage assistance was provided to 17 beneficiaries (as of August 2025). Details of beneficiaries who received marriage assistance and inter-caste marriage assistance from 2019–20 to 2025–26 (as on August 31, 2025) are presented in Appendix 8.2.42.

Corpus Fund for TSP (Critical Gap Filling)

The Scheduled Tribes Development Department allocates a dedicated portion of the Annual Budget to bridge critical gaps identified within the Tribal Sub Plan schemes. For the year 2024–25, an outlay of Rs 40.00 crore was earmarked, of which Rs 27.68 crore was utilized for various departmental projects. The outlay and expenditure details for the period from 2019–20 to 2025–26 (as on August 31, 2025) are presented in **Appendix 8.2.43**.

Kerala Institute for Research Training and Development Studies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KIRTADS)

The Kerala Institute for Research, Training and Development Studies of Scheduled Castes and Tribes (KIRTADS) is a government research institute under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department, functioning as an independent directorate. Established in 1972 as the Tribal Research and Training Centre (TR&TC) and renamed KIRTADS in 1979, the institute focuses on research that supports the development of Scheduled Communities in Kerala. Its key objectives include identifying the needs and challenges of marginalized groups and recommending solutions for their overall development. KIRTADS comprises three main wings—Research, Training, and Development Studies—and also houses a hostel for training programmes, an Ethnological Museum,

an Adikalakendram (a documentation centre for community art forms), and a library.

The scheme-wise outlay and expenditure of KIRTADS is given in **Appendix 8.2.44**. Number of anthropological investigation cases against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Kerala from 2018-19 to 2025-26 conducted by KIRTADS (as on August 31, 2025) is given in **Appendix 8.2.45**.

The Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Ltd

The Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (KSDC for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Limited implements various income generating and other welfare programmes designed to meet the needs

Box 8.2.9 Major Projects/Programmes and studies conducted by KIRTADS in 2024-25.

Major Projects/Programmes:

- National Level Archery Competition.
- As part of the Janjatiya Gaurav Divas celebrations for the year 2024, a Quiz Competition for college students of Kozhikode District.
- A Literature Camp was organized exclusively for tribal writers.
- Workshop for transforming the traditional art forms of Eravalan Community, named Kottumaramas, into a stage performing event.
- Three-Day Workshop for Tribal Healers.
- Three Days Workshop for the Ruling Committee Members of Kerala Mahila Samkhya Society.
- Audio Visual Documentation of the Traditional Ornaments, Dress Code, and Related Oral Literature of the Tribes of Kerala.
- Nerathinka-2024 National Tribal Arts Festival:
- Two-day health education class and medical camp at the sanctuary level.
- Tribal Congress organized by the Development Studies Wing in collaboration with colleges and universities.
- Creating Digital Archives in KIRTADS

Training Programmes :

- Training on Fundamentals of Web for Youths from the Scheduled Tribe Communities.
- Training for youths from Scheduled Tribe Communities in indigenous Food items for their socio-economic security.

Studies :

- An assessment study was conducted regarding the Forest Rights Act. Studies were being conducted to find out how to implement the laws more effectively and creatively.
- Research Study to Identify Tribal Freedom Fighters in Kerala.

Publications

- 'Malavedan Tribal Community's Yesterdays & Today: Literature, Language, Art Forms'
- 'Thachandan Moopan Tribal Community, Life Settings & Socio-Cultural Features'

Source: Directorate of KIRTADS

and aspirations of entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities. Schemes being implemented by the Corporation can be broadly grouped as (i) Sole Lending Scheme (ii) Schemes implemented in association with the National Scheduled Caste Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) and (iii) Schemes implemented by National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC). Income generating and self-employment schemes of the Corporation includes Beneficiary Oriented Schemes, Multi-Purpose Unit Loan, Transport Scheme, Loan to Start up Entrepreneurs, Loan for Rehabilitation of Return Emigrants, Foreign Employment Loan, Micro Credit Finance System, Laghu Vyavasaya Yojana, Loan for Tribal Entrepreneurs, Women Empowerment Programme for SHGs, Mahilasamridhi Yojana, Professional Service Schemes, Land Purchase Scheme for Agricultural Labourers, Working Capital Loan to Petroleum Dealers etc. Education Loan, Foreign Education Loan, Marriage Assistance, Housing loan, Housing Renovation Loan etc. comes under the Social welfare schemes. In 2024-25, the Corporation disbursed an amount of Rs 109.15 crore through the schemes meant for assisting Scheduled Castes and benefited 5,445 people. Altogether, 767 Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries got the assistance through various schemes which disbursed Rs 14.19 crore. In 2025-26, assistance has been given to 2,043 Scheduled Castes and 343 Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries (as of August 31, 2025). Major initiatives of the Corporation in 2024-25 are given below.

Income Generating/Self Employment Schemes

Beneficiary Oriented Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes helps unemployed youth among Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes to start self-employment ventures with a maximum project cost of Rs 3 lakh. Through this scheme, 73 Scheduled Castes and 11 Scheduled Tribes individuals received assistance in 2024-25. The Multi-Purpose Unit Loan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes finances small and medium sized projects for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes entrepreneurs which are viable and require less gestation period. In 2024-25, 22 Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs availed assistance under this scheme. There is a loan scheme for start-up entrepreneurs which funds small and medium sized technology driven projects of young Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs and innovators with investment needs not exceeding Rs 50 lakh at 7 per cent rate of interest. Priority is given for newly graduated students from professional courses. Likewise, there is scheme called Loan for Tribal Entrepreneurs

to help poor Scheduled Tribes youths for starting small projects, including in areas of agriculture, trade etc. This scheme assisted 130 entrepreneurs from Scheduled Tribes communities. Likewise, through Laghu Vyavasaya Yojana, 1,442 Scheduled Castes entrepreneurs received assistance in 2024-25. Through 'Loan for Rehabilitation of Return Emigrants', KSDC for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, extends need based loan subject to a maximum of Rs 20 lakh to those Scheduled Castes-Scheduled Tribes applicants identified by NORKA ROOTS to start viable income generating ventures. NORKA releases 15 per cent of the project cost as capital subsidy.

KSDC for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is implementing Women Empowerment Programme in association with Kudumbashree for the empowerment of rural women through social mobilisation and under this scheme; loan is given to groups of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes women entrepreneurs. In 2024-25, 146 Scheduled Castes and 6 Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries were assisted under this programme. Apart from this, KSDC have Mahila Samridhi Yojana which offers soft loan assistance to Scheduled Castes women entrepreneurs and Adivasi Mahila Sashakthikaran Yojana (NSTFDC) for Scheduled Tribes women. In 2024-25, through Mahila Samridhi Yojana and Adivasi Mahila Sashakthikaran Yojana, assistance has been given to 61 Scheduled Castes and 79 Scheduled Tribes women respectively for their self-employment initiatives.

Social Welfare Schemes

KSDC for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also offers loans and assistances for various social welfare schemes/prospects of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Education Loan for professional courses, Foreign Education Loan up to Rs 10 lakh, Marriage Assistance up to Rs 2.5 lakh, Housing loan, Housing Renovation Loan etc. are few such schemes that assists the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Scheme-wise details of physical and financial achievements of the Corporation in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) are given in **Appendix 8.2.46.**

WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

In Kerala, it is estimated that around 65% of the population falls under the Other Backward Classes

(OBC) category, indicating both their demographic prominence and their central role in the State's inclusive development agenda. Recognising the needs of such socially disadvantaged groups, efforts to improve their welfare in Kerala began even before India's independence, with the former Travancore state initiating measures to uplift vulnerable communities.

Following independence, the state implemented a series of targeted initiatives aimed at addressing the historical disadvantages faced by these communities. The Constitution of India provided a robust legal foundation for these interventions, particularly through Articles 15(4) and 16(4), which permit special provisions and reservation policies for socially and educationally backward classes in education and public employment.

In line with Article 340 of the Constitution and following the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, the Government of Kerala established a dedicated department in November 2011 to focus exclusively on the welfare of socially and educationally backward classes. The Department was established to provide more structured support, comprehensive development programmes and targeted policy interventions for these communities.

Kerala was among the earliest states in the country to implement reservation policies for OBC's in both government employment and educational institutions. These measures have significantly improved the socio-economic position of backward communities in the state, making Kerala's backward class population comparatively better placed than in many other parts of India.

Kerala's OBC list comprises 90 communities, while the State Economically Backwards Classes (SEBC) list identifies 93 groups. Prominent OBC communities in the state include the Ezhavas and several Muslim groups. Other significant communities, such as Latin Catholics, Viswakarmas, Scheduled Castes who have converted to Christianity, Hindu Nadars, SIUC Nadars, and Dheeveras, also form a considerable portion of Kerala's backwards-class population. The Backward Classes Development Department (BCDD) aims to foster inclusive and sustainable social progress for the state's backward communities, with special focus on those who are most disadvantaged. To achieve this, the Backward Class Development Department runs multiple educational support

initiatives, including pre-matric and post-matric scholarships, as well as programmes for employment creation, skill development, and aid for individuals engaged in traditional occupations. The Department has launched several targeted schemes designed to improve the livelihoods of traditional working-class communities, particularly the most vulnerable segments, through focused interventions and development programs.

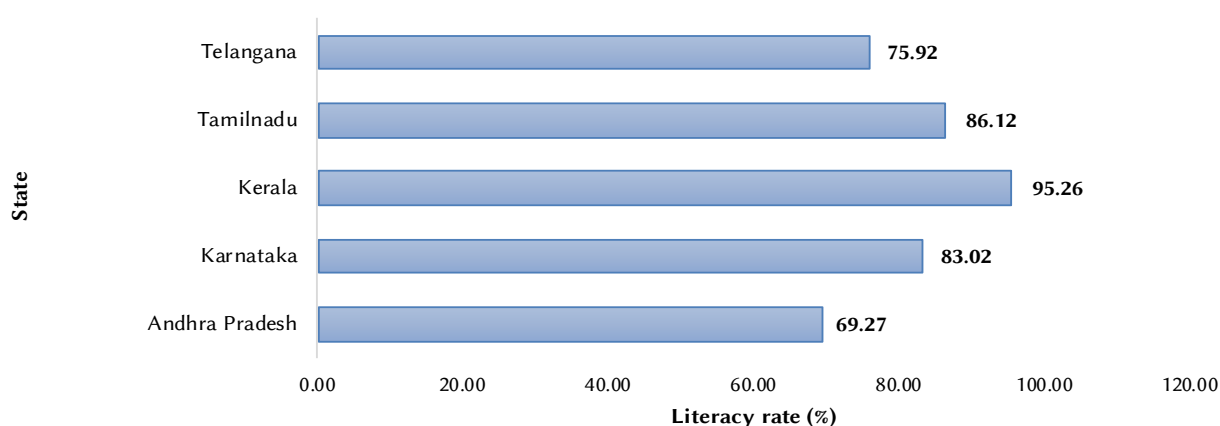
Educational AssistanceAs reported in the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2024, published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the literacy rate among OBCs in Kerala stands at approximately 96 per cent. For a comparative perspective, Figure 8.2.3 presents the literacy rates of OBCs in Kerala alongside its neighbouring states. This strong performance in literacy is supported by a range of educational interventions implemented by the Kerala State Government through various institutions like BCDD. The BCDD offers numerous educational scholarships to OBCs, including overseas scholarships for studies at foreign universities. Pre-matric and post-matric scholarships are provided for OBC as well as OEC students. Currently, students from Other Eligible Communities (OEC) are provided with all the educational assistance as given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, without any income limit.

Major educational interventions for OBC and OEC students in 2024-25 are outlined below.

- Provided pre-matric assistance to 1,61,964 OEC students and post-matric assistance to 1,81,113 OEC students.
- Provided pre-matric scholarship to 38,792 OBC students and post-matric scholarship to 97,904 OBC students.
- Provided Overseas Scholarship to 32 OBC students for higher studies in rated foreign Universities. A maximum amount of Rs. 10.00 lakh per student has been allocated.

Scholarships are also extended to OBC students pursuing studies at national institutions and central universities located outside the state of Kerala. Additionally, financial aid is offered to female students from the OBC category enrolled in medical and allied healthcare programs at government and government-aided colleges through the 'Special Scholarship for Girl Students of OBC who have lost a parent or both' initiative

Figure 8.2.3 Literacy Rates among Other Backward Classes in Kerala and its neighbouring states



Source: Periodic Labour Force Survey (2024)

Schemes for Employment Generation

To enhance employment opportunities for individuals from backward classes, through the 'Employability Enhancement Programme' the department offers financial assistance to students preparing for entrance examinations in fields such as medicine, engineering, civil services, and other competitive tests, including UGC/NET/JRF/GATE/MAT, at leading institutions. The support also enables participants to start their own businesses through the 'Employability Enhancement Programme,' which benefited 1,629 people in the 2024-25 financial year.

Additionally, specialised job-oriented training is offered in sectors like automotive, logistics, travel and tourism, hotel management, total station surveying, and polymer technology as part of the 'Career in the Automobile Industry through Public-Private Partnerships' scheme. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, this initiative aided 585 beneficiaries.

Additionally, to boost the presence of Other Backwards Classes in the Indian judicial system, an advocate grant is given to OBC lawyers for the first three years after they receive their sanad (license to practice).

Many OBC communities are engaged in various trades, including pottery, fishing, weaving, laundry, oil extraction, and hairdressing. Financial support was provided to pottery makers, barbers and skilled artisans in 2024-25, with 79 potters and 72 traditional barbers receiving assistance. The Department also helped craftspeople purchase toolkits to improve their work quality.

Another important programme for the upliftment of OBCs is the 'Kumbhara Nagar Infrastructure Development Programme', which aims to improve living and working conditions in densely populated Kumbhara colonies in Kerala, where traditional pottery groups such as Kumbharan, Kushavan, Kulalan, Odan, and Velaan are located among OBCs. The Kumbhara communities face significant social and economic hardships, with their residential areas frequently lacking basic facilities. To address these urgent issues, a dedicated programme has been initiated to deliver vital amenities, including safe drinking water, electricity, well-maintained roads and footpaths, community centres, libraries and other essential provisions. Furthermore, the initiative aims to upgrade the pottery sector by supplying improved workspaces, installing chimneys and offering transportation support to help artisans reach broader markets.

The first phase of renovations of Kumbhara Nagars has been completed at Kodakara Kumbhara Nagar in Thrissur district. In 2023-24, Kumbhara Nagar in Aruvakode (Nilambur Taluk), and Ward 8, Kumbhara Nagar, under Ponnani Municipality, both located in Malappuram District, were also included in the project. Construction work of both Kumbhara Nagars is currently in progress. For the year 2025-26, a budget of Rs 100.00 lakh has been earmarked for this project.

Furthermore, financial assistance is provided to members of the OBC community working in the auto-taxi sector to help them shift to new-generation electric and CNG vehicles. The scheme offers a subsidy of 20% of the vehicle loan amount, up to a maximum of Rs 1.00 lakh. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, there were 28 beneficiaries for this scheme.

Support is also extended to street vendors, who often struggle with harsh weather conditions. To make their work easier and more secure, vending carts are supplied to help them conduct business more effectively.

Many individuals from OBC are involved in traditional occupations and face strong competition in the market. To address these challenges, Marketing Centres for the products of Traditional Vocational Communities scheme was introduced in 2023–24 to ensure fair prices for their products by resolving marketing constraints.

In addition, traditional craftsmen receive assistance through the Skill Development Training and Tool Kit Grant for Traditional Craftsmen among OBCs, which benefited 552 individuals in 2024–25.

From 2023-24 onwards, the Central Government has withdrawn assistance for pre-metric scholarships for OBC children from classes I to VIII and restricted scholarships to classes IX to X only. In this context, the State government formulated a new scheme, namely, ‘Kedavilakku-Pre-matric Scholarship for OBCs from class Ist to VIIIth standard’, with an allocation of Rs. 1500.00 lakh in 2024-25 to continue providing scholarships to OBC students from class Ist to VIIIth standard. In 2024-25, 99834 students received scholarships under this scheme.

A total amount of Rs 731.19 crore has been spent by the Department to provide assistance to 23,49,815 beneficiaries during the 13th Five-Year plan period. An amount of Rs 477.66 crore was allocated by the State Government to the Backwards Classes Development Department in 2024-25, and the expenditure incurred was Rs 421.78 crore. The scheme-wise outlay, expenditure, and physical achievements of the Department for 2024-25 and

2025-26 (as on August 31, 2025) are presented in **Appendices 8.2.47** and **8.2.48**.

Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC) Ltd

The Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation (KSBCDC) Ltd., a wholly government-owned company, was registered under the Companies Act, 1956, on 28 February 1995, with its registered office located in Thiruvananthapuram. The Corporation serves as the principal state-level channelising agency for three national financial institutions: the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

The primary mandate of KSBCDC is to reduce poverty and social disadvantage among its target groups, Other Backwards Classes (OBCs) and Minority communities, by extending financial assistance at concessional interest rates to individuals living below the poverty line. In addition to supporting schemes funded by the Government of India, the Corporation also utilises State Government allocations and its own internal resources to implement a range of welfare programmes, including self-employment loans, educational loans, and microfinance initiatives. It also provides various forms of social assistance, including marriage support, housing construction and maintenance aid and personal loans.

The Corporation has an authorised share capital of Rs 200.00 crore and a paid-up share capital of Rs 152.53 crore. As per the criteria set out in G.O. (Ms) No. 18/2023/P&EA dated 20 September 2023, KSBCDC has been classified as a “Diamond” category public sector company.

Box 8.2.10 ‘Self-employment scheme for Widows belonging to OBC’s

The scheme was introduced in 2024-25 to support widows among OBCs. The objective is to provide assistance to widows in starting self-employment ventures, thereby promoting their livelihoods. The scheme provides a subsidy of upto 20 per cent of the loan amount, capped at Rs. 1.00 lakh, for self-employment ventures deemed feasible and potentially profitable. The Department will recommend eligible applicants to financial institutions such as Kerala State Backwards Classes Development Corporation Limited, Kerala State Minority Development Finance Corporation Limited, Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Converts from Scheduled Castes and Recommended Communities Limited and Kerala State Pottery Manufacturing Marketing and Welfare Development Corporation Limited, which will disburse the loans. The scheme had 26 beneficiaries in 2024-25.

Over the years, awareness and pre-disbursement counselling camps have been conducted by the district offices and sub-offices of KSBCDC to popularise the schemes of national agencies and the Corporation's own fund schemes. General guidance on accounting and the importance of prompt repayment has been provided to beneficiaries at these camps.

The Corporation has been actively organising exhibition cum trade fairs and has also been providing marketing opportunities to its beneficiaries through exhibitions and trade fairs organised by the State Government and National Financial agencies.

Additionally, KSBCDC has introduced a "loaner's distress relief fund" (LDRF) to assist the beneficiary or their family in extreme distress situations, such as the beneficiary's death, permanent disability, accident or chronic illness.

Through its Green Card Benefit, the Corporation incentivizes borrowers who consistently pay their loan installments on schedule by granting them 5% of the total interest amount paid. Major programs include the Green Card Benefit, the Loaner's Distress Relief Fund (LDRF), and several loans paired with subsidies, such as the Re-Turn Loan Scheme in collaboration with NORKA, the Startup Loan Scheme, the Green Wheel Self-Employment Loan Scheme, and the Punarjani Self-Employment Loan Scheme offered in partnership with the Backwards Classes Development Department.

KSBCDC has disbursed an amount of Rs. 7870 crores to more than 9 lakh beneficiaries belonging to OBC and minority communities. The Corporation has disbursed loans worth Rs. 815.79 crore in 2024-25, benefiting 73475 persons. In 2025-26, an amount of Rs. 298.50 crore has already been disbursed among 18690 persons (as on August 31). The source-wise expenditure and the physical achievements of the Corporation in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on August 31st, 2025) are given in **Appendix 8.2.49** and component-wise Physical and Financial Achievement of the Corporation in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on August 31st 2025) are given in **Appendix 8.2.50**.

Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Converts from Scheduled Castes and the Recommended Communities Ltd

The Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Converts from Scheduled Castes and the Recommended Communities was established in 1980 under the provisions of the Indian Companies

Act, 1956. The Corporation is mandated to promote the social, educational, cultural, and economic advancement of Christian converts from Scheduled Castes and members of the Recommended Communities, adopting a comprehensive strategy to enhance their overall quality of life. Its financial resources consist primarily of share capital contributions and annual grants from the Government of Kerala.

The Corporation implements a wide range of welfare and development programmes, including loans for the purchase of agricultural land, self-employment ventures, house construction and renovation, marriage assistance, support for agriculture and allied activities, small business development and higher education financing. In the fiscal year 2024-25, a total of 548 beneficiaries accessed these loan schemes.

In addition to these loan schemes, the Corporation has been providing grants and scholarships to students from the target groups through various schemes, including incentive grants, 'Spot the Talent', career guidance programmes, and coaching assistance for competitive examinations such as the Medical Engineering Entrance, Civil Service, and PSC. The Corporation started a foreign education loan scheme with a lower interest rate to support the disadvantaged students in this community.

During the financial year 2024-25, the Corporation disbursed a total amount of Rs. 42,32,900 to 1,180 eligible students across the state as educational scholarships and a Medical Engineering Entrance Coaching Grant from the Corporation's profit for the same year.

The Corporation is implementing job-oriented training programs for the youth of its target communities to support their social and economic upliftment. During the year 2024-25, training was provided to 71 youths through the Government Polytechnics and Keltron under the scheme.

The amount of Rs 4.00 crore was allocated to the Corporation in 2024-25 for various programmes, and expenditure was Rs 18.37 crore, which is the highest in the period. The excess expenditure over the approved outlay in 2024-25 is attributable to the issuance of new loans, funded by loan repayments received during the year. Details of year-wise disbursement of State Government-assisted loan schemes from 2020-21 to 2025-26 (as on August 31st, 2025) are given in the **Appendix 8.2.51**. The scheme-

wise details of the Corporation's physical and financial achievements are provided in **Appendix 8.2.52**.

Kerala State Pottery Manufacturing Marketing and Welfare Development Corporation Ltd

Established in 2016, the Kerala State Pottery Manufacturing, Marketing, and Welfare Development Corporation aims to revitalise the traditional pottery industry in Kerala and improve the quality of life for families involved in the sector. The Corporation commenced its activities in the 2020-21 fiscal year. Its key initiatives include providing loans for pottery production and marketing, marriage assistance, support for self-help groups, and education. The Corporation also operates stalls and mobile marketing units at various exhibitions and fairs.

Along with cash assistance schemes, Kerala Pottery Corporation also provide market opportunities to pottery product manufacturers by acting as a governmental marketing agency. Starting from FY-2024-25, the Corporation has started trading activities, and to begin with, earthen plant pots are being procured and supplied to agriculture farms and nurseries under the Agricultural Departments and Local Self Governments. During the period 2024-25, the state achieved a total turnover of Rs 112.49 lakh, and for 2025-26, a target of Rs 500 lakh has been set. Currently, there are 17 agricultural offices in 6 districts for this purpose. The largest sale among these six districts has happened in Kannur.

The Corporation has also begun collaborating with the State Suchitwa Mission as an empanelled supplier of Earthen-Bio-Digester Units in the Waste Management sector under the Local Self-Government Department.

Initiatives have also been taken by the Corporation to popularise pottery activities through pottery clubs and studios, promoting pottery as a leisure and creative activity among students and young people. As part of its retail trading operations, the Corporation began retail sales in the 2025-26 fiscal year, showcasing a wider variety of products and artefacts through the Mankural Online Portal and the Kaitholam Retail Store at the Tribal Complex, Ernakulam.

On a pilot basis, the Corporation has been distributing pottery products procured from various pottery units in the state to the agricultural university, agro-bazaar, and other private institutions. The scheme-wise details of the Corporation's physical and financial achievements are provided in **Appendix 8.2.53**.

Welfare of Minorities

The Indian Constitution guarantees equal rights and safeguards for minorities in areas such as religion, language, culture, and education. Likewise, the 1992 United Nations declaration mandates countries to protect the identity and rights of minority groups. According to the 2011 census, India's population comprises 79.8% Hindus, 14.2% Muslims, 2.3% Christians, 1.7% Sikhs, 0.7% Buddhists, 0.4% Jains, and 0.006% Parsis. Among these groups, as mentioned in the Sachar Committee Report, Muslims are the largest minority community in India, consisting of 14.2 per cent of the population.

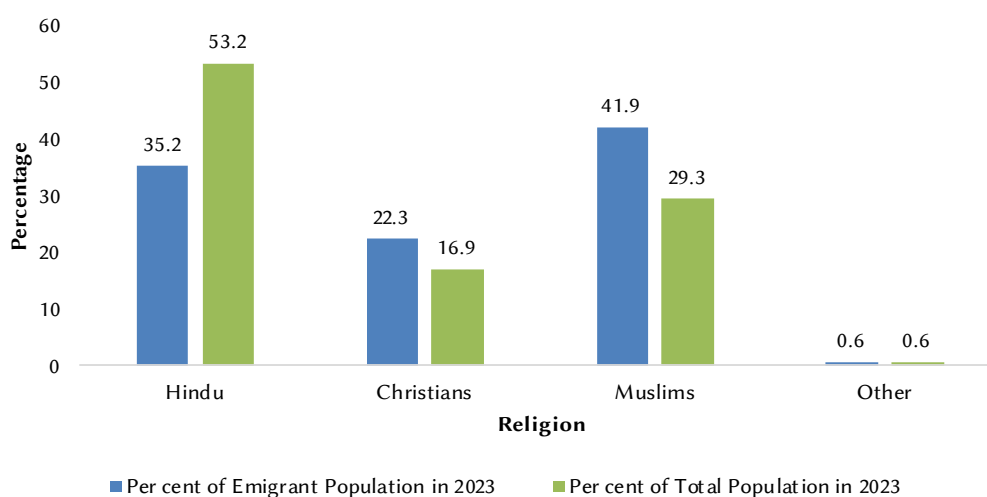
In Kerala, roughly 45% of the population belongs to minority groups, including 26.56% Muslims, 18.38% Christians and smaller percentages of Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and Parsis. These minorities are protected by constitutional provisions under Articles 29 and 30. The state recognises Muslims, Latin Catholics, Converted Christians and Neo Buddhists as backward communities

According to the Kerala Migration Survey 2023, religious minorities such as Muslims and Christians migrate abroad in greater proportions than their share in Kerala's population. Muslims make up about 29.3% of Kerala's residents, but they account for 41.9% of the people who have emigrated. Similarly, Christians form 16.9% of the population, yet they represent 22.3% of emigrants. This pattern is shown in **Figure 8.2.4**.

Migration has become a key pathway for employment, income generation, and upward mobility among these communities, contributing significantly to Kerala's overall development, especially through remittances. Recognising the distinct socio-economic conditions and developmental needs of minorities, also emphasised in national-level assessments such as the Sachar Committee Report, the Government of Kerala undertook targeted policy interventions.

The Government of Kerala constituted a committee under the leadership of Shri Paloli Muhammed Kutty, the then Minister of the Local Self-Government Department, to study and present recommendations for implementing the Sachar Committee report in Kerala. The Minority Welfare Department and the Minority Welfare Directorate were formed accordingly, as per the recommendations of the Committee. The Madrassa Teachers' Welfare Fund (Later Board), the Minority Development Finance Corporation and the State Minority Commission are

Figure 8.2.4 Emigrant population in Kerala by Religion



Source: Kerala Migration Survey 2023

other stakeholder agencies that subsequently came into existence in the realm of minority welfare.

The Minority Welfare Department develops and implements projects that focus on education, health, housing, and employment for minority communities. Major schemes implemented by the Minorities Welfare Department include educational assistance, a housing scheme for divorcees, widows, and abandoned women from minority communities, the PMJVK (Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram), with 60 per cent CSS support, career guidance and pre-marital counselling centres, and the Minority Research wing at universities for the welfare of minorities. The physical achievements of various schemes are given below:

- The Department has been providing free coaching to students from minority communities for PSC/UPSC/SSC/Railway Recruitment/Banking sector competitive examinations through various coaching centres across the state. A total of 75,525 students received coaching between 2016 and 2025, and 4,330 students secured permanent employment in state and central governments during this period.
- During 2024-25, 710 beneficiaries were selected for house repairs under the Imbichi Bawa Housing/Renovation Scheme for widows, divorcees, and abandoned women, with funds disbursed to all chosen beneficiaries. Of these, 380 houses were renovated in 2024-25, while 330 houses were completed under the spill-over category in early 2025-26.
- Premarital counselling programme successfully reached 5000 youth beneficiaries across the state

in the year 2024-25

- Scholarships were provided for pursuing courses in CA/CMA /CS to 384 students.
- In the year 2024-25, Backward Classes Development Department has given Post Matric Scholarships to 56,192 minority students.
- Prof. Joseph Mundassery scholarship award for talented minority students was provided to 4,815 students.
- Fee reimbursement was provided to 3,943 students pursuing technical courses or trades in recognized ITCs to promote skill training among minority students.
- Scholarships were provided to 677 students pursuing three-year Diploma courses in Government/Government-Aided polytechnic colleges.
- Scholarships were provided to 402 students pursuing nursing diploma and paramedical courses.

As per the recommendations of the Paloli Muhammed Kutty Committee Report, the government of Kerala established coaching centres for minority youth in various districts in 2010. To date, there are 24 coaching centres with 32 sub-centres across Kerala for minority youth, operating under the Directorate of Minority Welfare in every District. The objective of minority coaching centres is to provide free coaching and allied programs to candidates from minority communities. The programme aims to empower minority communities in improving their skills and capabilities for employability. These centres cater to minority communities, providing free coaching classes

for competitive examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, the Kerala Public Service Commission, Banking Service Recruitment Boards, and other recruitment agencies. An amount of Rs 80.73 lakh was utilised during 2024-25 for the modernisation of facilities across the 24 coaching centres.

Under the Career Guidance and Development Programme, over 18000 students were trained in 180 “Tuning stage II Camps during 2024-25. This programme is conducted in three stages: Tuning, Flowering, and Exploring. A total of 1280 students participated in the Flowering Stage camps, which were completed by January 31, 2025.

Additionally, an Exploring India Camp was conducted in Bengaluru from September 19 to 25, 2024, for 100 students selected from the 2023-24 batch. The camp included visits to premier institutions such as: Indian Institute of Science, the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIM-B), Indo American Hybrid Seeds Pvt Ltd

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram-PMJVK

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) is a centrally sponsored scheme designed to develop infrastructure, particularly community assets, in identified areas with development deficits, with the objective of promoting socio-economic development in minority-populated areas. In 2018-19, the Ministry of Minority Affairs restructured and renamed the erstwhile Multi-Sectoral Development Programme as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), with a funding pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the States.

PMJVK will be carried out in selected areas where the minority population makes up more than 25 per cent within a 15-kilometre radius. The scheme will primarily focus on building infrastructure in the education, healthcare, and skill development sectors, along with introducing innovative initiatives to enhance the socio-economic status and quality of life for minority groups and other residents in these regions. Notable accomplishments include the construction of school buildings, additional classrooms, and toilets in schools.

Between 2017 and 2022, 64 construction works were undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) scheme. As of March 2022, 47 of these 64 units have been completed. Details

of works completed under this scheme are given in **Appendix 8.2.54.**

The state government had allocated 73.63 crores for the welfare of the minorities in 2024-25, of which 42.44 crores was spent. The scheme-wise outlay and expenditure, as well as the physical achievements of the Department for 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025), are presented in **Appendices 8.2.55** and **8.2.56.**

Kerala State Minorities Development Finance Corporation Limited

The Kerala State Minorities Development Finance Corporation (KSMDFC), a Government owned company founded in 2013, supports minority communities such as Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, and Parsis. It offers various loan schemes, including self-employment, business development, education, visa, Pravasi, multi-purpose and housing loans, utilising funds from the NMDFC and state government capital. The ‘Sumithram’ scheme offers marriage loans, medical treatment loans and loans for critical illnesses. From 2014 to August, 2025, KSMDFC has distributed Rs. 281.09 crore to 6978 minority beneficiaries. Year-wise loan details are listed in the **Table 8.2.3.**

KSMDFC has disbursed loans amounting to Rs 26.78 crore to 299 beneficiaries belonging to minority communities for the year 2024-25. During 2025-26 (as on August 31st, 2025), an amount of Rs. 11.77 crore has been disbursed among 338 beneficiaries. The state government has increased the guarantee cover from Rs. 50 crores to Rs. 150 crores for KSMDFC to avail financial assistance from the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. The financial and physical achievements of the Corporation are given in **Appendix 8.2.57.**

Welfare of Forward Communities

Kerala recognizes 164 Forward Communities, all of which fall outside the purview of traditional caste-based reservation policies. To support economically disadvantaged sections within these communities, the Government of Kerala established the Kerala State Welfare Corporation for Forward Communities Limited (KSWCFC), branded as Samunnathi, on 8 November 2012. The Corporation was established with the objective of promoting the overall development and welfare of economically weaker members of the Forward Communities by enhancing their educational opportunities, improving their living standards, and facilitating their socio-economic advancement.

Table 8.2.3 Year-wise details of loan disbursement

Year	Amount (Rs in crore)	No of Beneficiaries
2014-15	21.45	919
2015-16	23.79	870
2016-17	13.21	581
2017-18	21.07	766
2018-19	27.77	766
2019-20	17.78	454
2020-21	9.84	201
2021-22	25.51	628
2022-23	53.17	875
2023-24	28.96	281
2024-25	26.78	299
2025 (as on August 31, 2025)	11.76	338
Total	281.09	6978

Source: Kerala State Minorities Development Finance Corporation Limited

Utilising Grant-in-Aid provided by the Government of Kerala, the Corporation implements a range of programmes, including Vidyasamunnathi merit scholarships, coaching assistance for various competitive examinations, Samrambha Samunnathi term loan schemes, Naipunya Samunnathi skill and entrepreneurship development initiatives, the renovation of dilapidated aghararas, and Mangalya Samunnathi marriage assistance. The Corporation also operates the Samunnathi Thoosanila Mini Café initiative, which enables women's joint liability groups from economically weaker households in the Forward Community to provide quality food at affordable prices to the general public. Several such mini cafés are functioning across the state.

In addition, the Corporation offers interest subsidies on term loans at a concessional rate of 3 per cent, availed by self-help groups and joint liability groups comprising unemployed members of Forward Communities, with the aim of promoting self-employment and entrepreneurial ventures. The physical achievements under various components for the year 2024 -25 are detailed below.

- Merit scholarships were provided to 11,309 students for pre-matric and post-matric studies.
- Coaching assistance has been provided to 840 students for competitive examinations, such as medical and engineering entrance examinations, bank tests, and civil service examinations.

- Interest subsidies to loans were provided to 945 Joint Liability Groups,
- Financial assistance for marriage has been provided to 71 girls.
- Financial assistance was provided to 185 beneficiaries through the scheme 'renovation of dilapidated aghararas'.

The Corporation initiated two new schemes: Ksheera Samunnathi Capital Subsidy for dairy farming and Samunnathi e-Yathra, to provide capital subsidies for the purchase of electric autos for women in 2024-25.

An amount of Rs 18.50 Crore was allocated to the Corporation in 2024-25 for various programmes, of which Rs 19.00 crore was spent. An amount of Rs 38.00 crore was allocated to the Corporation in 2025-26. The Scheme-wise outlay and expenditure and the physical achievements of the Corporation in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on August 31st, 2025) are given in

Appendix 8.2.58

8.3 SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES

Social security and citizen welfare remain the defining, non-negotiable features of the Government of Kerala's development agenda. The state utilizes a comprehensive range of strategic interventions extending beyond simple aid to give health, nutrition, palliative care, education, training and livelihood development to empower its citizens and elevate the overall quality of life. This robust framework is crucial for a state navigating demographic complexity, providing a vital social and financial safety net for the elderly, persons with disabilities, widows and other vulnerable and marginalized sections of society through its expansive social security pension system. The Social Justice Department (SJD), the Women and Child Development Department (WCD) and agencies under these departments, are at the forefront of implementing a range of social security and welfare programmes. A detailed overview of these agencies activities can be found in **Appendix 8.3.1**. Kerala's social security programmes can be broadly categorised into two main types: institutional care and social assistance programmes. These programmes offer financial assistance, subsidies and other benefits to eligible individuals and families, aiming to alleviate poverty, disability and other socioeconomic challenges.

Institutional Care

Government institutions, along with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), play a crucial role in providing institutional care to the marginalised

sections of society. Under the Social Justice Department, there are 17 old age homes, 6 homes for persons with disabilities, 8 homes for persons with intellectual disabilities and 3 other homes. The Women and Child Development Department operates 47 children's homes, 14 women's homes and 4 specialised homes. The number of institutions under the Social Justice Department and Women and Child Department is given in **Table 8.3.1**. Additional details on the category of Government institutions are given in **Appendix 8.3.2**.

The District-wise number of residents in welfare institutions of the SJD and WCD in 2024-25 is given in Appendix 8.3.3. The total sanctioned strength of these institutions is 4,251 and total occupancy in 2024-25 was 2,812. The number of occupants is greater than the sanctioned strength of inmates in Day Care Centers & Old Age Homes, Pratheeksha Bhavan, Prathyasa Bhavan, Entry Home, Integrated Care Centre, Home for Mental Health, Transit home and Priya Home. The number of occupants is less than the sanctioned strength of inmates for certain categories of institutions. The changes in the number of inmates are due to death, returning with relatives and new admission.

The Institutions registered under these Departments also run care homes. The District-wise number of residents in all registered welfare institutions under SJD and WCD in 2024-25 is given in Appendix 8.3.4.

Table 8.3.1 Category of Government Welfare Institutions

Department	Category	No. of Homes
Social Justice Department	Old Age Homes*	17
	Homes for the Disabled	6
	Homes for intellectually disabled persons	8
	Other Homes	3
Women and Child Development Department	Children's Homes	47
	Women's Homes	14
	Specialized Homes	4

Source: Social Justice Department and Women and Child Development Department

* Includes one home for bed-ridden elderly

The total number of residents in these institutions in 2024-25 was 63,164. The highest occupancy was in old age homes, with 32,425 residents and the next occupied institution was for persons with disabilities, with 14,385 residents.

Table 8.3.2 provides District-wise distribution of residents in the institutions directly under departments and welfare institutions registered under departments. Ernakulam has the highest number of registered inmates (10,628), while Kasaragod records the lowest (1,296). Across the State, there are 2,812 inmates in institutions directly under SJD and WCD and 63,164 in registered institutions.

Social Assistance Programmes

Social security pension

Pension schemes for agricultural workers, the elderly, people with disabilities, unmarried women above 50 years of age and widows are the major pension schemes of the State Government. Welfare pensions have been increased from Rs 600 per beneficiary per month in 2016 to Rs 1,600 per beneficiary per month in 2021. The government recently raised the welfare pension to Rs. 2,000, effective in November 2025. The number of social security pensioners, which was 34 lakh in 2015-16, increased to 49.74 lakh as on October 2025 and welfare board pensions are not

Table 8.3.2 District wise number of Inmates in Welfare Institutions in the State

Sl No	District	Number of Inmates in all Welfare Institutions under SJD and WCD	Number of Inmates in all Welfare Institutions Registered under SJD and WCD
1	Thiruvananthapuram	473	4903
2	Kollam	271	4368
3	Pathanamthitta	110	3808
4	Alappuzha	157	3134
5	Kottayam	176	8983
6	Idukki	95	3590
7	Ernakulam	229	10628
8	Thrissur	279	9560
9	Palakkad	87	3638
10	Malappuram	252	1594
11	Kozhikode	299	2198
12	Wayanad	111	1481
13	Kannur	190	3983
14	Kasaragod	83	1296
	Total Inmates	2812	63164

Source: Social Justice Department and Women and Child Development Department

included in this. Since April 2015, the amount has been disbursed as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and 53.56 per cent of beneficiaries receive pensions as bank transfers. The rest receives their pensions through the Direct to Home method, successfully implemented through a large network of primary cooperative societies. The beneficiaries select the mode of transfer according to their condition and convenience.

As on October 2025, of the 49.74 lakh pensioners, 31.08 lakh (62.49 per cent) are women. Fifty eight per cent of beneficiaries fall under the category of old age pension, 27 per cent widow pensions, 8 per cent for people with disabilities and around 6 per cent for agriculture worker pension. Pensions for unmarried women are given to 81,964 beneficiaries. District-wise distribution shows that Malappuram has the highest number of beneficiaries and Wayanad the least. The District-wise coverage is given in **Appendix 8.3.5**.

Care for Persons with Disabilities

Disability is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments. According to World Health Organisation (WHO), disability results from the interaction between individuals with a health condition and the barriers in the environment. This means that a person's functional limitations, whether they are physical, emotional or cognitive, when coupled with external barriers, can lead to a disability. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, stipulates an umbrella of 22 types of disabilities against the earlier seven types under the Persons with Disabilities Act 1995. In Kerala, a disability census was conducted by the Social Justice Department through the Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM) in 2015. The categories of disabilities as per the above census, are given in Appendix 8.3.6. As per the disability census, the final number of PwDs is 7,93,937. This is 2.4 per cent of the total population of the State (3.3 crore). The census found that 8.7 percent of the houses in Kerala have PwDs. Among the 22 Categories of disabilities, the highest number is for locomotor disability i.e., 2,61,087, which is 32.9 per cent. The prevalence of this disability is 78 among 10,000 population. Multiple disabilities stand second in number (1,37,441) the percentage of which is 17.3 per cent. The prevalence of multiple disabilities is 41 among 10,000 population. The least prevalent disability among 22 categories is Multiple Sclerosis, of which there are 515 patients in the State.

Causes of Disability

The survey data reveals that the majority of Persons with Disabilities (57.13 percent) acquired their condition during their lifetime, surpassing the 42.87 percent who were born with disabilities like cerebral palsy, intellectual disability and autism. The most frequent cause of acquired disability is childhood illness (11.95 percent), closely followed by accidents (10.68 percent), which primarily occur on roads, in homes, or on agricultural land. Among the congenital cases, a genetic influence is suggested, as 7.9 percent involved parents who were blood relatives.

The enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016 gave effect to the optional protocol of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). It upholds a rights-based approach to the needs of persons with disability. Following the enactment of the RPwD Act, 2016, the State Government introduced new schemes to fill the gaps and to mainstream persons with disabilities into society. Schemes include the Barrier Free Kerala project, Individual Care Plan, State Initiatives on Disabilities, etc. The Government also supports the efforts of NGOs in providing quality care and support to PwDs. Another landmark in this sector was the identification of suitable posts in State Government Services and the reservation of 4 per cent of vacancies for PwDs. The global commitment to the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 recognises and requisites the promotion of rights, perspectives and well-being of persons with disabilities in line with UN protocols.

Organisations and Agencies in Disability Sector under State Government

The Directorate of Social Justice is the nodal agency responsible for overseeing the implementation of social welfare schemes of the State and Union Government. The Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM) is a dedicated agency implementing specific social security programmes. The Kerala State Handicapped Person's Welfare Corporation (KSHPWC) is tasked with implementing welfare schemes for individuals with disabilities. The State Commissionerate for Persons with Disabilities (SCPwD), a quasi-judicial body, plays a crucial role in monitoring, advocating and supporting the rights of persons with disabilities. It conducts awareness campaigns, legal aid and research to promote inclusion and empowerment.

National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH)

NISH is an institution of national repute working in the areas of disability and rehabilitation, including early intervention, education of persons with disabilities, disability and rehabilitation services and capacity creation. It also provides an excellent environment for the pursuit of higher studies for persons with disabilities. NISH conducts degree courses in various streams such as BSc. Computer Science (Hearing Impairment - HI), Bachelors in Fine Arts (HI), BCom (HI), MSc Audiology, MSc Speech Language Pathology exclusively for the deaf and hard of hearing. Besides the above courses, the Higher Education Foundation Programme (HEFP) and RCI approved Diploma courses viz. DISLI, DECSE and DTISL and Diploma in Indian sign language and Interpretation are conducted in NISH. In 2020, the institution launched the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT) programme, affiliating with Kerala University of Health Sciences (KUHS). In 2024-25 NISH organised various programmes in which 10,768 pupils participated in early intervention programmes, 16,975 cases were attended through audiology, 520 cases were attended by occupational therapy units and 1,285 cases were attended by speech-language pathology divisions, while 4,944 cases were attended under medical, psychology and allied services. Various academic programmes were conducted in 2024-25, benefitting 786 students.

Kerala State Handicapped Person's Welfare Corporation (KSHPWC)

The Kerala State Handicapped Person's Welfare Corporation is a public sector undertaking under the state Government aimed at formulating, promoting and implementing various welfare schemes for rehabilitating and improving the living conditions of the people with visual disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing, people with locomotor or intellectual disabilities, and also to provide financial and technical assistance to such categories.

The services offered through the Corporation in 2024-25 are the following:

- Supply of various disabled- friendly equipment to 893 persons.
- Distribution of self-employment loans (NDFDC Loan Schemes) to 269 persons with disabilities.
- Financial assistance of Rs 20,000 as a fixed deposit to 62 children with disabilities through the Hasthadanam scheme.
- Financial assistance of Rs 25,000 to 140 persons

with disabilities for self-employment, to those who have no security to offer for obtaining a loan.

- Financial assistance of Rs 5,000 to 179 persons for starting lottery ticket sales.
- A subsidy of Rs 15,000 for motorised scooter was given to 24 persons with disabilities.
- A cash award of Rs 5,000 was given to 664 SSLC and higher secondary students with disabilities.
- A subsidy of up to Rs 1 Lakh given to 64 persons with disabilities who are sanctioned loans from nationalized banks based on the Corporation's recommendation.
- Writing off the outstanding NDFDC loan of 78 beneficiaries who died within the repayment period.
- One-Time Settlement (OTS) by waiving interest and penal interest for those who defaulted on loan repayment and Subsidies for BPL (Below Poverty Line) beneficiaries who settle their NDFDC loans within the stipulated period.
- Operating Saafalyam Old Age Home in Parassala with 21 inmates.

State Commissionerate for Persons with Disabilities.

The Commissionerate for Persons with Disabilities functions at the State-level and is a semi-judicial body that can exercise the power of a Civil Court under Section 63 of Persons with Disabilities Act. The Commissionerate monitors various programmes and schemes designed for the benefit of the people with disabilities, conducts awareness camps and adalats, provides free legal aid for the disabled persons and undertakes research and development for their rehabilitation. The Commission is also entrusted with taking the necessary measures to make the facilities mandated by the Act accessible to persons with disabilities and bringing to the attention of the Government any issues or shortcomings that may arise during its implementation.

National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (NIPMR)

The National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (NIPMR) is a Centre of Excellence in disability management and rehabilitation. The Institute, along with its routine activities including early intervention, therapy and academic programmes, also runs numerous projects with other stakeholders including LSGs, KSSM, SJD and the Department of Education. The academic programmes conducted by NIPMR are Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT), Diplomas in Special Education and

Table 8.3.3. Service Delivery Statistics of NIPMR (April 2024 – March 2025)

Sl. No.	Department / Service	No. of Sessions / Consultations
1	Physiotherapy (PT)	17,706
2	Audiology & Speech Language Pathology (ASLP)	18,335
3	Occupational Therapy (OT)	14,940
4	Behavioural Therapy (BT)	11,668
5	Developmental Therapy (DT)	6,287
6	Dietary Services	1,469
7	Medical Services (Consultations)	6,358
8	Prosthetics & Orthotics (P&O)	391
9	Special Schools (CP, ASD, IDD)	14,163
10	Dental Services	990
11	Vocational Training (PM-Voc)	4,014
12	Eye Care	264
13	Social Work Services	1,258
14	ENT Services	164
Total		98,007

Source: National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (NIPMR)

Certificate Course in Caregiving. The organisation has various therapeutic departments and units to provide medical and therapeutic services. Special Training and Empowerment Programme for Parents (STEPS), a programme under the Department of Developmental and Behavioural Paediatrics, aims at early intervention and also to empower parents of children with disability. Rehab on Wheels is a mobile outreach programme run by NIPMR which aims to provide assessment, health care and assistive solutions at the field level using specially designed low-floor buses. A project for the transportation of people with disabilities, Wheel Trans, is also run by the institution. The Centre for Mobility and Assistive Technology (C-MAT), a wing under NIPMR, manufactures and distributes mobility assistive solutions to people with disabilities. Another major initiative is the spinal cord injury rehabilitation unit which has proven to be very effective in rehabilitating persons with spinal cord injury and bringing them to mainstream society. During 2024-25, NIPMR provided a total of 98,007 consultancy services. A significant portion of these

services, amounting to over half, were provided in the areas of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (ASLP), Physiotherapy (PT) and Occupational Therapy (OT), with 18,335, 17,706 and 14,940 services respectively. **Table 8.3.3** provides the details of Service Delivery Statistics of NIPMR (April 2024 – March 2025)

Directorate of Social Justice

Several welfare schemes are being implemented through the Department of Social Justice to ensure the rehabilitation of the marginalised. Major programmes are listed in **Table 8.3.4**. SJD ensures protection in terms of financial assistance for the education, health and livelihood of persons with disabilities.

Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM)

The Kerala Social Security Mission is an initiative under the Department of Social Justice, Government of Kerala, dedicated to implementing various welfare schemes for vulnerable groups, including elderly

Table 8.3.4: Major programmes of Social Justice Department 2024-25

Scheme	Category/criteria	Total Amount (In Rs)
Parinayam	Marriage assistance to girls with disabilities and daughters of people with disabilities	79,80,000
Scholarship	Students with disabilities (40 per cent) having annual family income below Rs 36,000	80,095
Mathrujyothi	Mothers with disabilities for taking care of their child	14,56,922
Vidyakiranam	Educational assistance to children of People with disabilities and an annual income limit of Rs1 lakh	2,19,56,998
Vidya Jyothi	Uniform assistance to students with disabilities	10,61,104
Swasraya	Single mothers of children with disabilities for their self-employment	23,10,000
Vijayamrutham	Students with disabilities who have achieved high marks in degree/equivalent courses, PG/professional courses	4,30,339
Imprest Money	Rehabilitation of orphans abandoned in public places	1,49,747
Pariraksha	Financial Assistance to PwDs for emergency treatments and in case of natural calamities	26,60,285
Prathyasa	Repatriation of inmates of Rehabilitation centres to their own States. Rehabilitation of Other State inmates in the MHCs and other Rehabilitation centres	21,19,173
Sahachari	Assistance to students with disabilities in studies as well as other extra-curricular activities	1,63,204
Psycho Social Grant in Aid	Institutions that rehabilitated people which have Govt. approval under Psycho Social Scheme	4,66,69,601
Athijivanam	People with disabilities with NGO collaboration to ensure rehabilitation of the marginalized	1,07,26,032
Barrier-free Kerala	Converting physical infrastructure, public places, transportation facilities, IT related facilities etc. accessible to PwDS	31,00,000

Source: Social Justice Department

and persons with disabilities. Its programmes aim to enhance social security, improve quality of life and ensure holistic support for the marginalised sections of society. KSSM is the nodal agency for the issuance of the Universal Disability Identity (UDID) Card. It organises disability certification camps across the State to ensure that the PwD population receives the disability certificate and UDID card, KSSM issued 53,867 UDID cards in 2024-25.

KSSM provides monthly assistance of Rs 600 to the caregivers of patients who need full-time care, such as people with 100 percent visual disability, bedridden patients with cancer, cerebral palsy, autism, mental illness, intellectual disabilities and also the bed-ridden elderly, under the Aswasakiranam scheme. Financial assistance of Rs 3764 lakh was provided to 28,385 beneficiaries under this scheme in 2024-25. Specific schemes like Snehaswanthwanam, Special Aswasakiranam and educational assistance for children from endosulfan-affected families have been implemented to support victims in Kasaragod.

The Snehapoorvam scheme provides financial assistance to children who lost either one or both parents and are deprived of money to develop in the best possible way. The scheme supports orphans living in a family of relatives, friends and the community members. Under Snehapoorvam scheme financial assistance of Rs 1291 lakh was provided to 44,018 beneficiaries in 2024-25.

State Initiative on Disabilities (Anuyatra) is an umbrella programme that encompasses a strategic framework, interventional approach and convergence plan for establishing an organised network of systems and institutions for prevention, early intervention and management of disabilities. Anuyatra includes District Early Intervention Centres (DEIC) to ensure early screening of disabilities and provide appropriate services and Regional Early Intervention Centres (REICs) established in five Medical Colleges. Kathoram is a programme with life cycle approach in hearing disability management.

Table 8.3.5. No of beneficiaries of various activities of state initiatives on disabilities under Kerala social security mission 2024-25

Sl.No	Various activities of State Initiatives on Disabilities under Kerala Social Security Mission	No. of Beneficiary
1	Hearing Screening for Neonates in Govt Maternity Hospitals	66075
2	BERA Tests Conducted for Children Suspected of Hearing Disability	954
3	Persons Supported at Auditory Verbal Therapy Centres	1903
4	Children Supported Through Special Anganwadis	439
5	Children with Special Needs Enrolled in General Schools	338
6	Children Supported Through Regional Early Intervention Centres	4636
7	Children Suspected of Autism Supported Through Autism Centres	4504
8	Children Supported Through Mobile Intervention Units	12316
9	Persons with Disabilities Supported Through Call Centre	16023
10	Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Supported Through Horticultural Therapy programme	441
11	Provided Medicines to Persons with Ankylosing Spondylitis	111
12	Provided Medicines to Persons with Multiple Sclerosis	90
Total		107830

Source: Kerala Social Security Mission

Details with regard to various disability initiatives under Kerala Social Security Mission in 2024-25 are listed in the **Table 8.3.5**.

General Education Department - Activities for Inclusive Education

School education in Kerala is known for its inclusivity in supporting students with disabilities. There are resource centres in schools, along with a resource teacher and staff for various therapies. Also, under Block Resource Centres (BRC), one resource centre functions in each sub-district. The Department also implements the model inclusive school programme which envisages the strengthening of certain general schools to function as model centres of inclusive education in specific disabilities. The Department also provides financial assistance to accredited institutions that offer care for children with intellectual disabilities, to meet their infrastructural needs, water supply, medical aid facilities and so on. Assistance is also provided by the Department to enhance the capacity of teachers in special schools. Autism Park has been established to mainstream children with autism by helping them manage behavioural symptoms, encouraging social participation and enhancing communication levels.

CH Mohammed Koya Memorial State Institute for the Mentally Challenged

Under the General Education Department, the CH Mohammed Koya Memorial State Institute for the Mentally Challenged imparts special education, training and rehabilitation services to people with intellectual disabilities. The Institute offers various services in the field of intellectual disability, such as special schools for children with intellectual disabilities, clinical services, physiotherapy centres, early intervention centres, vocational training centres and diploma courses on special education. Under the Augmentation and Documentation scheme, the institute developed an academic center and equipped the library with audio-visual and other facilities, benefiting 150 students. SIMC has directly placed more than 30 adult Mentally Challenged persons who have completed Vocational Training from the Institute. The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) developed a curriculum for special schools in Kerala focusing on mental challenges and the State Institute of Mentally Challenged (SIMC) are conducting refresher training for special teachers in all districts.

Department of Labour and Employment

A rehabilitation package (Kaivalya) is provided by the Department of Labour and Employment for the welfare of people with disabilities registered with employment exchanges, by way of loans, up to a maximum of Rs 50,000 for commencing self-employment ventures, vocational career guidance, soft skill training and so on. By disbursing Rs 1 crore in 2024-25, the Kaivalya scheme benefitted 200 people with disabilities.

Role of Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs) in Disability Sector

The Local Self Government Department (LSGD) in Kerala plays a pivotal and decentralized role in ensuring the inclusion and empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through community-based interventions and participatory governance. Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs)-Panchayats and Municipalities-serve as the primary implementing agencies for disability welfare schemes and are mandated to allocate at least 5 percent of their plan funds for sectors PwDs, Children and Transgender. These funds support social security pensions, assistive devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids and home modifications to enhance accessibility. LSGDs also implement barrier-free infrastructure projects in public spaces, skill development and livelihood initiatives through interdepartmental convergence. By integrating disability inclusion into local development plans, the LSGD ensures that the rights and needs of PwDs are effectively addressed at the grassroots level.

Care For Elderly

Kerala, with its high levels of social development, has undergone a significant demographic transition, leading to a rapidly aging population. This demographic shift, characterised by declining fertility rates, decreasing mortality rates and increasing life expectancy, is a testament to the state's achievements in public health and social welfare. However, this ageing population presents a unique set of challenges, including declining social support, health issues, elder abuse, accessibility barriers, the digital divide, limited employment opportunities, inadequate social security and loneliness. To address these challenges, Kerala has initiated proactive policies and measures to ensure the well-being and social protection of its elderly population.

The State is very particular about the protection of the rights of the elderly and the effective implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. This includes strengthening

Maintenance Tribunals and improving the quality and reach of community-level services including doorstep delivery of services and day care facilities 'Sayamprabha Homes' in collaboration with LSGs, Kudumbasree and NGOs. During 2024-25 an amount of Rs 67,87,313 has been expended for 86 day care centres.

However, the State Government stands for a change in the outlook of society and the elderly towards aging as 'Active Aging'. The policy framework of the World Health Organisation in 2002 defined "active aging as the process of optimising opportunities for health, participation and security to enhance the quality of life as people age". This calls for a collaborative effort from the Social Justice Department as the nodal department for the activities for the elderly and multiple other departments and agencies involved in the care of the elderly, including the LSGs, NGOs and the local communities.

The Government of Kerala provides an old age pension to 28.8 lakh senior citizens in the low income group and supports health care and palliative and home care facilities that focus on the care of senior citizens. The Government has also strengthened community-based support programmes in collaboration with Local Governments. The Department of Social Justice and the Kerala Social Security Mission implement several programmes such as the Vayomithram Scheme, which is being implemented in 6 municipal corporations, 85 municipalities and 4 block Panchayats in the State. The scheme provides the elderly people with periodic medical check-ups. It had 2,90,590 beneficiaries during 2024-25.

The Vayoraksha scheme supports elderly individuals facing hardships, violence and abuse by ensuring their protection and providing stable, happy living conditions. It offers services like emergency first aid, surgeries, ambulance services, rehabilitation, assistance and essential equipment. In total, an amount of Rs 4,90,096 was expended for providing assistance to 59 beneficiaries under the scheme. The Government has also instituted an award for promoting the elder support programmes of LSGs and NGOs.

The Department has been preparing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the registration, operation and monitoring of elderly care homes, especially for homes operated by different agencies. Programmes are also being prepared to engage seniors

in the community through social events to help them maintain a sense of identity and self-worth and also to harness the wealth of knowledge and experience they have. More details of programmes for elderly care are included in the section Human Development- Impact of Changing Demographic Profile.

Transgender Welfare

Kerala is a pioneer in recognising the rights of transgender individuals, becoming the first Indian State to introduce a Transgender Policy in 2015. Under the umbrella scheme Mazhavillu, the State government has implemented various programmes to mainstream the transgender community. These programmes include financial assistance for vocational training, sex reassignment surgery, post-surgery care, marriage assistance, scholarships, pensions and insurance. Additionally, the Government has issued ID cards to transgender individuals, established a dedicated TG cell and crisis management centre and launched a 24/7 helpline. To foster a more inclusive society, the Government has also supported NGOs and CBOs in conducting skill development and rehabilitation programmes. Furthermore, sensitisation programmes and workshops have been organised for the public, family members, teachers and government officials to promote understanding and acceptance of transgender individuals. To support economic empowerment, the Government has facilitated loans for self-employment and has established shelter homes and short-stay homes. By implementing these comprehensive initiatives, Kerala aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society for transgender individuals.

Major schemes for TGs in 2024-25 were the following;

- Educational assistance in the form of scholarships of Rs 1000 per month for school students and Rs 2000 for college students. An amount of Rs 7,55,000 was expended to 34 beneficiaries across the State.
- TG students in Government/ Aided/ Unaided/ Self finance institutions can avail hostel facility. Eligible students received Rs 4,000 per month and a total amount of Rs 14,04,000 was expended for 45 beneficiaries.
- Marriage assistance of Rs 30,000 was given to legally married TG couples who have undergone Sex Reassignment Surgery. An amount of Rs 1,20,000 was expended for 4 beneficiaries in 2024-25.
- Under Saphalam & Varnam scheme, TG students who are pursuing degree, diploma and professional courses are given financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh per year. An amount Rs 3,17,000 was expended to 5 beneficiaries in 2024-25.
- Karuthal scheme gives assistance to needy TGs who require immediate support when facing crises like atrocities and violence. An amount of Rs 6,82,130 was expended to 21 beneficiaries.
- Another major initiative for TGs is Sex Re-assignment Surgery and aftercare. The department provides Rs 2.5 lakh for transwomen and Rs 5 lakh for transmen each for this surgery. An additional fixed amount of Rs 3,000 per month is given up to 12 months for aftercare support. In 2024-25 an amount of Rs 27.84 lakh was expended for SRS after care for 142 beneficiaries and 102.93 lakh expended for SRS surgery for 97 beneficiaries through the scheme.
- Self employment assistance for Transgender Persons - Social Justice Department along with Kerala State Women Development Corporation provides assistance to transgender persons to help them launch Self-employment ventures. Through this initiative transgender persons can earn a livelihood and lead a normal life like any other individual and become financially stable. In 2024-25 an amount of Rs. 52,51,500/- has been provided for 44 beneficiaries through KSWDC.
- Sakalyam is a project launched by the Department of Social Justice with the aim of providing an environment for self-employment and self-empowerment by providing vocational training to transgender persons according to their aptitude. An amount of Rs.14,55,000/-has been expended during the year 2024-25 for this scheme.
- TG Short stay home - As part of the Rainbow Comprehensive Plan, financial assistance is given, for NGOs providing temporary shelter homes for transgender Persons. An amount of Rs.14,99,109/- has been expended during the year 2024-25 for this scheme.
- The Social Justice Department organized Transgender Kalolsavam “Varnappakittu”, a cultural festival of Transgender Persons at Thrissur in 2024-25 to showcase their talent and Rs.16,62,366/- has been expended.
- The Social Justice Department launched the Ananyam scheme to develop and showcase the artistic talents within the transgender community, aiming to secure their financial and social well-being through increased visibility. A 30-member transgender arts team, trained by the Guru Gopinath Natanagramam, performed at various

state-organized cultural events to earn a sustainable livelihood; Rs. 20,95,569 was expended on this initiative in 2024–25.

- TGs preparing for competitive examinations get financial support under the Yathnam scheme.

Empowerment and Social Welfare of Women

Kerala, over the years, has seen several interventions that have ensured the enhancement of participation of women in social, political and public affairs. The State Government has also taken considerable efforts through several policy measures to ensure equal opportunities for women in all spheres of public employment and to facilitate their equal access to public spaces in the State. This is reflected in the much lower gender gap in basic capabilities, such as education and health, its favourable sex ratio of 1,084 women per 1,000 men (Census 2011) and several other indices.

The Women and Child Development Department launched an anti-dowry campaign in 2019-20, formulated a five-year action plan, amended the Kerala Dowry Prohibition Act, 2004, appointed officers, constituted a District Advisory Board, launched a dowry complaints portal and provided counselling, legal aid and police assistance to address domestic violence and dowry-related issues.

The Government has constituted Aswasanidhi – a corpus fund of Rs 300 lakh for providing interim relief to victims of sex crimes, domestic violence, acid attacks and gender-based violence, over and above any other statutory provisions for them. Besides this, the Government started One Stop Centres in all Districts for victims of violence in private and public spaces, within the family, community, or at the workplace. The One Stop Centres provide 24 hours specialised services including medical assistance, assistance in lodging FIR/NCR/DIR, psycho-social support and counselling, legal aid, shelter and referral services.

It is a global phenomenon that women live longer than men and in Kerala, life expectancy for women, as per the population projections for 2021-25, is 79.15 years as against 73.49 years for men (National Commission on Population, MoHFW, 2020). The increase in life expectancy coupled with a favourable sex ratio may explain the jump in the widowed population in Kerala. It is in this context, the Government of Kerala has formulated various schemes for widows. These include one-time financial

assistance of Rs 30,000 for self-employment through the scheme Sahayahastham, which benefited 172 individuals with an expenditure of Rs 51.6 lakh. Educational assistance for their children enrolled in professional courses through the scheme Padavukal, expending Rs 48.27 lakh and benefiting 36 children. Monthly financial assistance of Rs1,000 to close relatives of destitute widows through the scheme Abhayakiranam, with an expenditure of Rs 53.22 lakh benefiting 576 people. In addition, a scheme called Mangalya has been envisaged to encourage widow remarriage by providing a financial incentive for widows/divorcees to remarry, expending Rs 54 lakh and benefiting 216 couples.

Saranya is a self-employment scheme implemented by the Employment Department to support vulnerable women. It provides financial assistance to unemployed widows, deserted, divorced, unmarried women, women with disabilities and wives of bedridden persons. 1,399 women benefited from Saranya in 2024-25. Additionally, 61 women in 2024-25 and 40 women in 2025 (up to september 2025) received financial assistance through Kaivalya, a rehabilitation and welfare scheme for disabled job seekers, also implemented by the Employment Department.

The WCD Department has implemented a few popular initiatives such as Ponvakk and Thejomaya After Care Home. The former stands for the eradication of child marriages through community participation, by incentivising informants. Thejomaya After Care Home is another progressive step of the Department to ease the process of transition of inmates of Women and Children Homes to society, after completing studies.

Kerala State Women's Development Corporation (KSWDC)

The Women's Development Corporation empowers women by providing financial support, training and awareness programmes. KSWDC helps women overcome obstacles to economic independence through loans, skill development and entrepreneurship programmes. In 2024-25, KSWDC provided loans to over 31,000 beneficiaries, trained thousands of women and schemes of the corporation benefitted more than 3 lakh women and girl students directly and indirectly. Additionally Corporation implemented various initiatives to promote women's empowerment. For more details see the section on Gender and Development.

Kerala Women's Commission

The Kerala Women's Commission, established under the Kerala Women's Commission Act of 1990, works to improve the status of women by addressing unfair practices, safeguarding rights, promoting gender equality, conducting awareness programs, legal workshops and public hearings and engaging with women through initiatives like 'Face to Face' with Commission. For more details see the section on Gender and Development.

Gender Park

The Gender Park serves as a hub for gender equality, driving research, dialogue, policy interventions and awareness while fostering women's economic empowerment through facilities like the Gender Library, Heritage Museum and International Convention Centre. For more details see the section on Gender and Development.

Welfare of Children

Child welfare is concerned with the physical, social and psychological well-being of children, particularly children suffering from the effects of poverty or lacking normal parental care and supervision. It is a continuum of services designed to ensure that children are safe and that families receive the support they need to care for their children. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, recognizes that humankind owes the child the best it has to offer and declares it a duty above all considerations of race, nationality, or creed.

The child care programmes support or coordinate services to prevent child abuse and neglect, receive and investigate reports of possible abuse and neglect, provide services to families who need help to protect and care for their children, assess the needs, strengths and resources of the child and ensure the well-being of children with families, relatives, or foster families. This includes ensuring children's access to health care and education, developing their personality, growing up in a happy environment and information about their rights.

As per the NFHS-5 report, the infant mortality rate (IMR) in Kerala is 4 deaths per 1,000 live births as against IMR of 5.6 deaths reported in NFHS-4. Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) also shows an improvement with 5.2 deaths per 1000 live births against 7.1 deaths as per NFHS-4. However, anemia rates reveal a decrease in health status among children. NFHS-5 data shows an increase in the rate of anaemia

among children aged 6-59 months, from 35.7 per cent (NFHS-4) to 39.4 per cent (NFHS-5). Data on the nutritional status of children is also a concern, as per NFHS-5 data. Data reveals that the percentage of children under 5 years who are underweight has risen to 19.7 per cent as compared to the NFHS-4 figure of 16.1. Similarly, children under 5 years who are stunted account for 23.4 per cent (NFHS-5) against 19.7 per cent (NFHS-4).

The holistic development of children up to 18 years includes physical, mental, emotional and social development. In Kerala, free education and health facilities are provided to all children in Government institutions. Child marriage violates the rights of children and adversely affects their health and well-being. It is essential to create a safe and caring environment for all children, free from neglect, violence, abuse and exploitation. The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has continued to review existing laws for the protection of child rights, inquire into cases of violation of child rights, look into factors inhibiting the enjoyment of those rights and suggest remedial measures.

The State Adoption Resource Agency and 14 specialised adoption agencies are functioning in Kerala. As of 2024-2025, Kerala has facilitated a total of 1,535 in-country and 161 inter-country adoptions. During the 2024-2025, 154 children were adopted in the state, comprising 138 in-country and 16 inter-country adoptions. The number of children adopted is given in **Appendix 8.3.7**.

The Government of Kerala's Our Responsibility to Children programme implemented in schools aims at scientifically identifying and addressing the behavioural, emotional, learning and psychological challenges faced by children, in collaboration with teachers, parents and the general public. The project is currently operational in schools across the State. Kaaval Plus focuses on community-based rehabilitation and re-integration, through a psychosocial approach, for children who need care and protection and also for POCSO survivors.

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012: The POCSO Act was enacted to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography and to provide a child-friendly system for the trial of these offences.

Nirbhaya Policy: The Government of Kerala formulated the Nirbhaya Policy for combating sexual

violence against women and children and to safeguard them against trafficking for exploitation. The policy is aimed at the prevention of sexual violence against women and children, protection of sexual violence victims, prosecution of sexual violence perpetrators, rehabilitation of sexual violence survivors and re-integration of sexual violence survivors. To co-ordinate the Nirbhaya Programme, a separate Nirbhaya Cell has been created under the Directorate of Women and Child, headed by an officer of the rank of Joint Director.

Early childhood is the most significant phase of development of a person. Recognising the criticality of 1000 days from a woman's pregnancy (270 days) to her child's 2nd birthday (730 days), the Government implemented the 1,000 days programme. The programme includes regular medical camps for pregnant and lactating women, the supply of therapeutic food and awareness classes for reducing the child mortality rate. The project was initiated in Attappadi on a pilot basis and has been extended to 57 ICDS Projects in tribal, coastal and hilly areas in 2024-25 and expended Rs. 1.61crore.

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is a major Government of India programme that addresses the needs of children under the age of six. The Department owns and operates 33,120 Anganwadi Centres (AWC) in the State (as on March 2025). District-wise coverage of ICDS beneficiaries is given in **Appendix 8.3.8**.

The WCD Department, in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), has initiated the fortification of rice which is served in hot cooked meals to children of 3 to 6 years in Anganwadies. Under this project, rice is fortified with 8 micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, Zinc, Vit.A, Vit. B12, Niacin, Vit.B6 and Thiamine). Raw rice is blended with fortified rice kernels in a ratio of 100:1. In addition to this, a micronutrient fortification of Amrutham Nutrimix is given as Take Home Ration to children in the age group of six months to three years. This was started in Wayanad and later extended to all districts. In addition to this, the State Government has initiated a new programme providing egg or milk in all days in all Anganwadi Centres, in 2024-25.

The Department initiated Nutrition Clinics to improve the health of women, children and adolescents through nutritional counselling, guidance, referrals and other social support with the help of a nutritionist. The project aims to look at an individual's

overall dietary health and identify the risk of malnutrition in the initial stages and intervene before the person gets malnourished. Nutrition Clinics have been set up in 152 Blocks and six Corporations.

The Department has been modifying Anganwadi Buildings into Smart Anganwadies with sufficient space for classrooms, dining halls, kitchen, store rooms, creative zones and indoor and outdoor play areas. The first one has been constructed in Thiruvananthapuram district and now 189 Smart Anganwadi Centres are functioning. The Department also developed theme-based pre-school activity posters and distributed them to children.

Social security of children through healthcare

Social Support Scheme for Children Affected with Juvenile Diabetes (Mittayi) provides comprehensive care to children/adolescents with Type-1 diabetes through Mittayi clinics established in five Government Medical Colleges in the State.

Specific schemes have been implemented for the rehabilitation of endosulfan victims in Kasaragod district. Under the Snehaswanthwanam scheme, bed-ridden victims receive financial assistance of Rs 2,200 per month, while those receiving a disability pension get Rs 1,700 and all other endosulfan victims are getting Rs 1200. In 2024-25, this scheme benefited 5,250 individuals. Additionally, the special Aswasakiranam scheme provides Rs 700 per month to caregivers of endosulfan victims who are fully bedridden or have intellectual disabilities, supporting 771 beneficiaries. Children from Endosulfan-affected families in classes I to XII are given educational assistance- Rs 2000, Rs 3000 and Rs 4000. This scheme supported 356 children in 2024-25.

The Way Ahead

To ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of Kerala's social security measures, the path forward must prioritize a rights-based, outcomes-focused approach. This necessitates a transition toward comprehensively and scientifically managing the institutional mechanisms responsible for delivery. By expanding social security coverage to address emerging vulnerabilities, rigorously strengthening institutional capacity and promoting seamless inter-departmental collaboration, Kerala can enhance both the efficiency and effectiveness of its welfare system. Adopting these strategic shifts will solidify Kerala's social security framework, forging a more equitable and truly inclusive society where the needs of the most marginalized are actively met.

CHAPTER

09

ART ,CULTURE AND SPORTS

ART ,CULTURE AND SPORTS

9.1 ART AND CULTURE

Kerala's art and cultural milieu is a dynamic combination of rich traditional diversity and modern, progressive principles, moulded by its distinctive location, long history of global exchanges, and active social and political movements. The state's visual arts, handicrafts, languages, festivals, martial arts, and cultural practices, which encompass a diverse range of indigenous, tribal, and coastal cultural traditions, have evolved over time, imbuing the democratic and secular spirit of Kerala's socioeconomic transition.

Recognising the critical role of art and culture in sustaining social cohesion and fostering a progressive outlook, the Kerala government has actively promoted the sector through initiatives that support traditional art forms and artists, encourage inclusivity and cultural exchange, strengthen cultural institutions, and expand platforms for artistic expression, while also innovating institutional management. Together, these initiatives reflect the government's commitment to keeping Kerala's culture alive, dynamic, and relevant in the modern world.

Directorate of Culture

The Directorate of Culture, established to coordinate and regulate the activities of all art, literary, and cultural institutions, operates under the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Directorate facilitates and coordinates the activities of autonomous institutions and academies viz; Kalamandalam Deemed University,

Sangeetha Nataka Academy, Sahithya Academy, Lalithakala Academy, Folklore Academy, Mahakavi Moyin Kutty Vaidyar Mappila Kala Academy, Kerala State Film Development Corporation, Chalachithra Academy, Vylloppilli Samskrithi Bhavan, Centre for Heritage Studies, Thunchan Memorial trust, Kadhakali Institute – Margi, Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam, Bharath Bhavan, Kerala Book Marketing Society, Sree Narayana International Study Centre, Children's institutions such as Jawahar Balabhavan and State Institute of Children's Literature, Language promotion institutions such as State Language Institute, State Institute of Encyclopedic Publications and Malayalam Mission.

The Directorate also coordinates the distribution of annual grants to all cultural institutions that do not receive assistance from state plan funds. Other important responsibilities of the Directorate include the promotion of creative activities in the memorials of distinguished artistic, literary and cultural doyens; distribution of assistance to artists and litterateurs who are suffering from financial hardships; distribution of monthly pensions to the dependents of prominent artists and writers and coordination of the activities of the South Zone Cultural Centre in Kerala.

The Directorate implemented various schemes to preserve and nurture the state's rich cultural heritage. It also provided aid to financially disadvantaged artists. Accordingly, artists and dependents of deceased artists and eminent writers were provided with monthly pensions. Activities

and accomplishments of the Directorate of Cultural Affairs are given below:

Achievements of the Directorate of Culture

1. Diamond Jubilee Fellowship Scheme for 1,000 Young Artists

The Department of Cultural Affairs implemented the Diamond Jubilee Fellowship Project in collaboration with local self-government institutions, providing training to the general public and students in classical and folk ritual art forms. The Diamond Jubilee Fellowship Project is playing a significant role in preserving Kerala's unique artistic and cultural heritage. This initiative encourages young artists by offering them a short-term opportunity to explore various art forms, to help them pursue their chosen field. The training is provided by artists selected for this purpose. The training is standardised and uniform as it is based on well-structured syllabi in more than 45 art subjects, prepared with the help of experts. It has been stipulated that one artist should handle at least four classes, each of two and a half hours duration.

In 2024-25, 818 Diamond Jubilee artists have been appointed on a cluster basis and are providing art training to approximately 10,000 students. In the previous year, encouragement and financial assistance were given to these artists for local art performances and district-level competitions. The institution of this fellowship has been widely acclaimed as an innovative programme to effectively assist artists across the state. Details of the Diamond Jubilee Fellowship are provided in **Appendix 9.1.1.**

2. Rural Art Hub Scheme

Although Kerala has a rich cultural heritage of folk arts and crafts, the lives of traditional artisans are not financially secure, which may eventually lead to the decline or abandonment of these traditional art forms. In response to this, the livelihood enhancement programme, initiated in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, has been continued and significantly developed. The livelihood of artists, as part of the Rural Art Hub Scheme, is a scheme being implemented to conserve and develop Kerala's rural craft heritage. Vastu Vidya Gurukulam and Folklore Academy are the implementing agencies of the project. This project helps us improve the living conditions of the traditional artists and craftsmen by establishing

linkages with various organisations and national and international institutions. This project has helped folk artists and craftsmen enhance their skills, enabling them to reach the global market and improve their livelihoods. The project provides opportunities for capacity building and direct access to domestic, national, and global markets. The details of the Rural Art Hubs in Kerala are provided in **Appendix 9.1.2.**

3. Renaissance Cultural Complexes

This project is being implemented with financial assistance from KIIFB to establish cultural complexes in all districts, for disseminating the ethos of the Renaissance in Kerala and fostering progressive cultural activities among the people. The three Renaissance Cultural Complexes, namely the Sree Narayana Guru Complex at Kollam, the Palakkad Complex, and the Kasargod Complex, have been inaugurated and are now operational. Land has been acquired in Alappuzha, Kottayam and Kannur for the construction of new complexes. Land acquisition processes have been initiated in the remaining districts.

4. "Samam" – A cultural movement for women's equality

Samam is a project conceived by the Department of Cultural Affairs to propagate gender equality in all spheres in response to violence against women and children. It also aimed to promote the cultural upliftment of the public through cultural education programmes. This programme also addresses the issues of superstitions and drug addiction by reaching out to people to make them conscious of its perils

5. Scheme for providing financial assistance to writers and artists

The scheme provides monthly financial assistance to writers and artists. An amount of Rs. 3,93,25,680/- (Rupees Three Crore Ninety-Three Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Rupees Only) has been spent on providing artists' pensions. Approximately 2,000 artists received financial assistance during the 2024-25 financial year. Applications for artists' pension are being accepted through the online portal 'Sanskriti'.

6. Mazha Mizhi – New Media Arts Programme

This project aims to showcase artistic expressions, performances and artistic creations on an online platform and thereby provide financial assistance to those who make a living out of art and

culture, including tribal arts, ritual arts, folk arts, classical and semi-classical arts, drama and other performing arts, sculpture, painting, handicrafts, and literature. As part of the project, the Department of Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with Bharat Bhavan, has enabled tribal artists, differently abled artists, and coastal artists who have not been able to come to the forefront of society in various districts of Kerala to perform their art and provide them with a platform through the project.

Non-recurring grants to cultural institutions

The government has provided financial assistance to cultural organisations and associations to strengthen their activities and encourage them to undertake creative initiatives. According to the norms, an organisation will be offered financial aid three times over a five-year period. As part of the scheme, viz., non-recurring grants to cultural institutions, Rs. 50,00,000/- have been sanctioned for the following 15 institutions and cultural activities during the last financial year. The list of institutions which received grants during 2024-25 is given below:

1. Kunchan Nambiar Memorial, Killikkurissimangam,
2. Pookad College(Pookad kalayalam,Kozhikode)
3. Kallekulangara Kathakali Village
4. Sadhguru Chembai Vaidyanath Bhagavathar Vidyapeeth
5. V. Sambasivan Foundation Kollam
6. Kaliyanganu, Kottayam
7. Byter Arts Foundation, Thrissur
8. Jeevakala kalasaamskarika Mandalam
9. Lalithmabika Antharjanam Centre
10. Orma Foundation
11. Sree Chithira Thirunal Sangeetha Natya Kalakendram
12. Dialogue Film Society
13. Thaliparambu Destination
14. Sankaradi Anusmaranam
15. Pathanamthitta Kathakali Club

Major institutions under the Directorate of Culture and their contributions

There are 23 institutions working under this directorate that are assisted by the plan fund. These include various academies, institutes, memorial buildings, and institutions that perform their activities with the Government's financial aid through the Department of Cultural Affairs. The

important institutions under the Department of Cultural Affairs are given in **Appendix 9.1.3**.

Besides these institutions, the Department of Archaeology, the Department of Museums and Zoos and the Department of Archives also work under the Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC)

The Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC) was established on July 23, 1975, with the primary objective of facilitating the production and promotion of Malayalam cinema, as well as developing a culture of recognising and appreciating quality and excellence in cinema. KSFDC owns and operates 17 state-of-the-art theatres, meeting global standards, in various parts of Kerala.

The Chitranjali Studio at Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram, was established by KSFDC to bring the Malayalam cinema production industry from erstwhile Madras to our state. At Chitranjali Studio, a major modernisation project was undertaken, incorporating advanced digital technology. The renovation included Dolby 3D facilities, state-of-the-art production and post-production infrastructure, as well as enhanced art and technical facilities to support both Indian and international filmmakers.

KSFDC operates a non-plan scheme that provides subsidies for feature films and children's films produced under the Chitranjali package scheme, aiming to promote the domestic film industry. Around 40 - 45 films are produced annually, utilising the subsidy provided by the Government of Kerala. With the headquarters at Kalabhavan, Vazhuthacad, Thiruvananthapuram, KSFDC theatres are the main venues of the well-acclaimed International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK). The Corporation has won eight National Film Awards and 24 State Film Awards, maintaining a significant presence in the film industry.

The Statue of J C Daniel installed at Chitranjali studio was unveiled in 2025 as a token of gratitude to the father of Malayalam cinema.

With the budgetary support of the Government of Kerala, KSFDC has completed the renovation work on Kairali and Sree Theatres in Thrissur.

KSFDC, with financial support from KIIFB, is constructing 100 modern theatres across Kerala, with complexes at Vaikom, Payyannur, Kayamkulam, Paayam, and Alagappa Nagar.

OTT Platform and E-Ticketing App

Kerala has launched a government-owned OTT platform called 'C Space', which promotes quality films with artistic and cultural value. 'C Space' intends to promote Malayalam cinema and culture by helping spread Malayalam creations globally. Notably, it is the first Government-owned OTT platform in India.

KSFDC is developing a centralised digital cinema ticket booking system across Kerala to ensure real-time monitoring of ticket sales, improve transparency and enhance customer convenience. The system aims to streamline revenue collection, prevent tax evasion and automate the remittance of service charges, cinema welfare cess and other relevant taxes. The first phase of the e-ticketing system is nearing completion.

Films by women directors and directors belonging to the SC/ST category:

The Government of Kerala launched a scheme, namely 'the Assistance to Women-directed Film', in the financial year 2019-20 to enhance women's representation in film direction. Kerala State Film Development Corporation is entrusted with the production of these films. As part of the scheme, the film 'Nishiddho', directed by Tara Ramanujan, was released across Kerala on November 11, 2022. 'Nishiddho' won the Best Debut Director Award at the 26th International Film Festival of Kerala and was selected as the second-best film at the Kerala State Film Awards. 'Nishiddho' is being screened in various national and international film festivals. 'Divorce', directed by Mini I G, was released across Kerala on 24th February 2023. During the financial year 2020-21, two films were funded: 'B32 to 44', directed by Shruthy Sharanyam, and 'Nila', directed by Indu Lakshmi. They were released on April 6, 2023, and August 4, 2023, respectively.

'B32 to 44', directed by Shruthy Sharanyam, bagged the Kerala State Film Award 2022 for the Best Women/ Transgender Film under a special category. These films are being screened across India and abroad at various film festivals and have garnered much appreciation. In 2021-22, two directors, Sivaranjini and Farzana, were selected

under this scheme. The production of 'Victoria' by Sivaranjini has been completed, and post-production is in progress at Chitranjali Studio. Farzana's film 'Mumta' is under pre-production. Women directors selected for the financial year 2022-23 are Athira T. N. (Cafe Unlimited) and Mini Poongattu (Koothu).

The Government has also launched an initiative to support aspiring directors from the SC/ST category since 2020-21. In the financial year 2020-21, 'Ariku', directed by V. S. Sanoj, was completed, and 'Churul', directed by Arun J. Mohan, was released across Kerala on August 30, 2024. During 2021-22, the 'Pralayashesham oru Jalakanyaka' by Manoj Kumar and 'Kaadu' by Sunnesh Vadakumpadan were selected under this scheme. Production of 'Pralayashesham oru Jalakanyaka' and 'Kaadu' has been completed, and post-production is in progress at Chitranjali Studio. Directors belonging to the SC/ST category selected for the FY 2022-23 are Ajith V. (Attumali) and Sumesh C. S. (Break Sukumaran).

Kerala State Chalachitra Academy

Kerala State Chalachitra Academy is an autonomous, non-profit institution functioning under the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala. It was founded in August 1998 to promote cinema in the State. It is governed by the motto: Films should support people's growth as individuals and as a society. The activities of the Chalachitra Academy for the year 2024-25 were:

Job training for women in technical fields.

With the aim of increasing the presence of women in the technical field in Malayalam cinema, the Kerala State Chalachitra Academy organised an orientation camp for 30 women from different parts of the State at the Samskrithi Bhavan, Velloppilli, Thiruvananthapuram, from September 27 to 29, 2024. Its practical training workshop was held from April 2 to 4, 2025, at Gurugopinath Natanagram, Thiruvananthapuram.

Film Policy for the State of Kerala

KSFDC has been preparing a draft Film Policy to define the framework for government intervention and support in the film sector. As part of film policy formation, an international conclave was organised on 2-3 August 2025, at the Sankaranarayanan Thampi Hall in the Legislative Assembly complex, to solicit expert opinions on the proposed policy.

The Kerala Film Policy Conclave was the broadest democratic forum organised to formulate a comprehensive and progressive film policy for Malayalam cinema, with the goal of creating good cinema for a better tomorrow.

The all-encompassing issues of Malayalam cinema were the themes of in-depth discussion at the Conclave. Well-known artists from the Malayalam film industry, ministers, government representatives, film organisation members and policy experts led creative sessions. Around 600 delegates shared their ideas and opinions in the open forum. The two-day conference, held with the vision of a democratic and participatory Kerala film policy, was also a successful academic process.

International Film Festival of Kerala

The International Film Festival of Kerala is a world-renowned event. The festival preserves and promotes the art of cinema and its vibrant culture. The Kerala State Chalachithra Academy hosts the International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), one of India's leading film festivals, on behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala. Over the years, the IFFK has earned a reputation as Asia's best-managed film festival, and possibly the world's most people-centred. The festival showcases the best films, features renowned directors, technicians, and spectators from around the world, and is regarded as one of India's premier cultural events.

29th IFFK

The 29th IFFK, which prioritised women's representation, was held from December 13 to 20, 2024. A total of 177 films from 68 countries were screened. Out of these, more than 40 films were directed by women. There were eight women among the 14 jurors. Culture Minister Shri. Saji Cheriau honoured senior cinema actresses during a festival-related event. It was another example of the festival's dedication to recognising women in film.

A total of 14 films were screened in the International Competition section, and 12 films in the Malayalam Cinema Today section. 63 films were included in the World Cinema section. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to An Hui, a Hong Kong-based director, screenwriter, producer, and actress.

Kerala Sahitya Academy

The Kerala Sahitya Academy, established in 1956, aims to facilitate the development and growth of the Malayalam language and literature. The major activities during the financial year 2024-25 included book publishing, conducting seminars on the anniversaries of well-known publications, memorials to various Malayalam writers, a literary festival, and the digitisation of the library. Selected writers were honoured with awards, fellowships, lifetime achievement recognitions, and the Yuvakavitha Award.

International Literary Festival of Kerala 2024-25

The second edition of the International Literary Festival of Kerala (ILFK), held on August 17-21, 2025, organised by the Kerala Sahitya Academy in collaboration with the Department of Culture, Government of Kerala, brought together reputed writers, poets, and thinkers from across India and abroad for panel discussions, readings, and cultural interactions. The festival celebrated literature as a means to connect, question and inspire. It featured sessions on themes such as "South Asian Poetry Today" and "What's New?" with poets from Nepal, Palestine and Tibet engaging with audiences in Malayalam and English. Set amidst Kerala's rich cultural backdrop, ILFK 2025 provided a warm and inclusive space for readers and writers to meet, share ideas and experience literature in its living form.

Kerala Lalithakala Academy

Kerala Lalithakala Academy, established in 1962 to conserve and promote visual arts, is an autonomous cultural organisation under the Government of Kerala. The Kerala Lalithakala Academy has art galleries located in Thiruvananthapuram, Kilimanoor, Kayamkulam, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kaladi, Malampuzha, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Thalassery, Payyannur, Mananthavady, and Kanhangad. The Lalithakala Academy has undertaken and initiated several programmes during this period, as briefly explained below:

A Retrospective exhibition of Yusuf Arakkal Ernakulam 'Celebration of Solitude and Humanity'

As part of the retrospective exhibitions organised by the Kerala Lalithakala Academy, a retrospective exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Yusuf Arakkal, titled "Celebration of Solitude and Humanity", was organised at the Ernakulam

Durbar Hall Art Centre from June 5 to 24, 2025. The function was inaugurated by Prof. M.K. Sanu and presided over by the Academy Chairman, Mr. Murali Cheeroth.

Gramakam' Art Camp

Kerala Lalithakala Academy Velloor, in association with 'If Creations' Cultural Organisation, organised a 'Gramakam' art camp on April 5, 6 and 7, 2025, at Velloor Higher Secondary School Ground, Thrissur, in connection with the Gramakam Drama Festival.

Celebrations of Raja Ravi Varma's 177th birthday, Cartoonist Shankar's 123rd birthday and the Centenary of artist Namboodiri and receipt of the originals of his Rekha paintings

Renowned painter Raja Ravi Varma's 177th birth anniversary was celebrated in his native Kilimanoor. On April 28, 2025, a two-day painting camp was organised at the Raja Ravi Varma Memorial Cultural Centre in Kilimanoor, named after Ravi Varma, with the participation of 10 local artists.

Kerala Lalithakala Academy and Kerala Cartoon Academy jointly organised a memorial ceremony and floral tribute on July 31 at the Shankar Memorial Cartoon Museum in Krishnapuram, Kayamkulam, as part of the 123rd birth anniversary celebrations of cartoonist Shankar, the eminent pioneer of political cartooning in India.

The centenary celebrations of Artist Namboodiri, titled '*Ethrayum Chitram Chithram*', which are jointly organised by the Artist Namboodiri Samman Trust and Kerala Lalithakala Academy, were initiated on September 13, 2025, at Naduvattom, Ponnani. The event featured a cultural programme and was attended by prominent personalities. The originals of Namboodiri's paintings were handed over to the Culture Department by his son, K. M. Vasudevan, in a ceremony led by Minister Saji Cherian. The works will be exhibited across Kerala and preserved in a permanent gallery at the V. T. Bhattathiripad Cultural Complex, Palakkad.

A. Ramachandran Museum inauguration

The A. Ramachandran Museum at the Sree Narayanaguru Cultural Complex, Kollam, was inaugurated online by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on October 5, 2025. Established jointly by the Kerala Lalithakala Academy, the Department

of Culture, and Ramachandran's family, the museum features a 6,000 sq. ft. air-conditioned and beautifully curated gallery showcasing around 100 works, including 52 paintings and several sculptures. Ramachandran's family donated artworks worth about Rs 300 crore to the State. The museum also includes sculptures from the Whispers of Earth camp and a merchandising shop offering items featuring Ramachandran's artwork.

Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy

The Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy, established in 1958, plays a vital role in preserving and promoting the State's diverse performing arts, including music, dance, folk arts and drama. As an autonomous cultural institution under the Government of Kerala, it supports artists, organises festivals and implements programmes that not only enrich the cultural landscape but also contribute to the local economy through tourism, cultural events and skill development in the creative sector.

Major activities of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy during the year 2024-25 are listed below:

1. The Swathi Sangeetha Award for renowned musicians and the S. L. Puram Sadanandan Nataka Award for lifetime achievement in theatre arts were presented.
2. State-level professional drama competition and amateur drama competition were held in the months of May and January, respectively, at different venues.
3. Artist Data Bank

The Academy ventured to establish India's first artist database, the Kerala Artist Data Bank, which contains information about artists aged 18 and above who have made commendable contributions in various fields of art under the purview of the Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy. It was launched on July 20, 2024, through the Academy Website. So far, information on 600 artists has been collected in the artist data bank.

4. Workshops

Various workshops have been conducted on the following:

- National Makeup Workshop
- National playwriting workshop
- Chamayam Training Camp/Workshop
- Storytelling Festival and Workshop

5. Accidental Medical Insurance Scheme for Artists

As part of providing accident medical insurance to artists in the fields of professional drama, instrumental art, storytelling, magic, and other related arts, the Academy has been offering an insurance scheme through the New India Insurance Company in collaboration with the Government since the financial year 2021-22. The number is given in the table below.

Year	No of Beneficiaries
2021-22	911
2022-23	1069
2023-24	1253
2024-25	840
2025-26 (till Aug31 2025)	686

Kerala Folklore Academy

The Kerala Folklore Academy, an independent centre under the Department of Cultural Affairs, was established on June 28, 1995, with the objective of promoting and projecting the traditional art forms of Kerala. Kerala Folklore Academy is located in Kannur, Kerala. The Academy is implementing a diverse range of

projects to protect and disseminate the folklore of Kerala and its various sections, honour folk artists, and provide financial assistance to children with an aptitude for folk arts, as well as educate them in the folk-art forms they prefer. The Academy also focuses on the welfare of folk artists and provides medical assistance to those who need it. In addition to the above, the Academy identifies, records, and preserves endangered folk-art forms and folk culture, and maintains and develops the museums associated with the Academy.

Book Publication

The 45th issue of the Academy's quarterly 'Poli', Sri. Balakrishnan Koyyal's '*Nammude Nadankalakal*' and Padmashri S.R.D. Prasad's '*Meipayattu*' were republished. Three books- '*Parasuraman*' by Ibrahim Vengara, '*Samakalika Folklorerum Keraleeya Prasharavum*' by Yuvakshetra Institute of Management Studies, Moor, Palakkad and the book '*Roots and Rhythms: Expressions of Kerala Folklore and Culture*' were published.

Inauguration of Chirakkal Perunkaliyattam Theyyam Gallery

The *Perunkaliyattam* was held at Chirakkal Kovilakam after a 45-year hiatus and was inaugurated on February 21, 2025, by the Minister of Registration, Museums, Archaeology,

Box 9.1.1 International Theatre Festival of Kerala (ITFOK 2025)

The 15th International Theatre Festival of Kerala (ITFOK) was held in Thrissur from February 23 to March 2, 2025, featuring eight days of diverse programmes including stage plays, musical performances, interactive sessions and seminars.

The theme of the 15th edition, which began in 2008, was "Cultures of Resistance." Plays from Iraq, Egypt, Russia, Hungary, Sri Lanka and various Indian states were staged across major festival venues—K.T. Muhammed Theatre, Murali Theatre, Blackbox (Thoppil Bhasi Natyagriham) and Faos Theatre (Ramanilayam Campus).

A notable highlight was the participation of eight women directors, reflecting the festival's commitment to inclusivity and gender representation. The effective coordination by the media, volunteers, technical team, hospitality wing and documentation unit added to the prestige and professionalism of ITFOK 2025. With a total of 15 plays presented, there were 34 performances, including five international productions and ten Indian productions.

The international plays in the festival included *Body, Teeth & Wig* – Cifty Media Production - Egypt, *Circle Relations* – Hungary, *Dear Children Sincerely* – 7 Decades Sri Lanka, *Amal* – Department of Cinema & Theatre, Iraq and *Poor Lisa* – Briansave Theatre for Young Spectators, Russia. The Indian plays staged in the function were *Hayavadana* – Bhoomija Trust, Bengaluru, *The Nights* – Kolkata Puppet Arts Trust, New Delhi, *Project Darling* – Dramanon, Bengaluru, *Aboriginal Cry* – Ashoka Theatre, Manipur, *Chai Kharam* – Orchid Theatre, Assam, *Item* – Asitva Art Foundation, Gujarat and *B-Loved* – Tamasha Theatre, Mumbai. Three Malayalam plays, *Bhootangal* by Athlete Sports Theatre, Palakkad, *Neith* by Mamangam Arts Collective, Ernakulam, and *Aarame Viral* by School of Letters, Kottayam, were also performed.

Music and Cultural Performances

The festival also featured a range of music and folk-art programmes that celebrated India's rich cultural diversity. Major music programmes were *Folk Rock Music* by Magesh T.M. and team, *Shanka Tribe* by The Band, *Bamboo Band* performance by Bishoy's Garage Music, Avittathoor, *Sarathgana Night* by Sharath and Prakash Ulliyeri, *Ghazal, Sufi and Qawwali Night* by Shihab C and *Baul Music* by Shanthipriya

Traditional folk dances from different states were also showcased, which included the Poojakunitha folk dance from Karnataka, performed by Kalabharaveshwara Youth Art Association. It was staged on February 25 in front of the K.T. Muhammed Theatre. This dance form is traditionally performed in rural regions of Mandya, Mysore, Kolar, and Tumkur in Karnataka. On February 28, Sogi Mukhavate, a folk dance from Maharashtra, was performed by Chabildas Vishnu and his team.

A panel discussion titled "Arangum Vela" was organised on February 25, 2025, focusing on the evolving perspectives and challenges in contemporary theatre.

and Antiquities. Then, in collaboration with the Agricultural University, the distribution of *Kavungintai* for 100 *kavu* (local Shrine) was inaugurated.

Ponniyathangam Programme

The *Ponniyathangam* programme, which lasted for seven days at Ponnyam Ezharakkam, where the historical heroes Kathiroom Gurikal and Thacholi Othenan are believed to have performed the Angam, was organised with various folk-art competitions and Kalaripayats from different parts of the state.

The Kerala Folklore Academy implemented the *Samam-Human Equality Cultural Movement* project. The event featured a drug-free awareness workshop for college students, the *Samam-Samadaram* felicitation programme honouring achievers from various fields, and the Samam-Samagamam Kerala Arts Mahasangamam, which brought together 1,800 artists on one platform.

Kerala Kalamandalam

Kerala Kalamandalam is the country's premier public institution for conserving and promoting Kerala's traditional performing arts. Since its inception, it has been a hub of activity, attracting artists, art scholars, historians, theatre artists/directors, choreographers, and art lovers from around the world.

Kerala Kalamandalam was declared as a Deemed University for art and culture by the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India, on the advice of the University Grants Commission on 14th March 2006, and the Government of Kerala approved its

Memorandum of Association and Rules on 15th May 2007.

During the period 2025-26, several significant initiatives were undertaken to strengthen the academic and infrastructural environment of Kerala Kalamandalam. The Mukundaraja Academic Block, spanning a total area of 34,000 square feet, has been completed and is now fully operational. It houses classrooms, seminar halls, HoD offices and faculty rooms, providing comprehensive academic facilities.

The **Study in Kerala** programme has been launched to attract international students and promote Kerala's traditional art forms globally. The first phase of campus beautification and landscaping has been successfully completed, significantly enhancing the campus's aesthetic and environmental quality. In the creative sphere, a new choreography production, developed under the guidance of Sri Bharath Sharma, reflects Kerala Kalamandalam's continued commitment to artistic innovation and excellence. There has also been an impressive increase in revenue generated by the institution.

Bharat Bhavan Kerala

Bharat Bhavan Kerala is an official cultural exchange centre under the Department of Cultural Affairs. Established in 1984, it serves as a bridge for cultural interaction between Kerala and other states in India, as well as foreign countries. The institution conducted the following events:

Padma Vibhushan Dr Kapila Vatsyayan National Indian Classical Dance Festival: The second edition of

this prestigious festival, which honours the legacy of the renowned scholar and global ambassador of Indian arts, Dr Kapila Vatsyayan, was held from September 22nd to 26th, 2024. National-level artists, including Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan awardees, participated in the five-day event.

Kadalmizhi: Coastal Creative Journey: This project was launched to provide a platform for coastal artists and to archive coastal arts and oral traditions for future generations. Each participating artist was provided a financial reward of Rs 3,000. The first phase began at Alappuzha Central Beach, featuring rare arts like *Shlamakarol*, *Devasthavi*, and *Chavittu Nadakam*. The journey continued through seven districts, including Ernakulam, Kozhikode, and Kannur, concluding in March 2025.

Tagore Fest: Ekla Chalo Re, held on March 24th and 25th, 2025, featured a conclave that included academic lectures, Hindustani music, Bengali dance, and a documentary screening. During the fest, Minister Saji Cheriyan presented the Bharat Bhavan Translation Excellence Awards and Rural Theatre Awards to distinguished recipients.

Theatrum Farme: Seed Sowing Festival - This innovative cultural initiative integrates art and organic farming, featuring a collective seed-sowing event held at Piravanthoor, which included prominent cultural figures and international guests.

Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam

Vastu Vidya Gurukulam, Aranmula, works under the Department of Culture, performs with the following focal areas:

1. Architectural Consultancy
2. Green Building Technology Consultancy
3. Mural composition section
4. Academic Centre
5. Digital documentation of heritage buildings, and
6. Rural Art Hub Project

Vastu Vidya Gurukulam has been working for three decades to preserve and nurture Kerala's rich sculpture and handicraft traditions, mural art heritage, and Daru Shila sculpture, as well as propagate artistic and environmentally friendly construction techniques.

The 2D graphical documentation project of 15 protected monuments under the Department

of Archaeology was completed during 2023-24. Tribal school students were trained in mural painting. Conservation work on the unique ancient wall paintings of the Ettumanur temple has been undertaken.

The Vastuvidya Gurukulam has supported the livelihoods of approximately 2,000 heritage and craft artists through the Rural Art Hub Scheme. Additionally, 58 groups have registered and are functioning under the Grameena Kala Kendram project.

Vyloppilli Samskrithi Bhavan

Vyloppilli Samskrithi Bhavan, situated at the heart of Thiruvananthapuram, is a multi-purpose cultural complex (MPCC) functioning as a cultural institution under the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala.

The updated website 'swathithirunal.in', about Maharaja Swathirunal, developed in collaboration with Vyloppilli Sanskriti Bhavan and C-DIT, has been released.

Balakeralam is a new initiative of the Kerala Government aimed at promoting civic awareness, tolerance, and creativity among students. Led by Vyloppilli Samskrithi Bhavan, the project will feature 1 lakh students from 14 districts in a 100-hour-long film.

Unarvu is a programme aimed at promoting cultural gatherings and ensuring the mental and physical well-being of senior citizens. Held on the third Saturday of every month, the event attracts over a hundred senior citizens. As part of the programme, interactive sessions with health professionals and cultural performances by *Unarvu* members are regularly organised.

The institution has attempted to significantly enhance its revenue by introducing various certificate courses in library science and renting out venues to agencies, individuals, government bodies, and other institutions for cultural events, functions, and filming.

Guru Gopinath Natanagramam

The Guru Gopinath Natana Gramam, established in 1995, provides coaching in Kerala Nadanam, classical music, and light music, as well as Veena and Tabla. The institution conducted seminars

on Kerala Natanam and workshops on sculpture at the institution. Other initiatives include the publication of books, maintenance of the dance museum, and the establishment of a 270-degree 'Mohanam' digital theatre dance gallery, which is currently in progress.

Margi

Margi is a grant-in-aid institution dedicated to preserving and promoting Kerala's classical art forms, mainly Kathakali and Koodiyattam. It offers advanced training in Kathakali (Acting, Music, Chenda, Maddalam), Koodiyattam (Vesham, Mizhavu, Thimila, Edakka) and Nangiarkoothu for girls, with Kerala Kalamandalam recognising it as a Resource Centre for Koodiyattam research. Margi conducts regular Chollyattam, provides free training during holidays and performs on invitation. Its Koodiyattam presentations, directed by Adoor Gopalakrishnan, contributed to UNESCO recognising the art as a masterpiece of intangible heritage. All Margi programmes are free for the public and tourists.

Centre for Heritage Studies

The Centre for Heritage Studies was established in 2000 by the Cultural Affairs Department at Hill Palace Museum premises, Thripunithura, Ernakulam, to develop an advanced research centre to undertake various projects of cultural resource management, to bring out research publications and to offer regular one-year P.G. Diploma courses in Archaeology, Archival Studies, Museology and Conservation. It also maintains and preserves the 52-acre Hill Palace Archaeological Museum campus, including the royal garden, children's park, and a deer park with over 100 deer.

Malayalam Mission

The Malayalam Mission is a scheme launched by the Kerala government in 2005 to provide opportunities for non-resident Keralites to study Malayalam. The primary objective of the Malayalam Mission is to establish, supervise, and coordinate Malayalam language learning centres at various locations in India and abroad, with the cooperation of the Malayalam diaspora worldwide.

The Malayalam Mission has more than 30,000 students in 30 countries, and its activities are based on study centres established in the respective locations. Bhoomi Malayalam News Paper, Pookkalam web magazine, Radio Malayalam, and Souvenir Shop are the main activities of the Malayalam Mission.

In 2016, the Malayalam Mission was operating in limited locations, including Chennai, Bangalore, Delhi, Mumbai, Puducherry, Goa, and Pune within India, as well as serving as a study centre in Bahrain and Singapore abroad. Now, its activities have been expanded to 105 chapters in 70 countries and 24 states.

KEVI Malayalam

The Malayalam Mission has initiated Malayalam classes with the goal of equipping students studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas with proficiency in the Malayalam language. Through this, students can learn Malayalam Mission courses, such as Kanikkonna, Suryakanthi, Ambal, and Neelakurinji, developed by the Mission.

Ananya Malayalam

Ananya Malayalam is a project launched as part of the state government's second 100-day action plan, with the aim of making guest workers from various Indian states who come to Kerala in search of employment literate in the Malayalam language. As part of the project, the manual and training for resource teachers have been completed, and the first learning centre in Kazhakoottam was inaugurated.

Vishwamalayalam

This project has been conceived with the objective of making Malayalis the first expatriate community to achieve complete literacy in their mother tongue. In this regard, steps have been initiated to implement various programs worldwide.

Samam-She Radio

A special broadcast programme called Samam She Radio was started by Radio Malayalam in collaboration with the Samam project of the Cultural Affairs Department. A wide range of programmes, including Gothra Penkavita, Penkathotsavam, and Manasuthurannu, which introduce female talents, radio dramas, awareness programmes for women, and inspirational thoughts, were broadcast through Samam She Radio.

BMOOC

The Bhoomi Malayalam Open Online Course has won the e-governance award of the Kerala Government in the e-learning category. There are many Malayalis, both within and outside Kerala, who do not know the Malayalam language.

Additionally, thousands of guest workers come to Kerala in search of employment. The Bhoomi Malayalam Open Online Course has been developed with the assistance of language technology and modern information technology for individuals who are unable to attend in-person classes. Ten modules are available on the portal bhoomimalayalam.kerala.gov.in, as well as through the Android mobile application.

State Institute of Encyclopedic Publications

The State Institute of Encyclopedic Publications (SIEP), established in 1961 under the Department of Cultural Affairs, Government of Kerala, is dedicated to disseminating knowledge in Malayalam. It is the only institute in India that exclusively publishes encyclopedias, including the renowned *Saravijnanakosam* and the *Encyclopedia of Dravidian Culture*. SIEP also promotes Malayalam through cultural exhibitions and IT-based language tools. The SIEP has initiated several innovative projects and successfully completed many pending programmes. The pending work of *Saravijnanakosam* was resumed fully, and Volume 19 of *Saravijñānakosham* was released. The institute also initiated the publication of mini encyclopaedias on various important topics. Of the 13 mini encyclopaedias produced in collaboration with the University of Malayalam, three - *Social Science Thinkers*, *Handwritten Knowledge* and *Basic Film Theory* - were published in 2025.

Kumaranasan institute of culture

The Kumaranasan Institute of Culture commemorated 59 years since the Thonnakkal Aasan Memorial, the first poet's residence taken over by the Kerala State Government, started functioning. In 1999, the State Government elevated this institution to the Kumaranaasan National Institute of Culture. With its elevation to the National Cultural Institute, the scope of its activities expanded, and new action plans were formulated by integrating Aasan's visions with cultural studies. Major activities of the institute in 2024-25 included the 152nd birth anniversary of the great poet Kumaranasan, the distribution of awards, such as the Veenapoov Centenary Prize and the Kumaran Kavi Puraskar, the conduct of the Vidyarambha Mahotsavam, and the functioning of Ashan Pallikkudam, as well as works related to the production of the Ashan Documentary.

State Institute of Languages

The State Institute of Languages (SIL), established

in 1968, aims to develop Malayalam as an effective medium for the dissemination of modern knowledge, foster meaningful and beneficial interaction among different Indian languages, and promote the local language as a vital instrument for social and emotional integration. To achieve these objectives, the Institute undertakes a variety of academic and cultural activities, including the organisation of seminars, workshops, and training programmes, the conduct of book fairs and exhibitions, and the publication of academic and college-level textbooks and reference materials.

The Institute was entrusted with coordinating the digitisation of the great dictionary 'Shabdatharavali'. Based on expert recommendations, it was renamed "Malayalam Dictionary". The Honourable Chief Minister launched the online version on May 31, 2023, and the mobile app was released on International Mother Language Day, February 21, 2024.

The Kerala Bhasha Institute Awards were instituted in 2023-2024 for scholarly literature, under three categories: the N.V. Krishna Warriar Memorial Scholarly Award, the Dr K.M. George Memorial Research Award and the M.P. Kumaran Memorial Translation Award. Each award consists of 100,000 Indian Rupees, a citation, and a sculpture.

A bilingual web portal was developed with the help of C-DIT to provide online book sales, e-books, the 'Vijnana Kairali' magazine, and library search facilities.

Directorate of Museum and Zoo

The Department of Museum and Zoo is functioning under the administrative control of the Cultural Affairs Department. Thiruvananthapuram Museum and Zoo, Art Gallery, Thrissur Zoo, and Krishna Menon Museum at Kozhikode are the major attractions for tourists. The Department of Museum and Zoo also provide opportunities for education and research on wildlife. It also focused on developing, preserving and exhibiting a significant collection of natural, art and historical objects. The institution has a mobile application, 'Trivandrum Zoo', which shares information about the Thiruvananthapuram Zoological Garden. The list of essential museums in Kerala, under the Museum Department, is provided in **Appendix 9.1.4**.

The following are the major activities carried out under the Museum and Zoo Department during the last financial year.

- Two new Museums Handloom Museum, Kannur and the Heritage Museum, Wayanad have been established.
- Development of Guided Tour Application on Android platform for Natural History Museum, Thiruvananthapuram:

Established in 1964, the Natural History Museum in Thiruvananthapuram has one of the most comprehensive collections among the country's natural history museums. To showcase these collections, the Department has developed a guided tour application for visitors to use at KELTRON on the Android platform.

Kerala State Archaeology Department

The Kerala State Archaeology Department was formed in 1962, integrating the Travancore Archaeology Department and the Archaeological Research Centre of the erstwhile Kochi. The department's primary functions include publishing volumes on stone inscriptions discovered from various locations, copying writings on copper plates, conducting excavations and explorations, and taking measures to protect ancient historical monuments dating back to 200 BC scattered throughout different parts of the State.

Many museums in Kerala are under the Department of Archaeology, including the Padmanabhapuram Palace in Thakkala, Tamil Nadu. Among them, the following are important museums.

- Pazhassi Tomb Museum, Mananthavady, Wayanad
- Kunhali Marakkar Memorial Museum, Kottakal, Vadakara.
- Pazhassi Raja Museum, East Hill, Kozhikode
- Gandhi Smriti Museum, Payyannur, Kannur
- Regional History Museum, Kandonthar, Kannur.
- Palakkad District Heritage Museum, Kalpathi, Palakkad
- Thrissur District Heritage Museum, Thrissur.
- Archaeological Museum, Shaktan Tampuran Palace, Thrissur.
- Ernakulam District Heritage Museum, Bastion Bungalow, Fort Kochi.
- Hill Palace Archaeological Museum, Tripunithura, Ernakulam

- Idukki District Heritage Museum, Painav, Idukki.
- Archaeological Museum, Krishnapuram Palace, Kayamkulam.
- Kottarakkara Thampuran Memorial Classical Arts Museum, Kottarakkara, Kollam
- Veluthampi Dalawa Memorial Museum, Mannadi, Pathanamthitta
- Koyikkal Palace Museum, Nedumangad, Thiruvananthapuram
- Padmanabhapuram Palace Museum, Thakala, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu

Details of museums and monuments under the Department of Archaeology, which are open to the public, are given in **Appendix 9.1.5**. A list of protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India and the Archaeology Department of Kerala is provided in **Appendix 9.1.6** and **Appendix 9.1.7**, respectively.

The Kudakallu at Manjeri Pattarkulam in Malappuram district was opened, subjected to archaeological investigation, and then carefully lifted and reinstalled at its present location.

The third volume of the Kerala Archaeological Series, which aims to publish previously unreleased inscriptions discovered in the Kerala region, has been completed.

The comprehensive renovation of the world-famous Archaeological Museum at Padmanabhapuram Palace has been completed. The museum showcases the heritage and history of Travancore.

The Thrissur Sakthan Thampuran Palace, renovated with central funding, has been opened to the public. Various antiquities, ranging from the Stone Age to the colonial period, are displayed here in accordance with modern museum standards.

The Bishop Vailoppilly Memorial Migration Museum, which tells the story of migration from Travancore to Malabar, was opened to the public at Chembathottiyil in the Sreekantapuram Municipality of Kannur district.

The preliminary 2D documentation of 14 structures included in the protected heritage of the Archaeological Department, and the detailed 2D documentation of 9 structures, were completed through the Vastuvidya Gurukulam.

Kerala State Archives Department

The Kerala State Archives Department has been entrusted with the noble responsibility of administering, scientifically preserving, and maintaining invaluable records that form part of Kerala's heritage. These records include those preserved in the State Archives as well as records belonging to the State Government, various departments, institutions, and individuals. The Department ensures that these documents are preserved for use in administrative and research purposes. In addition, the Department also undertakes publication of records, digitisation, and awareness programmes as its key activities.

institutions and artists will help the sector reach greater heights. Promoting progressive thinking, cultural education, creative skills, and global exchanges can further strengthen Kerala's position as a centre of art and creativity. The programmes to ensure the livelihood security of rural artists need to be diversified and strengthened further. By protecting its heritage and embracing new possibilities, Kerala can cultivate a vibrant, sustainable, and forward-looking cultural ecosystem that continues to inspire both within and beyond the State.

1. Construction of the International Archives & Heritage Centre

The International Archives & Heritage Centre, a joint initiative of the State Archives Department and the University of Kerala, is being established at the Kariavattom Campus as a world-class centre for study and research.

2. Palm Leaf Manuscript Museum, Kerala

The Palm Leaf Manuscript Museum, inaugurated in December 2022 at the State Archives Department in Thiruvananthapuram, is India's first museum dedicated to palm-leaf records. Developed by the State Archives Department in collaboration with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage, this exhibition showcases manuscripts dating from the 17th to the 19th centuries.

The museum houses over 1.5 lakh documents that reveal Kerala's history, administration, and culture through themed galleries with digital displays. It serves as a unique centre preserving and presenting Kerala's documentary heritage in a modern, interactive format.

Kerala's art and culture sector continues to play a vital role in the State's social progress and economic development. Ongoing efforts to improve cultural infrastructure, expand digital access, and support artists have helped preserve traditional art forms while encouraging new creative expressions. The growth of cultural industries, festivals, and tourism has provided more opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Going forward, a stronger focus on inclusion, innovation and collaboration among

9.2 SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

Sports and youth affairs contribute significantly to individual development and social progress. Kerala has made steady progress in sports development through systematic expansion of stadiums, playgrounds, and other sports facilities across the State. The Government has undertaken sustained efforts to promote a strong sporting culture, recognising the role of sports in shaping youth character and potential. These efforts reflect Kerala's sports legacy and its commitment to holistic development. Financial support, infrastructure creation, and talent identification programmes continue to strengthen the sector.

Football remains one of the most popular sports in Kerala. The Kerala Football Association, established in 1948, has played a key role in promoting the sport. Kerala's performance in the Santosh Trophy tournaments during 1985–1995 brought national recognition and inspired FIFA to produce the film *Maithanam – The Story of Football in Kerala*. Clubs such as Kerala Blasters and Gokulam Kerala have further strengthened Kerala's presence in national football through recent tournament victories.

Cricket infrastructure and athlete development have also received attention. The State promotes sports education, scholarship schemes, and comprehensive athlete development. Kerala continues to produce notable performers in badminton, hockey, athletics, and other disciplines. Traditional sports and youth fitness are promoted

through awareness programmes, events, and festivals.

The key sports institutions under Sports and Youth Affairs in Kerala are:

1. Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs
2. Kerala State Sports Council
3. Kerala State Youth Welfare Board
4. Kerala State Youth Commission

Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs

The Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs (DSYA) was established in 1987. Its activities include the promotion and development of sports and games in the State by creating high-quality infrastructure, fostering public awareness on the importance of sports and providing facilities for the effective training and grooming of sportspersons to achieve international standards. It also implements programmes related to youth welfare and adopts modern technology and innovations in sports to give Kerala's athletes a competitive edge. The core objective of the policy is to foster a vibrant sports culture by promoting the principles of 'Sports for All' and 'Sports for Health' and by enhancing public awareness on fitness and physical activity.

Sports Development Fund

The Sports Development Fund (SDF) was launched as a new scheme in the budget 2011-12. The fund proposed is for sports development programmes in a

project mode to encourage, promote and support the talented sports persons and for initiating activities for enhancing the overall performance of the sports persons or in order to equip them to achieve excellence in performance at the higher level.

Infrastructure

Kerala has significantly upgraded its sports infrastructure. Major stadiums like the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium and Jimmy George Indoor Stadium were modernised. Greenfield Stadium in Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram, inaugurated in January 2015 and owned by Kerala University, is one of Kerala's major sports venues. India's first fully eco-friendly stadium, it can seat around 50,000 spectators. The multipurpose facility hosts cricket, football, athletics and cultural events and includes rainwater harvesting, solar power systems and parking for more than 2,000 vehicles. New synthetic athletic tracks, hockey turfs and FIFA-standard football grounds were established across districts. High-performance training centres and specialised academies for various sports were developed to support athlete development. For the construction, operations and routine maintenance of the Stadium and associated infrastructures in the state, a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE), Sports Kerala Foundation, was formed by the Government of Kerala in 2021-22. The Kerala Shooting Academy was started on February 3, 2020, at the Vattiyoorkavu Shooting Range in association with the National Rifle Association to mould world-class shooting champions.

Under the KIIFB scheme, a total of 58 projects have been sanctioned through the Sports Department. This includes the development of 14 district stadiums along with several regional stadiums. Of these, 19 projects have been completed, while 11 are currently in progress under the former Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), KITCO.

Rural Play grounds

One Panchayat, One Playground

“One Panchayath, One Playground” is a major initiative to promote amateur sports by developing at least one playground in each rural village. The scheme is envisaged with the primary objective of “Health,

Fitness and Happiness for all”. Panchayath sports councils formed in each grama panchayat to play a key role in managing and activating the playgrounds through events, coaching and community management. In the first phase, it is planned to construct 124 play spaces, in the second phase, 19 playgrounds and in 2025-26, 36 Playgrounds were selected under this scheme. Each project is proposed to be executed by pooling funds from different sources, like state budget provision, asset development funds of MLAs and MPs, CSR funds of Co-operatives, funds of local bodies etc. Construction for 20 playgrounds has been completed in the first phase. Currently, 179 projects are in various stages of implementation and the momentum continues to grow with strong support from local governments and communities.

Sports Life Fitness Centres

Sports and fitness are integral to the holistic development of individuals as it helps in building not only physical well-being, but also helps in instilling necessary lifestyles such as teamwork, strategic thinking, leadership, goal-setting and assessing risks. Keeping this in view, international standard air-conditioned Sports Life Fitness Centres have been established in nine locations across the State and will be extended to all districts. These Centres are purposed to instil a sporting culture, promote healthy living and ensure broader community involvement in various forms of physical activities. This initiative is expected to improve the overall fitness levels of the population while building a foundation for future athletes, creating opportunities for both competitive and recreational participation in sports.

Stadiums

Stadiums are very important for budding sport prodigies, laying emphasis on high performance and helping to build and improve the confidence levels of children and youth. There are 36 stadiums in Kerala. The list of 10 major stadiums in Kerala, with their use and capacity, is given in **Table 9.2.1** and the complete list is given in **Appendix 9.2.1**.

Kerala Olympic Talent Pathway (KOTP)

The Kerala Olympic Talent Pathway (KOTP), an initiative by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, aims to identify and develop young athletic talent across all 14 districts of Kerala with

Table 9.2.1. Ten Major Stadiums in Kerala, by use and seating capacity

Sl No	Name of Stadium	Use	Seating Capacity (Appx. Nos)
1	Karyavattom Stadium	Greenfield Stadium (Cricket /Football)	50,000
2	Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium	Outdoor - Football	10,000
3	Hockey Stadium, Kollam	Outdoor Stadium (Hockey)	5,000
4	Indoor Stadium, Kannur	Indoor Stadium (Multi-sports)	5,000
5	Indoor Stadium, Kozhikode	Indoor Stadium (Multi-sports)	3,500
6	Swimming Pool, Pirappancode, Thiruvananthapuram	Swimming Pool	3,000
7	GHSS Kunnankulam Ground, Thrissur	Outdoor Stadium (Football Turf with pop-up sprinkler system)	3000
8	Jimmy George Indoor Stadium, Thiruvananthapuram	Indoor Stadium (Multi-sports)	2,000
9	Indoor Stadium, Thrissur	Indoor Stadium (Boxing / Multi sports)	2,000
10	Thrissur Aquatic Complex	Swimming	1,800

Source: Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs

the vision of producing Olympic medalists by 2036. The programme focuses on key Olympic disciplines and provides a structured, long-term development pathway for athletes, starting from talent discovery at ages 12–18 to high-performance training and support for elite athletes aged 18–24 and beyond.

College Sports League

The College Super League Kerala (CSLK) is a flagship initiative of the Government of Kerala aimed at fostering a vibrant sports culture in college campuses. The programme seeks to provide students with meaningful life experiences through active participation in competitive sports. Organised in a league format featuring home-and-away matches, the CSLK is managed by College Sports Councils. The league promotes frequent competitions across multiple sports disciplines, ensuring continuous engagement among student athletes. In addition to athletes, student volunteers play a key role in the organisation and management of events, including operational support and media coverage. The smooth conduct and overall coordination of the league are overseen by a State-level Governing Body and District-level Committees, ensuring effective monitoring and uniform implementation across institutions.

Healthy Kids

Healthy Kids is a state-wide initiative of the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, in

collaboration with the Department of Education, aimed at promoting the physical and intellectual development of children in Kerala. Building on the earlier *Play for Health* programme implemented in 25 schools, the initiative has now been expanded to 55 schools under the new *Healthy Kids* banner.

Goal

The Goal Project, a unique football training initiative for school students, is set to be launched across all 140 constituencies in the state, aiming to train 4,200 children initially. A total of 5,00,000 children will be trained under this project, with the top performers receiving advanced training to develop into national and international players.

Judoka

This project aims at moulding international-level judo players and is currently implemented at 10 centres across the State (Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Palakkad, Alappuzha, Malappuram and Kannur). The training program is conducted for children in the age group of 8 to 11 years and 40 children per school are trained.

Punch

A grassroots training program named PUNCH is being conducted at 5 centres across Kerala to introduce the sport of boxing to the students of Kerala, enable them to win medals at State,

Box 9.2.1. Sports Economy

The sports economy in Kerala encompasses a wide range of financial and economic activities generated through sports-related sectors. The Sports Economy Mission reflects the State's vision to integrate diverse sectors into its overall growth strategy, positioning the sports sector as a key driver in shaping a vibrant and progressive Kerala. The mission aims to increase the contribution of the sports sector from 1% to 3–4% of the State's GDP through strategic approaches focused on infrastructure development, talent nurturing and global collaborations. Kerala is using its strengths, like a strong sports tradition, rising digital viewership and new business opportunities, to grow steadily in this emerging field. Kerala Sports Foundation organised the International Sports Summit Kerala 2024 (ISSK 2024) from 23rd to 26th January 2024 in Thiruvananthapuram. The summit marked a significant step towards the prospective integration of sports into Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). A major milestone in the sports economy was the implementation of the Kerala Sports Economy Development Projects, which integrated sports into the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), making Kerala the first state in India to formally establish a dedicated framework for developing the sports economy.

national and international-levels and strengthen the talent development structure at the grassroots-level. This project has also been conceived to help spread the knowledge and values of boxing throughout Kerala. Twenty-five school students were selected and trained through open selection at selected centres in Kollam, Ernakulam, Kannur, Kozhikode and Kottayam districts.

Hoops

Hoops is a programme aimed at offering basketball training to school students, with the goal of developing world-class players. The initiative targets students from classes 4 to 8, selected through an open selection process. Currently, the programme is being conducted at 10 centres across the State. The next phase will be carried out in collaboration with KSSC.

Sprint

The Sprint project aims to identify world-class athletes from a young age and revive Kerala's international sports reputation. Currently, the project is active in centres across Kasaragod, Kannur, Idukki, Kottayam, Palakkad and Pathanamthitta districts. A total of 298 children were selected through open school selections, who will undergo the first phase of training with skilled coaches at these six centres.

Sports Startup Hackathon in Kerala

Sports Startup Hackathon Kerala 2025 is a forward-looking initiative aimed at fostering innovation, entrepreneurship and technological advancement in the sports sector. It brings together startups, developers and sports enthusiasts

to develop cost-effective, efficient solutions for real-world challenges in sports. The hackathon focuses on identifying key problem areas, sourcing innovative ideas, testing technologies and creating pathways for adoption. It also provides a platform for innovators to pitch for funding and collaborate with the department to co-develop impactful solutions, thereby strengthening Kerala's sports and startup ecosystem.

Kick Drugs - Road Show and Statewide Campaign

The "Kick Drugs – Road Show and Statewide Campaign" is a joint initiative of the Directorate of Sports & Youth Affairs and the Kerala State Sports Council under the State Government's "Lahari Vimuktha Keralam" programme. Aimed at combating the rising threat of drug abuse among Kerala's youth, the campaign will use sports as a transformative tool to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The initiative includes awareness programs, revival of unused playgrounds, distribution of sports kits and mass outreach through media and educational institutions

Vision 2031

As part of Vision 2031, Kerala aims to achieve international sporting excellence, including Olympic-level performance, while fostering a clean, transparent and inclusive sports ecosystem. The vision emphasises building a robust sports and recreation industry backed by innovation, governance and global investment, alongside strong grassroots participation and public physical literacy.

Box 9.2.2. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

As part of its Vision 2036 Olympics, the State of Kerala has placed strong emphasis on international cooperation in sports development, recognising the importance of global partnerships in nurturing athletic excellence. In this context, Kerala has initiated a significant collaboration with Cuba, aiming to leverage Cuba's long-standing Olympic experience and expertise in sports training, coaching and athlete development. This partnership encompasses a range of initiatives, including the Kerala International Chess Festival, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for coach and player exchange programmes and specialised collaborations in athletics, volleyball and boxing. Through these initiatives, Kerala seeks to build a robust, scientifically driven sports ecosystem, enhance technical capabilities and cultivate a culture of high-performance sports that aligns with the State's long-term vision of producing Olympic-standard athletes by 2036.

Kayika Keralam (Community Engagement through sports)

The initiative organises structured and inclusive ward-level sports festivals aimed at channelling youth energy into positive activities, promoting discipline, teamwork and community engagement. It is driven by local volunteers including students, coaches, youth leaders and retired athletes who foster civic responsibility and leadership through sports. The 'Kayika Keralam' programme empowers communities to come together in the spirit of health, fitness and collective service.

Sports Kerala Foundation

For the construction, operations and routine maintenance of the Stadium and associated infrastructure in the State, a Public Sector Enterprise (PSE), Sports Kerala Foundation, was formed by the Government of Kerala in 2021-22. It functions as a Special Purpose Vehicle with the twin objectives of being an asset construction and management company that focuses on developing self-sustaining, revenue generating sports assets and conducting various grass root-level programmes and projects for the development of sports in Kerala. It also functions as the nodal agency for the construction and maintenance of sports infrastructure in the State. Over the past decade, Kerala has invested Rs. 3500 Cr in developing a robust network of stadiums, training centres and community sports facilities.

Kerala State Sports Council

Kerala State Sports Council is a statutory body formed as per the Kerala Sports Act 2000 (Act 2 of 2001). Kerala State Sports Council was established in 1954 under the Charitable Societies Registration Act and reconstituted in 1974 for promoting Sports in Kerala under the name of Kerala State Sports Council.

Sports Academics

Kerala State Sports Council is currently running 28 District Sports Academies, 40 Colleges and 15 School Sports Academies. District Sports Academies are directly maintained by Kerala State Sports Council, whereas College and School Sports hostels are maintained by the respective managements. Boarding & Lodging, training under expert Coaches, Medical treatment, TA and DA, Study facilities, Conditioning facilities, etc, are being provided to inmates of hostels under this scheme. The players are selected on merit after selection trials. There are approximately 2500 students residing in the hostels.

Rural Coaching Centres and Day Boarding Centres

Nine rural sports coaching centres are functioning in the State under the control of Kerala State Sports Council. The Kerala State Sports Council gives remuneration to the trainers of these centres and a grant of Rs 25 per day is given to each student under the scheme. There are 61-day boarding centres in various sports in 14 districts. The Council provides essential sports equipment and refreshment for the trainers. Funding for the day boarding scheme is provided through the District Sports Councils.

Centre of Excellence (Elite Training Centre -Athletics, Volleyball, Basketball)

The Kerala State Sports Council has implemented the Elite Scheme in various disciplines such as athletics, volleyball and basketball in order to nourish the skills of young, talented sportspersons and to make them capable of securing medals in Asian, Common-wealth and Olympic Games. Promising sports persons are selected on merit after selection trials and they are provided with monthly boarding and lodging expenses, training

under expert coaches, medical treatment, study facilities and conditioning facilities.

Major Achievements

1. 26 Sports complexes in various places have been completed.
2. The “One panchayat, One Playground” project has been launched to make quality playgrounds a reality in the entire panchayat. In the first phase, steps have been taken to prepare playgrounds in 124 panchayats.
3. 20 Modern fitness centres have been set up in various constituencies of the state. Open gyms have been started in 23 centres.
4. 3 District stadiums in Wayanad, Thrissur and Kasaragod have been completed.
5. The Sports Kerala Foundation (SKF) was formed in 2021 under the Sports Department for the development of infrastructure in the sports sector and the maintenance of playing fields and stadiums.
6. Kerala’s first comprehensive sports policy was introduced in 2023 for moulding high-quality athletes from Kerala. The motto is “Sports for all, Sports development”.
7. Sports Leagues- As part of the development of the sports economy, football and cricket leagues are being held with the support of the government. Kerala started the first Sports League in the country at the College level.
8. International Sports Summit Kerala (ISSK)- Kerala has become the first state in the country to organise the International Sports Summit (ISSK). The first summit was organised in Thiruvananthapuram with the aim of presenting the excellence and potential of Kerala in sports to the world and to emulate the best sports models in the world.
9. Sports Councils Reorganised—For the first time in the history of Kerala sports, the Sports Councils were reorganised in a completely democratic manner. For the first time in India, sports councils were formed at the corporation, municipality and panchayat levels. These local councils were given the responsibility of more sports activities.
10. The “Healthy Kids” program has been implemented in 55 LP schools with the aim of nurturing of the physical fitness of lower primary students and attracting them to sports activities.
11. Kick Drugs, Say Yes to Sports- Under the leadership of the Sports Minister, a month-long anti-drug campaign was organised in all

the districts. The slogan “Sports against Drug Abuse”.

12. The government has built 22 new synthetic tracks at various places.

Various Awards

The various types of awards given by the Kerala State Sports Council are given in **Table 9.2.2**.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship Scheme

The Kerala State Sports Council implements the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Scholarship Scheme to encourage eminent sports players. Under this scheme, 11 sports persons in the age group of 14 to 20 years are granted scholarships of Rs 10,000 per annum. Scholarships are awarded to deserving athletes based on their performance in the respective year. The athlete will receive a scholarship till the completion of 24 years of age, or up to a maximum of five years, on the basis of performance each year.

Women Football Academy

Kerala has the best Football tradition in the country. However, there are only limited projects for the development of womens’ football in the State. The aim is to have a unique academy of national standards in a location suitable for accommodation and training. The training period is for 5 years from 8th std to 12th std. After three years (8 ,9,10), those showing high-level skills will be promoted to the next year (+1,+2 class). Twenty-five girls will be selected for the academy. The academy was established on November 19, 2021, at Panampilly Nagar, Ernakulam. Fifteen children are being trained and have represented Kerala in the last Subroto Cup Football Championship.

Kerala State School Sports and Games

The Director of General Education conducts sports and games events for school children every year. School-level competitions are conducted in all high schools and higher secondary Schools. The events conducted are Seniors (below 19 years), Juniors (below 17 years), Sub-juniors (below 14 years), Kiddies (below 12 years), LP kiddies (below 10 years), LP mini (below 8 years) for aquatics, athletics and 17 other categories. Regular school-going students are eligible for grace marks. Sports and games are conducted at the sub-district, district and State-levels. The performance details of aquatics and athletics are given in **Appendix 9.2.2** and **Appendix 9.2.3**.

Table 9.2.2 Various Sports Awards by Kerala State Sports Council

Sl. no.	Awards	Description
1	GV Raja Award	The GV Raja Award is the highest honour presented to sportspersons. It is instituted by the Council and given in the name of Lt. Colonel Godavarma Raja for the best male and female athlete in Kerala. A cash prize of Rs.3 lakh, a plaque and a certificate of appreciation are given to the awardee.
2	Olympian Suresh Babu Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award	The award is instituted in the memory of Olympian Suresh Babu and given to individuals who have made comprehensive contributions in the field of national and international sports. A cash prize of Rs.1 lakh, a plaque and a certificate of appreciation are given to the awardee.
3	Best sports coach	A cash prize of Rs.1 lakh, a plaque and a certificate of appreciation are given to the best sports coach in Kerala.
4	Other sports awards	Best Sports Teacher (School-level) Best Sports Teacher (College-level) College with outstanding athletic achievements School with the best athletic achievements Best Sports Academy - School-level (Boys and Girls) Best Sports Academy - College-level (Men and Women) A cash prize of Rs.50,000, a plaque and a certificate of appreciation are given to the awardee.
5	Kerala State Sports Council Media Awards	Best Sports Photographer Excellent Visual Media Feature Best Sports Book Best Sports Journalist A cash prize of Rs.50,000, a plaque and a certificate of appreciation are given to the awardee.

Source: Kerala State Sports Council

Kerala's performance in National and International events

Kerala has emerged as one of India's leading states in the field of sports, known for its consistent production of national and international-level athletes. The performance of the players in the State in terms of winning medals in national and international games is noteworthy. In the Paris Olympics 2024, a 117-member strong contingent from India participated in 16 sports events. From Kerala, 7 players participated in the Paris Olympics 2024. Out of which, five were in track and field. Shri.P.R.Sreejesh played as goalkeeper in the Indian men's hockey team won **Bronze** at the Paris Olympics 2024, a second consecutive Olympic hockey medal for India after the Tokyo Olympics 2021.

Kerala has secured 13 Gold, 17 Silver and 24 Bronze in the 38th National Games of India held in the state of Uttarakhand from 28 January to 14 February, 2025. The 7th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) was held from May 4 to May 15, 2025 in Bihar. Among 28 disciplines of the Khelo India Youth Games, Kerala won 25 medals (12 Gold, 5 Silver and 8 Bronze) and came in the 8th position overall.

Kerala State Youth Welfare Board

The Kerala State Youth Welfare Board was established in 1985. The Board provides assistance to youth clubs and other organisations to conduct training programmes and self-employment initiatives for the unemployed youth of the State.

The following are the major initiatives undertaken by the Board in 2024-25.

- **Youth Forum:** The Youth Forum undertakes activities such as science quizzes, literary camps and arts competitions at various levels, including high school, district and State. A total of 47,873 children from 1,545 schools across the state participated in the High School level quiz. The high school level competitions were organised in cooperation with **Yuvakeralam Clubs**. The forum also conducted folk song competitions at the 14 District youth centres of the State. The District-State level competition Maninadam is held every year in remembrance of the legendary folk singer Kalabhavan Mani. The competition is organised with the participation of State Youth - Yuva - Yuvathi Clubs. In addition the Kerala State Youth Welfare Board organised the state-level Youth Literary Camp named 'Manju'

(Mist/Snow) in Vagamon, Idukki District, in September 2025.³⁰ representatives from 13 districts participated in the camp.

- **Team Kerala-Kerala Youth Force:** The Kerala State Youth Welfare Board launched the Kerala Youth Force, popularly known as Team Kerala, with an aim to foster a culture of volunteerism among the youth by encouraging their active involvement at the grassroots-level. This initiative aims not only to mobilise youth volunteers for disaster relief and pandemic response, but also to engage them in the State's efforts to combat substance abuse among young people. The programme seeks to empower the youth to play a crucial role in advancing the State's developmental agenda. In addition to the commendable efforts of Team Kerala during the Covid-19 pandemic, the team also undertakes many activities including cleanliness campaigns to revive lakes and rivers, beach cleaning, cleaning hospital premises, de-addiction campaigns, etc.
- **Devikulam National Adventure Academy:** The National Adventure Academy is functioning at Devikulam in Idukki District under the leadership of the Youth Welfare Board, intending to provide scientific training to youth who love adventure and utilising them for the good of society. Currently, the Academy can provide training to the members of the Board's voluntary force, 'Team Kerala', in disaster management, rock climbing, river crossing, mountaineering, rope climbing, trekking and scuba diving. The Adventure Academy is a suitable institution for adventure tourism.
- **Clubs:** The Kerala State Youth Welfare Board aims to empower the youth of the State through various awareness programmes and activities through various clubs associated with the Board and also directly managed by the Board. The programmes include awareness programmes, training for competitive exams, environmental activities and the distribution of sports kits. The details of various registered clubs under the Kerala State Youth Welfare Board are given in **Table 9.2.3**.
- **Keralotsavam:** Keralotsavam is a flagship programme of the Kerala State Youth Welfare Board that attracts a large number of people.

The programme intends to provide a platform for both urban and rural youth to exhibit their artistic talents. The competitions are conducted at the Panchayat, Block, Municipality, Corporation, District and State-level. More than 5 lakh young art and sports talents participate in the Keralotsavam at the Gram, Block, Municipal, Corporation, District and State levels. The State-level programme had more than 2,000 participants from 14 Districts for 58 events for arts and more than 3,000 participants for 118 events for sports.

- **Other Youth Development Programmes:** The Kerala State Youth Welfare Board, in association with clubs, cultural organisations, government and quasi-government agencies, undertakes many activities such as training for competitive exams, seminars on contemporary issues, film festivals, etc. A State-level workshop on film was also conducted in 2024-25 with 35 participants from 14 districts.
- **Yuvasakti:** The Yuvasakti programme is co-ordinated by district co-ordinators posted on a monthly honorarium basis. The main responsibilities of the youth coordinators are to organise youth clubs and conduct social development activities, volunteer activities, organise other activities for social growth, strive to increase youth participation in Keralotsavam, increase youth participation in gram sabhas, organise various job-oriented activities, including labour bank and bring the activities of the Youth Welfare Board to the grassroots level.

Kerala State Youth Commission

The Kerala State Youth Commission is a quasi-judicial body constituted under the KSYC Act, 2014. It is a grant-in-aid institution functioning under the Government of Kerala and acts as an agency with a view to protecting the rights of the youth in Kerala and enabling them to be self-reliant in all walks of life. The main activities of the Kerala State Youth Commission in 2024-25 are:

- **Awareness Programmes and Surveys:** The commission has implemented various awareness programmes in all the districts of the State. The State Youth Commission implements various schemes to ensure the mental health and physical fitness of the youth, protecting the youth from drug addiction and in drafting action plans on issues affecting the youth. The

Table 9.2.3: Various Clubs

Sl. No.	Name of the clubs	Number of clubs/ beneficiaries	Objectives	Activities
1	Agriculture clubs (Kathir)	140 / 7,000	To inspire and help young people interested in agriculture, thereby helping ensure food security and providing opportunities for youth groups.	Training programmes, exhibitions of agricultural products, meetings with farmers are conducted and agricultural competitions are organised.
2	Women clubs (Avalidam)	1,040 / 52,000	As a part of women's empowerment, mainstream young women are being taught to make them self-sufficient and aware of the violence against women.	Conducting awareness activities against dowry, violence against women, programmes on women safety laws, training for women self-employment, health frontline services, etc.
3	Differently abled clubs(YES)	14 /1,400	To reduce the social isolation of persons with intellectual disabilities and to encourage their various talents.	Conducting trips, interactions with eminent persons and organising training camps.
4	Transgender clubs (Marivillu)	14 /1,400	Mainstream transgender people in society, making them self-sufficient and encouraging the talents in them.	Conducting seminars, art programmes, camps, etc, to bring transgender people into the mainstream of society.
5	Youth clubs(Yuva)	290 / 50,000	To encourage the youth through activities that are useful to society and to make them actively involved in the field of social work.	Conducting various activities benefited the youth.

Source: Kerala State Youth Welfare Board

Commission also prepared a report with the aim of strengthening the mental health of the youth with the help of an expert team. The Commission has also conducted a scientific study named “Mental Health of Youth at Work” to assess the psychological conflicts and work-related pressures experienced by young people at workplaces. The survey has been conducted with the participation of 1548 youth between the ages of 18 and 40 working in IT, gig economy, media, insurance/banking and retail/industrial sectors.

- **Adalats:** The Commission plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the interests and rights of the youth of the State. Adalats/hearings/visits were conducted at the district-level to consider the petitions and suggestions received by the Commission. In 2024-25, the Commission received 265 complaints, out of which 74 have been solved and settled.
- **National Seminars:** The Youth Commission conducted a National Seminar on ‘Youth Empowerment, Mental Resilience, Happiness: Challenges and Possibilities’, with the aim to create awareness among the youth on issues

such as rights of the youth and gender equality and thereby empower the youth of the country in general and the State in particular. A National Youth Seminar on ‘Modern World of Work and Youth Mental Health’ was organised on 3rd and 4th March 2025 at Techno Park campus, Thiruvananthapuram. Attended by about 200 delegates and experts, providing a basic understanding of youth mental health in workplaces.

- **Youth Icon Programme:** The Commission awards the ‘Youth Icon Award’ to young women and men who have made a decisive impact among the people of the State and have outstanding achievements in the fields of art, culture, literature, sports, agriculture, social service, industry or technology. The commission organised Youth Icon and Yuva Pratibha Awards for the year 2024-25 on March 26th 2025, at Thiruvananthapuram University College.
- **Youth legal support centre:** To provide legal literacy to the youth, services are provided through a toll-free number 1800 123 5310 for the economically and socially disadvantaged

youth who require legal assistance. A panel of legal experts has been constituted for this. A technical expert has also been appointed for technical assistance and to point out the technical problems in the Youth Legal Support Centre.

- **Empowering Marginalised Youth:**

The Commission, in collaboration with the Departments of Social Justice and Tribal Welfare, conducted health camps and martial arts training for young women to provide awareness regarding health and defence.

- **Facilitation Programmes:** Green youth programme, young farmers meet, job fest, waste disposal and virtual employment exchange are the facilitation programmes conducted by the Commission. The green youth programme aims to develop social, civic, demographic and environmental consciousness among the youth through a collective endeavour and to ensure a healthy life.

The Kerala State Youth Welfare Board and the Kerala State Youth Commission play a vital role in empowering young people by transforming their ideas into action. Through effective counselling and guidance, these organisations help the youth become economically productive and socially responsible citizens. They promote the acquisition of new skills, the relearning of traditional skills and the development of soft skills to meet the demands of an evolving job market.

In addition to skill development, both organisations place strong emphasis on ensuring the physical and psychological well-being of the youth, fostering their holistic growth through a wide range of programmes and activities.

In conclusion, the State of Kerala has made commendable progress in promoting sports and youth welfare. Strategic investments in infrastructure, grassroots development programmes and the nurturing of local talent have transformed Kerala into a thriving hub for sports enthusiasts and aspiring athletes. In recent years, sports tourism in the State has witnessed remarkable growth, supported by world-class infrastructure and the successful hosting of major sporting events. Recognising sports as a key driver of sustainable development, as well as the health and well-being

of its citizens, the State has taken significant strides to strengthen the sector.

Demonstrating remarkable innovation, the Government of Kerala became the first in India to integrate the sports economy into the State's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) through the Kerala Sports Economy Mission, marking a major step toward recognising sports as a contributor to economic growth. Another forward-looking initiative is the promotion of e-sports, reflecting the State's commitment to embracing emerging trends in the global sports landscape. With growing enthusiasm for sports and fitness among its people and the Government's visionary approach, Kerala is poised to achieve new milestones in sports development, economic integration and youth empowerment in the years ahead.

CHAPTER

10

KERALA DIASPORA

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10 KERALA DIASPORA

Migration is a defining feature of Kerala's social and economic structure. Keralites living abroad, particularly in Gulf countries, maintain strong ties with the State and contribute significantly to its development. Remittances from non resident Keralites form a substantial share of the State's Gross State Domestic Product and act as a major driver of economic growth. These inflows support household incomes, expand markets, and increase demand for goods and services within the State. Advances in communication and digital technologies have strengthened cultural and emotional connections and enabled diaspora participation in social, cultural, and political life. Migration and remittances together continue to shape Kerala's modern identity and economic vitality.

The Loka Kerala Sabha was established during the 13th Five Year Plan to provide a forum for diaspora members to participate in discussions on migration and other development-related issues. The 14th Five Year Plan continues to support this institution.

World Migration Reports of 2020 and 2024 show major changes in migration trends. Global migration increased by 87 per cent over two decades. The number of international migrants reached 281 million in 2024, compared to 150 million in 2000. International migrants constitute 2.8 per cent and 3.6 per cent of the global population in these respective years. Women account for 48 per cent of international migrants, according to International Migrant Stock 2024. The

United Arab Emirates hosts the highest proportion of international migrants. International remittances increased by 549 per cent in 2024 compared to 2000.

International Remittances

Remittances are financial or in-kind transfers made by migrants directly to families or communities in their countries of origin. As per WMR of 2024, international remittances have recovered from the dip in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was an estimated USD 831 billion as international remittances globally in 2022, an increase from USD 791 billion in 2021 and significantly more than USD 717 billion in 2020. In 2022, India, Mexico, China, Philippines and France were (in descending order) the top five remittance recipient countries. With India estimated to have received more than USD 111 billion in 2022, it is by far the largest recipient of international remittances in the world and the first country to ever reach that figure. India is also the origin of the largest number of international migrants in the world (nearly 18 million), with large diaspora living in countries such as the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Saudi Arabia. As per RBI Bulletin, March 2025, while financing around half of India's merchandise trade deficit, net remittance receipts have been an important absorber of external shocks during this period. Moreover, India's remittance receipts have generally remained higher than India's gross inward foreign direct investment (FDI) flows, thus establishing their importance as a stable source of external financing. Furthermore, following a pandemic-induced

contraction of 3.6 per cent during 2020-21, remittances to India in the post pandemic period (2021-22 to 2023-24) recorded resurgence with an average annual growth of 14.3 per cent.

Remittances in India and Kerala

According to World Migration Report 2024, with nearly 18 million people living abroad, India has the largest emigrant population in the world, making it the top origin country globally. The Indian diasporas largely live in countries such as UAE, USA and Saudi Arabia. Mexico is the second most significant origin country at around 11 million. The Sixth Round of the Survey of RBI survey highlights the gradual shift in dominance of India's remittances from the GCC countries, to countries such as the US, the UK, Singapore, Canada and Australia which together accounted for more than half of the remittances in 2023-24. The share of the US in India's total remittances remained largest, rising to 27.7 per cent in 2023-24 from 23.4 per cent in 2020-21 (**Table 10.1.1**). Furthermore, 78 per cent Indian migrants in the US are employed in high earning sectors such as management, business, science and arts occupations.

Turning to State-wise/Union Territory (UT)-wise destinations of remittances in 2023-24,

Maharashtra received the largest share of 20.5 per cent, albeit lower than 2020-21 (35.2 per cent) (**Table 10.1.2**), Kerala followed closely with its share increasing to 19.7 per cent from about 10 per cent during the same period. Apart from host country dynamics, narrowing of wage differentials, increase in white-collar migrant workers to the GCC region, influx of low-wage semi-skilled workers from other states and Asian countries and changes in employment patterns in these States might have led to this structural change. Maharashtra, Telangana and Punjab accounted for the largest number of Indian students migrating abroad for education and staying back for employment opportunities, which is reflected in the increasing share of these states in India's inward remittances. The Kerala Migration Survey highlights that there was a considerable rise in the number of students among the total emigrants from Kerala in 2023, reflecting a rising trend of younger individuals migrating overseas, especially for educational purpose.

The realm of migration from Kerala

"Migrants are those whose last usual place of residence is different from the present place of enumeration. Usual place of residence is the place (village/town) where the person stayed continuously for a period of 6 months or more or

Table 10.1.1 Source Country-wise Share in India's Inward Remittances (Banks)

Source Country	2016-17 in %	2020-21 in %	2023-24 in %
United States	22.9	23.4	27.7
United Arab Emirates	26.9	18.0	19.2
United Kingdom	3.0	6.8	10.8
Saudi Arabia	11.6	5.1	6.7
Singapore	5.5	2.4	6.6
Kuwait	6.5	1.5	3.9
Qatar	–	5.7	4.1
Canada	3.0	1.6	3.8
Oman	1.0	0.6	2.5
Australia	–	–	2.3
Bahrain	0.7	0.7	1.5
Hong Kong	–	–	1.3
Germany	0.6	0.6	1.0
Others	18.3	33.6	8.6

Source: Changing Dynamics of India's Remittances – Insights from the Sixth Round of India's Remittances Survey of RBI 2025 March

Table 10.1.2 State-wise/UT-wise Share of India's Inward Remittances 2023-24

Destination State	2016-17 in %	2020-21 in %	2023-24 in %
Maharashtra	16.7	35.2	20.5
Kerala	19.0	10.2	19.7
Tamil Nadu	8.0	9.7	10.4
Telangana	–	–	8.1
Karnataka	15.0	5.2	7.7
Andhra Pradesh	4.0	4.4	4.4
Delhi NCT	5.9	9.3	4.3
Punjab	1.7	3.0	4.2
Gujarat	2.1	3.2	3.9
Uttar Pradesh	3.1	3.7	3.0
Haryana	0.8	1.2	2.9
West Bengal	2.7	1.4	2.3
Rajasthan	1.2	1.2	1.5
Bihar	1.3	1.4	1.3
Uttarakhand	0.2	0.7	1.1
Other State/UT	18.3	10.2	4.7

Source: Sixth Round of India's Remittances Survey of RBI March 2025

intends to stay for 6 months or more” (Migration in India 2020-21, Periodic Labour Force Survey). After the last round of Kerala Migration Survey in 2018, Kerala experienced unprecedented floods causing severe destruction. This was followed by the global lockdown, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. This led to large-

scale return migration, job losses and compulsory repatriations, expired visas, increasing fear of deportations, economic disruptions and wage theft. According to Kerala Migration Survey 2023, the number of migrants from Kerala is estimated at 22 lakh, which closely matches the 21 lakh recorded in Kerala Migration Survey 2018.

Given the overall decline observed over the past decade in previous rounds of the KMS (from 24 lakh in KMS 2013), this stability in international migration over the past five years is interesting. Despite a slight increase of 32,388 migrants in 2023, 9 of Kerala's 14 districts saw a significant decline in the number of expatriates compared to 2018, indicating saturation of international migration. There is also an overall trend of emigrants returning to Kerala.

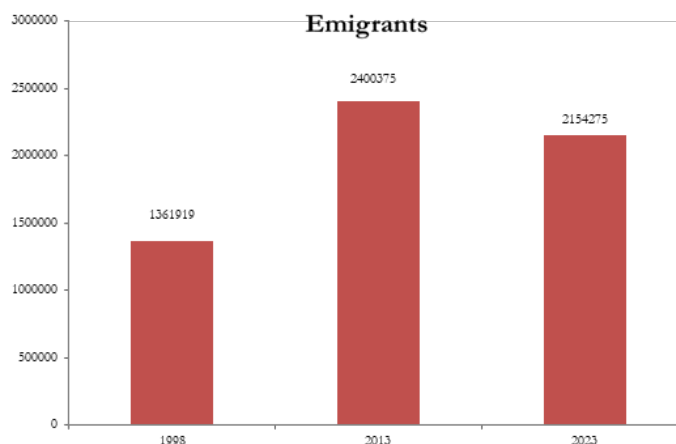
The trend migration from Kerala from 1998 to 2023 is shown in **Appendix 10.1.1**. Details of District-wise migration from 1998 and 2023 are **Appendix 10.1.2** and **Appendix 10.1.3**.

Figure 10.1.1 shows details Emigrants from Kerala, for the year 1998, 2013 and 2023

Women Emigrants

Female migration from Kerala is increasing, driven by education and better opportunities, shifting from GCC countries to Europe and other Western nations as destination countries. Female migration towards non-GCC countries accounts for 40.5 per cent. For men, this figure stands at 14.6 per cent. Male migrants

Figure 10.1.1 shows details Emigrants from Kerala, for the year 1998, 2013 and 2023



Source: Kerala Migration Survey 2023

continue to dominate emigration from Kerala, but the gap between male and female migrants narrowest in Kottayam and widest in Malappuram districts. **Table 10.1.3** shows the details of female migrants in various countries in per cent

Table: 10.1.3 Country of Residence of female Emigrants (Per cent), 2023

Country	%
United Arab Emirates (UAE)	31.6
Saudi Arabia	8.8
Oman	4.9
Qatar	5.2
Kuwait	5.9
Bahrain	3.1
Total in GCC Countries	59.5
Europe (excluding United Kingdom)	5.3
United Kingdom	14.7
United States of America	4.6
Canada	4.6
Australia	3.0
New Zealand	1.9
Russia	0.6
Malaysia	0.2
South Africa	0.1
Singapore	1.2
Israel	1.2
China	0.2
Maldives	0.2
Other Countries	2.4
Total in Non-GCC Countries	40.5
Total	100.0

Source: Kerala Migration Survey 2023

The KMS 2023 reveals that, the proportion of women emigrants has increased from 15.8 per cent in 2018 to 19.1 per cent in 2023. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has the highest percentage of women emigrants with 31.6 per cent, followed by United Kingdom with 14.7 per cent and Saudi Arabia with 8.8 per cent. GCC countries, USA, and Europe are the main destinations of women migrants.

Table 10.1.4 shows compares the marital status, educational qualification and main occupation of

women migrants from 2018 to 2023 and labour force participation and unemployment rate during the year 2023.

In terms of education, 71.5 per cent of women migrants were found to have completed graduation level education in 2023, an increase of 18.4 per cent from 2018. was Among women migrants in 2023, 61.50 per cent are married, a 4 per cent decrease from 2018. 26.6 per cent female migrants were student emigrants and among the migrant students 45.60 per cent were female students.

Table 10.1.5 captures the major occupations of women emigrants. The largest share work as nurses or nursing assistants (51.6 per cent), followed by engineers (4.3 per cent only).

Student migration

According to KMS 2023, international student migration from India is growing, and Kerala is projected to become a leading State in terms of students pursuing education abroad. Among preferred destinations for students, the United Kingdom was ranked the first, followed by Canada and other European Union countries. A significant increase in student migration contributed to maintaining emigration levels in 2023. The KMS 2023 estimates 2.5 lakh student emigrants from Kerala, with Ernakulam having the highest number of emigrant students at 43,990, followed by Thrissur and Kottayam with 35,873 and 35,382 students respectively. Wayanad had the lowest number of student emigrants from Kerala at 3750. The **Appendix 10.1.4** shows the international student migration status from Kerala.

International Return Migration

The number of Returned Emigrants (REM) showed a steady year-by-year increase from 1998 to 2023. The largest increase in REM was observed between 2018 and 2023, with an increase of 4,95,962 individuals. The increase in returns has been an expected phenomenon over the past few years with the economic disruptions caused by the global health crisis, stricter immigration policies, and a reduction in available employment opportunities. Data on Return Emigration is shown in **Appendix 10.1.5**. District-wise data is in **Appendix 10.1.6**.

Table 10.1.4 Details of women migrants in 2018 and 2023

	2018 (in %)	2023 (in %)
Proportion of women migrants to total migrants	15.8	19.10
Proportion of women migrants that have never married, to total women migrants.	33	36.80
Proportion of women migrants that are married, to total women migrants.	65.5	61.50
Proportion of women migrants with educational qualification of graduation and above among, to total women migrants.	53.1	71.50
Proportion of women migrants residents in GCC countries, to total women migrants.	74.20	59.5
Proportion of women migrants that are nurses, to total women migrants.	45.9	51.6
Proportion of women migrants in the labour force, to total women migrants.	-	46.70
Proportion of women migrants that are unemployed, to total women migrants	-	5.2
Proportion of women migrants that are not in the labour force, to total women migrants		21.5
Proportion of women migrants that are students, to total women migrants	-	26.60
Women students among total migrant students	-	45.60

Source: Kerala Migration Survey 2023

Table: 10.1.5 Occupation of Female Emigrants

Occupation	%
Nurse and nursing assistant	51.6
Engineer	4.3
Teacher	3.6
Cashier, ticket clerks, clerks, accountant	2.9
Household worker / Maid / Servant (full-time)	2.8
Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant	2.7
Doctor	2.2
Salesperson	1.9
Pharmacist	1.4
Child care worker	1.2
Cook	1.1
Data entry operator	1.1
Laboratory / X-ray Technician	1.0
Computer Programmer	1.0
Others	21.2
Total	100.0

Source: Kerala Migration Survey 2023

Interventions of Government

In Kerala, various schemes for emigrants are implemented by Government through various agencies such as NORKA Roots, and the Pravasi Welfare Board. Major interventions of these agencies are described below.

NORKA Roots

NORKA Roots, earlier known as Non-Resident Keralites Welfare Agency (NORKWA), is a field agency working under NORKA department since 2002. Key objectives of the agency are to ensure NRK welfare and to serve as a single window for all information pertaining to them.

Major Schemes of NORKA Roots

Santhwana

Applicants to the NORKA Distress Relief Fund (Santhwana) should have worked abroad for not less than two years, with an annual family income not exceeding Rs 1.5 lakh. The scheme could be availed for medical treatments (up to Rs 50,000), death assistance (up to Rs 1,00,000), marriage assistance (up to Rs 15,000), and for the purchase of physical aids to combat disability (up to Rs 10,000). The scheme accepted applications one time.

Under the Santhwana scheme, an amount of Rs 24.15 crore has been sanctioned to 4748 beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-25, and Rs 5.21 crore to 1036 beneficiaries during 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025).

Rehabilitation of Returnee Migrants (NDPREM)

The Government of Kerala formulated the 'Norka Department Project for Return Emigrants (NDPREM)' with to provide sustainable livelihoods for return emigrants, by promoting self-employment ventures. Applications are invited from prospective entrepreneurs among return migrants who wish to start their own ventures in the fields of agri-business, trading, services, or manufacturing. Under the scheme, capital subsidy of 15 per cent (to a maximum of Rs. 3.00 Lakhs) is sanctioned for projects with capital outlay up to 30 lakh, per individual applicant. Interest subsidy at the rate of 3 per cent for the first 4 years is provided.

Under the NDPREM scheme, 858 ventures were started in financial year 2024-25 and an amount of Rs 17.00 crore has been expended. More than 7400 enterprises have been started through this scheme, in total.

Rehabilitation, Re integration and Coordination of NRKs

This is designed to rehabilitate, re-integrate and co-ordinate NRKs into a new and successful life. The following are the rehabilitation proposals envisaged under the scheme.

Pravasi Bhadrata is a scheme launched in the financial year 2021-2022 for those who have returned home after losing their jobs due to

Covid-19 and are willing to be self-employed. Funding is provided through three sub-schemes, namely, PEARL, MICRO and MEGA.

A total of 13,906 ventures have been started through this initiative and an amount of Rs 9.00 crore has been spent during 2024-25 for the scheme.

The **Pravasi Legal Aid Cell (PLAC)** was established to provide legal assistance and advice to distressed NRKs facing issues related to passports, visas, employment, social matters and legal cases, especially for those imprisoned in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries without wilful default. The cell conducts legal awareness programmes, offers translation help, and collaborates with Malayalee Cultural Organisations to support distressed NRKs. Currently, seven legal consultants have been appointed in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait under the PLAC scheme.

A total number of 235 applications were received under this scheme and 70 cases were successfully settled, as of 31.08.2025.

The **Norka Roots Directors' Scholarship Scheme** aims to extend financial aid for higher education of children of NRKs and returned NRKs with annual income below Rs.3 lakh. The majority of fund under NORKA Roots Directors Scholarship Scheme has been contributed by Directors of Norka Roots as a goodwill gesture. During the financial year 2024-25, 170 students benefited and budget allocation of Rs 30.00 lakh has been utilised for the scheme.

The **Norka Business Facilitation Centre (NBFC)** is a single-window facility for NRK investors leveraging their experience in making the State an investment hub. NBFC identifies and assists NRKs as well as returnees to start and expand their business in Kerala by providing expert knowledge and specialist guidance to the investors. During the fiscal year 2024-25, 10 Entrepreneurship Development Programs (EDPs) attended by 415 participants, resulted in 233 new projects. As of August 31, 2025, the NBFC had assisted 466 participants through 3 residential entrepreneurship programs, three online EDP, a Pravasi Co-operative training, and an awareness programme leading to 64 new projects and numerous business expansions..

Pravasi Sanghams play an important role in disseminating information and raising awareness about NORKA's schemes and welfare initiatives among Non- Resident Keralites (NRKs). These organisations serve as influential platforms for the well-being of NRKs, whether they are still abroad as emigrants or have returned after their tenure of employment abroad. The primary goal of these associations is to enhance the financial, social, economic and cultural aspects of NRKs'. Pravasi Sanghams also function as essential grievance redressal mechanisms, bridging the gap between NORKA and NRKs when the Department may face challenges in addressing all concerns directly. In Kerala, there are approximately 100 Sanghams actively engaged in these efforts. As on date, 81 Sanghams have received assistance.

Emergency Ambulance Service is the scheme by Kerala Government to provide free ambulance services to NRK patients from the airports in Kerala to hospitals or their homes. Norka-Roots, in association with Indian Medical Association, facilitate this free Ambulance Service. This service is extended to Mangalore and Coimbatore airports also. This free Ambulance Service also facilitates transportation of mortal remains of NRKs who died abroad from these airports to their home/native place. Associations/relatives/friends can contact Norka-Roots to avail this service. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 53.00 Lakh has been sanctioned to 580 beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-25 and an amount of Rs.24.19 Lakh has been sanctioned to 256 beneficiaries during 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025).

The Emergency Repatriation Scheme is used for the emergency repatriation of NRKs in distressed circumstances, and the transportation of mortal remains. Under the scheme, an amount of Rs 20.74 Lakh has been sanctioned to 17 beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-25 and an amount of Rs.18.68 Lakh has been sanctioned to 72 beneficiaries during 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025).

The **NORKA Assisted Mobilised Employment Scheme (NAME)** aims to achieve physical and financial targets within NORKA's Assisted and Mobilised Employment programmes, and significantly enhances the lives of returned NRKs by improving employability through skill development, accelerating job placement, ensuring financial stability and reducing vulnerability. This, in turn, fuels Kerala's socio-economic progress

by boosting workforce participation, diversifying the economy through NRK entrepreneurship, increasing investment, reducing social burdens and fostering skill transfer and innovation. Successful programme implementation directly translates to empowered individuals and a strengthened regional economy.

Norka Roots has the mandate to recruit candidates from any province within India. Through **NORKA recruitment**, over 3,500 healthcare professionals including consultants, nurses, care givers, technicians and housemaids have been placed in various countries, including the GCC nations, the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada. At present various job recruitments to Gulf countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, United Kingdom (UK), Germany and Canada are being successfully conducted. UK, Germany and Canada recruitments are completely free for candidate.

NORKA Comprehensive Health and Personal Accident Insurance Scheme (CARE) is a new initiative of the department, for Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs) holding valid NORKA ID Cards and their families. The scheme offers Rs 5 lakh Health Insurance and Rs10 lakh Group Personal Accident Coverage.

Kerala Non Resident Keralites Welfare Board (KNRKWB) is a statutory Board of the Government of Kerala constituted under the Non Resident Keralites' Welfare Act, 2008 for the purpose of carrying out activities for the welfare of the Non Resident Keralites' (NRKs). The Board implements schemes envisaged under the Non Resident Keralites' Welfare Scheme, 2009 notified as per the provisions of the Act. A Welfare Fund is established as per the provisions of the Act and the Scheme to implement welfare activities. The Board provides various assistance such as pension, family pension, invalid pension, death assistance, treatment assistance, marriage assistance, educational assistance and maternity assistance to its members of welfare boards. There is a transparent and secure online facility to enrol and pay dues to the Pravasi Welfare Fund from anywhere in the world.

In the year 2024-25, Rs 280.95 crore has been spent for 67,425 members through the NORKA Welfare Board. As on October 2025, more than Rs 163.97 crore has been spent on pensions for 72,112 members. (**Table 10.1.6**)

Table 10.1.6 KNRKWB - Details of pension sanctioned for the year 2021-22 to 2025-26 (up to 10th October 2025)

Year	Total number of registrants	Number of pensioners	Amount (Rs) in crore
2021-22	64,210	23,117	52.60
2022-23	90,550	35,112	124.39
2023-24	71,771	49,765	191.74
2024-25	68,476	67,425	280.95
2025-26 (15.10.2025)	50,419	72,112	163.97

Source:KNRKWB, Government of Kerala

The Kerala Non Resident Keralites' Welfare Board, in collaboration with KIIFB, implements the **Pravasi Dividend Scheme**. This is a long-term investment scheme to effectively utilise NRK investments for development projects in the State.

The Scheme offers lifetime financial and social security for NRKs and their spouses. This income guarantee scheme is well received by the NRK communities. Under this scheme so far, more than Rs 330 crore has been collected and transferred to KIIFB. There are a total of 2,356 depositors and 3,767 deposits under the Pravasi Divident Scheme. Contributions made by non-residents for the development of Kerala cannot be measured in financial terms alone. The Kerala Government has introduced and implemented many schemes for the welfare of Non Resident Keralites. Considering the special features of this sector, it is necessary to pay even more attention to it. Returning NRKs look forward to the creation of a knowledge economy in Kerala . Likewise, the Government is ensuring various investment opportunities for non-residents to accelerate economic growth in Kerala.

CHAPTER

11

INFRASTRUCTURE

INFRASTRUCTURE

11.1 TRANSPORT

India has the second largest road network in the world. Road transport is the preferred mode for freight and passenger movement due to its wide reach and last mile connectivity. The system plays a vital role in economic development and social integration. Road transport also functions as a feeder service that supports rail, shipping, and air transport.

Road Network in India

Road network has been growing over the years with improvement in connectivity between cities, towns and villages in the country. India's road network comprises of National Highways, Expressways, State Highways, District Roads, Rural and Urban roads and Other District Roads. The total length of road network in India is given in **Table 11.1.1**.

Table 11.1.1 Road Network in India

Sl. No	Road Category	Length (in km)
1	National Highways/ Expressway	1,46,195
2	State Highways	1,79,535
3	Other Roads	60,19,723
Total		63,45,453

Source: Annual Report 2024-25, MoRTH, Government of India

The National Highways have a total length of 1,46,195 km, which in totality serve as the arterial network of the country. The development of National Highways is the mandate of the Government of India. National Highway's (NH)

network increased by 60 per cent from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1,46,195 km in 2025. Length of operational High-Speed Corridors (HSCs) of NHs network has increased from 93 km in 2014 to 2,474 km in 2025. Length of '4 lane and above' NHs (excluding HSCs) increased by 2.5 times from 18,278 km in 2014 to 45,947 km in 2025. The State Highways (SHs) are intended to carry the traffic along major centres within the State. Major District Roads provide the secondary function of linkage between main roads and rural roads.

Kerala's Transportation Landscape: Key Development Indicators (2021-2025)

Kerala's transport sector has made progress on several of the key indicators of development between 2021 and 2025. Details are given in **Appendix 11.1.1**. The total PWD road length in the State is over 30,000 km (includes PWD Roads and NH). This reveals drastic rise in number of motor vehicles, which surpassed 1.8 crore units in 2025, indicating high personal and commercial vehicle usage

Kerala has a strong multimodal public transport system. Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is operating buses and the State Water Transport Department (SWTD) is operating boats/junkars across an extensive route distance.

Roads in Kerala

The Kerala Public Works Department (PWD) is a vital government body responsible for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of public infrastructure across the State. It manages

Table 11.1.2 Agency-wise details of roads developed and maintained in the State

Sl.No.	Roads maintained and managed by the department	Length in km & Per cent as on August 2025
	Local Self-Governments (LSGD)	1,58,078.79 km (80.06 Per cent of the total)
2.	National Highways (NH)	1,858 km (around 1 Per cent of the total)
3.	Public Works Department (PWD)	29,573 km (14.97 Per cent of the total)
a.	State Highways (SHs)	4,128 (13.96 Per cent PWD roads) [898 km Four-lane, 3,193 km Two-lane, 37 km Single-lane]
b.	Major District Roads (MDRs)	25,445 (86.04 Per cent of PWD Roads) [52 km Four-lane, 10,593 km Two-lane, 14,800 km Single-lane]
4.	Forest Department	5189.35 (2.62 Per cent of the total)
5.	Others roads	2749.04 (1.39 Per cent of the total)
Total Road Length		1,97,448.34 km

*“Other roads” are constructed and maintained by Railways, Irrigation, KSEB, and Devaswom department.

Source: PWD,Roads, NH, Forest Department, LSGD

a wide range of civil structures, including State Highways and Major District Roads, numerous bridges, and various government buildings like hospitals and offices. The PWD operates through specialised wings for Roads, Bridges, and National Highways (entrusted by the Central Government), ensuring the essential connectivity and structural integrity of Kerala’s physical assets.

The State has a total road length of 1,97,448.34 km. This includes classified and non-classified roads as stipulated by Indian Road Congress. Details on the length of roads maintained and developed by various agencies in Kerala, are provided in **Table 11.1.2**.

There are 12 National Highways (NHs) in the State with a total length of 1,858 km. Out of this, the NH wing of State PWD is engaged in the upkeep of 548 km (29.5 per cent) of the National Highways and the remaining 1310 km (Including NH-866 connecting Vizhinjam Port with NH-66 at Navaikulam) is maintained by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) under Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Details regarding the length of National Highways in the State are provided in **Appendix 11.1.2**.

Apart from construction of roads, the Roads wing of Public Works Department focuses on road improvements, repair and maintenance of existing roads, re-laying and up gradation of roads and junction improving for bettering the riding quality and road safety. The State has started granting

running contracts for maintaining existing roads. Kerala’s BM & BC Roads offer high load bearing capacity to handle heavy & repetitive traffic loads, less maintenance costs, high strength & durability, and a comparatively more impermeable surface that provides good surface drainage. In 2024-25, a total length of 17,749.11 km (60 per cent of the total roads maintained by PWD are of BMBC standard) has been maintained by Road wing using Bitumen Macadam (BM) and Bitumen Concrete (BC).

Kottayam District has highest share of PWD roads with 3,311 km (11 per cent). Wayanad District is at the bottom with 877 km (3 per cent). Details of District-wise category and surface -wise length of roads maintained by PWD (Roads) are given in **Appendix 11.1.3** and **Appendix 11.1.4**.

The total length of roads maintained by different local bodies in 2024-25 is 1,58,078.79 km., of which 1,30,599.248 km (82.61 per cent) is maintained by District and Grama Panchayats, 18,169.8 km (11.49 per cent) by Municipalities and 9,309.745 km (5.88 per cent) is maintained by the Corporations. Details regarding roads maintained by various local bodies (in km) are given in the **Table 11.1.3**.

The PWD (Bridges) wing maintains a total of 2,849 bridges, including 550 on State Highways, 2,145 on Major District Roads, and 154 on Other District Roads, Village Roads, and Railway Over Bridges (ROBs). The Bridges Design Unit focuses on the construction of aesthetic bridges utilising modern

Table 11.1.3 Roads maintained by various Local Bodies (in km)

Sl.No	Local Body	Black Topped	Concrete / cement road	Earthen road	Total
1	Corporation	5823.67	2582.62	789.14	9309.74
2	District Panchayat	336.35	17.78	16.96	371.09
3	Grama Panchayat	68674.98	29105.03	32247.92	130228.16
4	Municipality	11181.39	4263.53	2641.09	18169.8
Total		86,016.39	35,968.96	35,695.11	1,58,078.79

Source: Local Self Government Department

Note: The total road length submitted in previous years, based on manual entries in the asset register, was inaccurate due to duplications from changes in road surfacing. To solve the issue and provide accurate information, KSREC developed GIS mapping software

technology such as extradosed bridges (like the Naluchira Bridge in Alappuzha, the first of its kind in Kerala), and bowstring and integral bridges, (like the Perumbalam Bridge in Alappuzha, which is the longest backwater bridge in the State and features both three Bowstring spans and twenty-seven integral spans). Other notable projects include the Malampuzha Ring Road Bridge, which is the first Network tied steel arch bridge in Kerala, and the Padaharam Bridge, which incorporates Kerala style architecture in its deck design. In 2024-25, the bridges wing had completed the construction of 12 bridges.

The PWD (Bridge wing) providing connectivity to inaccessible habitats like tribal unnathies, islands and to reconstruct damaged bridges. The Department's innovative projects include converting out-dated bridges into rest areas and tourist attractions, and constructing illuminating bridges of international-standard across Kerala. Details of bridges and culverts constructed by PWD (Bridges) wing as on August 31, 2025 is given in **Appendix 11.1.5**.

Coastal Highway and Hill Highway

The Coastal Highway from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod is a prestigious project envisaged by the Government of Kerala along the coastal belt of the State. The Coastal Highway will serve as an alternative to the National Highway 66 and will serve as an evacuation route in the event of any emergency. The Coastal Highway will connect Vallarpadam, Kollam and Vizhinjam apart from other small ports and harbours. Kerala Road Fund Board (KRFB) is the Special Purpose vehicle for the implementation of the project. Details regarding works on Coastal Highway stretches approved by Kerala Infrastructure and Investment

Fund Board (KIIFB) are shown in **Appendix 11.1.6**.

Government of Kerala declared State Highway 59 (SH 59) which is the longest State highway in Kerala as Hill Highway or Malayora Highway connect all Districts in Kerala except Alappuzha. The highway starts from Nandarapadavu in Kasaragod to end at Parassala in Thiruvananthapuram. The proposed Hill Highway is also called "Kerala Spices Route" since it is expected to connect almost all the areas engaged in trade and cultivation of spices and other high range products in Kerala. The objective of forming such a Highway is to augment the trade and transport of spices and agricultural products of high ranges as well as to reduce the traffic intensity in the main central road of Kerala. Kerala Road Fund Board (KRFB) is designated as Special Purpose Vehicle for Hill highway also. Works have been completed in 4 stretches and works under progress in other stretches. The first phase of this highway, the Kodancherry-Kakkadampoyil road was opened to traffic on February 25, 2025. Details regarding Hill Highway stretches approved by KIIFB are shown in **Appendix 11.1.7**.

Kerala Highway Research Institute (KHRI)

The KHRI stands for the Kerala Highway Research Institute, which is the only research institute under the State's Public Works Department (PWD) dedicated to research, quality control, and capacity building for sustainable road and infrastructure development. In June 2020, KHRI was elevated as a Centre of Excellence, with a mandate to focus on areas such as design innovation, road asset and safety management, quality assurance, contract management, and indigenous R&D. National Accreditation

Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited KHRI in February 2021. It has also collaborated with research institutions and provided consultancy services to various engineering departments and agencies in the State.

Other agencies for road improvements in Kerala.

- **NATPAC (National Transportation Planning and Research Centre):** Provides research-driven insights for transportation planning, supporting policy decisions on traffic management, urban mobility, and road safety in Kerala.
- **Kerala State Transport Project (KSTP):** Focusing on improving transport infrastructure, flow, and safety. Its objective is to achieve major highway upgrades by 2025 through its Challenge Fund Programme, which involves the KRSA, PWD, and KSTP.
- **Kerala Road Fund Board (KRFB):** A statutory board that develops and maintains the State's transport infrastructure. It executes city road projects using DBFOT (Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer) PPP (Public-Private Partnership) models, such as the planned Kumbalam-Thevara Bridge planned to ease traffic in Kochi.
- **Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala Ltd (RBDCK):** A PWD company that manages major turnkey or BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) infrastructure

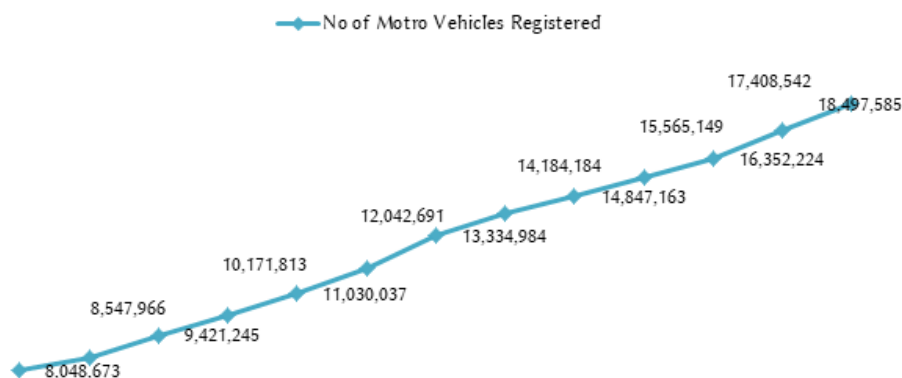
works like Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) and flyovers, often funded by market borrowing.

- **Road Infrastructure Company Kerala Limited (RICK):** Operates under KRFB to develop and maintain State Highways and Major District Roads, primarily using DBFMT (Design-Build-Finance-Maintain-Transfer) annuity models to improve connectivity and safety.
- **Kerala Road Safety Authority (KRSA):** Coordinates multi-departmental efforts focused on accident reduction. Key initiatives include black spot correction, public awareness campaigns, and technology-based enforcement like the "Safe Kerala" project.

Road Traffic

The total number of motor valid vehicles registered is 182 lakh as on March, 2025 as against 174.08 lakh in the previous year, recording a growth of 4.55 per cent. As of March, 2025, the total number of two wheelers (Motor Cycles/Scooters/Mopeds) registered in the State is 118.67 lakh. There are 9.1 lakh auto rickshaws and 42.71 lakh cars registered in the State. There are 1.44 lakh buses (including education institution buses) and 1.32 private service vehicles registered in the State as of March, 2025. The number of newly registered vehicles in 2024-25 is 7.89 lakh. The details are given in the **Appendix 11.1.8**. The growth in the number of motor vehicles since 2015 is shown in **Figure 11.1.1**.

Figure 11. 1.1 The growth in the number of motor vehicles since 2015



Source: Motor Vehicles Department, GoK

The trend analysis of motor vehicle registration from 2015 to 2024 shows a strong, consistent upward trend, with the number of registered vehicles nearly doubling from 9,421,245 in 2015 to 17,408,542 in 2024. The highest vehicle population is recorded in Ernakulum District with 23.72 lakh vehicles (13 per cent) followed by Thiruvananthapuram with 21.89 lakh (11.92 per cent). Wayanad District has the lowest number of 3.4 lakh vehicles (1.8 per cent). The District-wise and category wise number of Transport and Non transport motor vehicles registered in Kerala is given in **Appendix 11.1.9** and District -wise growth of motor vehicles in Kerala from 2015-16 to 2024-25 (with base 2011-12) is given in **Appendix 11.1.10**.

E-Mobility

Kerala has shown significant early momentum in adopting Electric Vehicles (EVs), driven by a progressive state policy and environmentally conscious populace. The state's push for e-mobility aims to improve air quality and promote shared, clean transportation. A total of 83,064 electric vehicles were registered in 2024-25, up from 81,019 in 2023-24, recording an annual growth of around 2.5 per cent. The e-vehicle registration details in Kerala in 2024(Calendar Year) and 2025 (up to August) is given in **Appendix 11.1.11**.

Hybrid vehicle registrations also recorded significant growth, increasing from 20,939 in 2023-24 to 28,334 in 2024-25, registering a growth rate of about 35 per cent. This reflects the growing consumer inclination toward fuel-efficient and sustainable transport options, in line with global mobility trends. The Motor Vehicles Department recorded a total revenue collection of Rs 6,451.76 crore in 2024-25, compared to Rs 6,065.24 crore in 2023-24, showing a growth of about 6.4 per cent. Of this, Rs 5,516.78 crore was collected as Motor Vehicle Tax, in 2024-25 as against Rs 5184.29 crore in the previous year.

The State is extensively promoting electric vehicles (EVs) for the use in Government offices. Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) and other departments have switched to 'Plug-in Electric Vehicles' on dry-lease from the Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a Central Government institution under the Ministry of Power, through the Agency for Non-Conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT).

Road Safety

Due to intense urban sprawl and haphazard ribbon development along its major routes, Kerala's otherwise well-connected road network struggles significantly with severe constraints. The majority of road stretches operate with traffic levels exceeding capacity, creating immense pressure on the infrastructure as the number of vehicles on the roads continues to increase steadily. Expanding the capacity of these existing roads is particularly challenging, primarily due to the limited right-of-way available and the inherent difficulties associated with land acquisition.

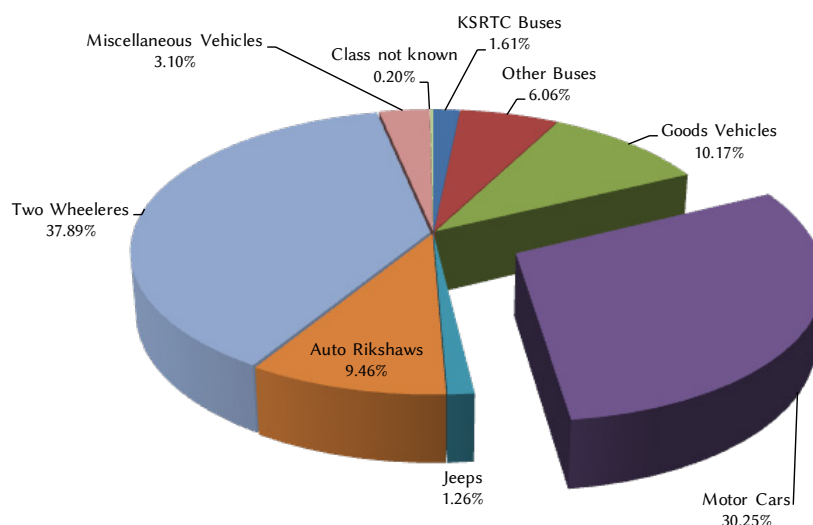
According to State Crime Records Bureau (SCRB) 3,880 deaths and 54,796 injuries were reported in Kerala in 2024(January - December) from 48,834 road accidents. Thiruvananthapuram district reported the highest number of fatalities (484) in 2024(January - December) whereas Wayanad reported the least number (67) in 2024. As per the records of the SCRB, 2,407 deaths were reported in the State due to 32,664 motor vehicle accidents from during the period January to August, 2025.

Significant share of road accidents involve two wheelers such accidents constitute 37.9 per cent of accidents that occurred in the State from January to August, 2025. As per SCRB data the total number of accidents in Kerala from January to August, 2025 is 32,664. The number of traffic accidents involving two wheelers was 19,004 (38.9 per cent) in 2024 and it is 12,377 from January to August, 2025. The percentage of vehicle category-wise accidents that occurred between January and August, 2025 in Kerala is shown in **Figure 11.1.2**.

A total of 3,755 accidents involving buses were registered in the State in 2024. During the year 2024, KSRTC buses were involved in 771 accidents and other buses in 2,984 accidents. Trend of motor vehicle accidents, injuries and deaths reported in Kerala over a period from 2019 to 2024 is presented in **Figure 11.1.3**.

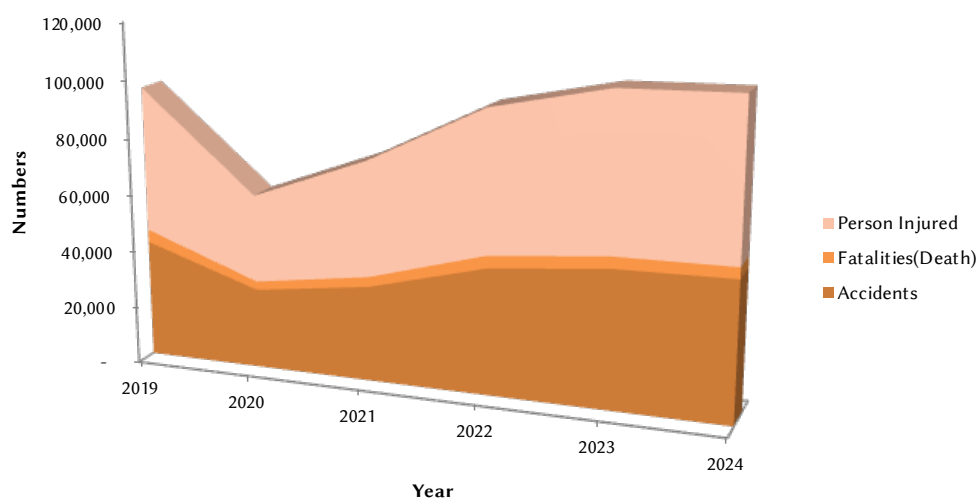
The figure 11.1.3 shows the trends of motor vehicle accidents in the State from 2019 to 2024. It reveals a positive underlying trend is visible as the calculated fatality index (deaths per accident) has consistently decreased from approximately 10.8 per cent in 2019 to around 7.95 per cent in 2024. The number of accidents per lakh registered vehicle has shown a marginal decline, decreasing from 308 in 2019 to 281 in 2024 indicating an improvement

Figure 11.1.2 Details of road accident by vehicle type in Kerala, January to August, 2025, in per cent



Source: State Crime Records Bureau

Figure 11.1.3 Trend in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Fatalities and Number of persons injured in Kerala, 2019 to 2024



Source: State Crime Records Bureau Kerala

in road safety. This is despite the fact that road length has increased only marginally while vehicle population has witnessed significant increase.

Road accidents, predominantly caused by rash driving, poor road conditions, unfit vehicles, and unfavorable environmental factors, demand a sustained and comprehensive effort from all stakeholders. Despite numerous safety initiatives and stringent enforcement by the Motor Vehicles Department and Police, the continuous increase in the number of road accidents, particularly those

involving two-wheelers, remains a significant public safety concern. Achieving substantial road safety improvements will require a deeper, more collaborative strategy beyond current enforcement to address these complex, systemic issues effectively. The District-wise motor vehicle accidents that occurred in Kerala in 2024 (January to December) and the category-wise details of motor vehicles involved in those road accidents (January to December) are given in **Appendix 11.1.12** and **Appendix 11.1.13** respectively.

Accident Prevention Strategies

The Government of Kerala, primarily through the Kerala Road Safety Authority (KRSA), implements a comprehensive, multi-agency strategy involving the Motor Vehicles Department, Police, and Public Works Department to reduce traffic accidents through a focus on enforcement, education, and road engineering.

The roles of key organizations and initiatives:

- The comprehensive road safety framework in Kerala is coordinated by the Kerala Road Safety Authority (KRSA), which utilizes a dedicated fund to unite major agencies under the ambitious “Mission Zero” goal of achieving zero road accident fatalities by 2030.
- The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) acts as the primary enforcer, using AI cameras for the “Safe Kerala” project and deploying technologies like GPS/panic buttons for public transport, while simultaneously leading extensive public awareness campaigns.
- The National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) provides the essential technical backbone, identifying and prioritizing thousands of accident black spots and vulnerable road stretches for targeted intervention
- Public Works Department (PWD) addresses issues through necessary engineering, construction, and maintenance improvements. This five-pronged strategy (Engineering, Enforcement, Education & Engagement, Emergency Trauma Care, and Enactment/Evaluation) has already yielded significant success.

The Safe Kerala Project has a total of 726 cameras, with 632 reported to be in working condition.

While 56 were non-operational due to road work/accidents about 38 were non-operational due to technical issues. Cumulatively, 1, 18, 73,014 violations have been taken to ITMS-VAHAN by KELTRON, resulting in 1,16,87,068 E-Challans generated since June 2023 till October 2025. The total penalty imposed amounts to Rs 759.52 crore, out of which Rs 233.54 crore has been recovered, indicating a collection rate of 30.75 per cent overall.

Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC)

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is a vital public transport provider, connecting the state with a large fleet of buses across thousands of routes. Recognizing the high-risk nature of its operations, the corporation has actively implemented robust safety measures, including crew-change systems to combat driver fatigue and the installation of AI-enabled driver fatigue detection cameras in its long-haul buses. Furthermore, KSRTC has established an accident monitoring system, and is setting up 24/7 emergency medical units at major depots to ensure safer journeys for both the public and its staff. Currently, 18 training centers have been started across the state. As of August, 2025, there are 5,087 State Public Transport buses, of which 4,625 buses are owned by KSRTC and the remaining 462 are under K-SWIFT Ltd. Year wise details of the number of buses owned by KSRTC is given in **Appendix 11.1.14**. Age-wise details of vehicles owned by KSRTC is given in **Appendix 11.1.15** and major internal indicators of KSRTC are given in **Appendix 11.1.16**. The details regarding operational efficiency of KURTC is given in **Appendix 11.1.17**.

Box. 11.1. Mission Zero: Zero Fatal Accidents by 2030

The Government of Kerala’s comprehensive road safety strategy, driven by the guiding principle of Vision Zero, is channeled through the mission-mode program known as Mission Zero Accidents, which aims to achieve zero road fatalities by 2030 and a 50% reduction in crashes and injuries by 2025. This effort is rooted in the globally accepted Safe System approach, which assumes human error is inevitable and focuses on designing a transport system that prevents inevitable mistakes from leading to death or serious injury. The implementation uses the four key pillars: Engineering (rectifying accident-prone black spots, conducting road safety audits, and building safer corridors), Enforcement (leveraging advanced technology like AI-based monitoring through the SAFE KERALA project, including cameras and GPS tracking in public transport to curb violations), Education (raising public awareness and improving driver training), and Emergency Care (enhancing trauma care and providing faster medical response during the critical ‘golden hour’). This holistic and technology-driven strategy reflects the government’s commitment to treating road safety as a major public health and social issue.

Source: Motor Vehicle Department

Box 11.1.2 KSRTC's Strategy for Operational Excellence

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) implements several key measures to ensure cost reduction and minimize its fleet's off-road time. To reduce operating costs, the corporation focuses heavily on fuel efficiency through driver training programs and optimizing bus schedules to avoid idling and congested routes. Simultaneously, they prioritize proactive maintenance schedules, using computerized systems to track vehicle health and ensuring timely servicing to catch minor issues before they lead to expensive breakdowns and extended repair times. Regarding reducing off-road time, KSRTC emphasizes efficient spare parts management by centralizing procurement and stocking essential components at depots, which speeds up repair work considerably. Finally, the modernization of workshops and up skilling of technical staff contribute directly to faster, high-quality repairs, getting more buses back on the road quickly to maintain service regularity and maximize revenue potential.

Source: Kerala State Road Transport Corporation

The performance indicator of KSRTC shows that 60.3 per cent of buses owned by the Corporation are more than ten year's old (3,066 out of 5,087 buses). Average fleet operated by KSRTC in 2024-25 is 4,609 buses and average age of fleet is 12.50 years. There are 22,368 staff in KSRTC as per the details furnished for the year 2024-25. The Driver per bus and Conductor per bus ratio is 1.71 and 1.76 respectively. It is 0.23 and 0.85 when the ratio comes to ministerial and mechanical staff respectively. The average occupancy rate per bus per month was 73.40 per cent in 2024-2025. The major indicators showing operational efficiency and District-wise operational statistics of KSRTC are given in **Appendix 11.1.18** and **Appendix 11.1.19** respectively.

The gross revenue earning of KSRTC has increased from Rs.2, 347.94 crore in 2023-24 to Rs.2,512.20 crore in 2024-25 showing a positive indication that the corporation is improving its collection. In the months from January to August, 2025, the corporation could earn revenue of Rs.1021.81 crore. The gross revenue expenditure in 2024-25 is Rs.2,756.20 crore compared to Rs. 2,650.35 crore in 2023-24 and operating loss in 2024-25 period is Rs.244.02 crore compared to Rs.302.41 crore in 2023-24.

Other source of revenue

KSRTC is aggressively diversifying its revenue streams to achieve financial self-sufficiency. This includes substantial income from advertising on buses, depots, and through naming rights for its facilities, alongside commercial utilization of its extensive real estate by leasing out spaces for shops, offices, and even converting old buses into "Shops on Wheels." Additionally, KSRTC Logistics provides parcel and cargo services

leveraging its vast network, while its "Yatra Fuels" outlets generate revenue from public fuel sales and enable cost savings through direct procurement. The corporation also capitalizes on tourism with popular budget packages and charter services, and consistently generates income from scrap sales and potential training.

Notable Achievement

Passenger Experience & Infrastructure Focus on improving convenience, comfort, and security for passengers at bus stations and during travel.

- **Modernized Bus Stations:** Launched digital clock rooms at bus stations to offer passengers modern and secure facilities for luggage storage.
- **Reduced Service Disruptions:** Improved fleet availability by reducing the number of off-road super class buses from 324 to 147, which significantly minimized service disruptions.
- **Sanitation & Environment:** Achieved Haritha Mission accreditation for 92 depots and received sanitation awards for the Thiruvananthapuram and Idukki districts.

New Service & Tourism Initiatives

- The introduction of new, unique, and specialized travel packages and bus services to boost tourism and passenger options.
- **Scenic Double Decker Services:** Launched the "Royal View Double Decker" bus service in Munnar (Devikulam to Periya Canal) to provide transparent, scenic views of tea plantations and valleys. KSRTC operate a separate double-decker bus city tour service in Kochi (Ernakulam). This service is an open-top bus tour and is typically referred to as the Kochi City Ride or City Tour.

- **Electric City Tours:** Introduced an electric double-decker bus for city tours in Thiruvananthapuram, also offering special rental packages for events like wedding shoots, parties, and film/advertising shoots.
- **Budget-Friendly Packages:** Created budget-friendly tour packages for various segments (ordinary passengers, families, groups), including pilgrimage, coastal, and interstate travel.
- **Intermodal Travel:** A bus-boat tour package is being conducted in association with Nefertiti ship and in collaboration with Bharat Tourism Corporation.

Revenue Generation & Financial Performance

- New projects were started for improving non-ticket revenue.
- **Non-Ticket Revenue Project ('Yatra Fuel'):** Launched 'Yatra Fuel,' a project to open KSRTC's diesel pumps to the public, aiming to increase non-ticket revenue. As of October 2025, 72 out of 93 depots have operational public pumps.
- **Financial Success of Initiatives (Specific Period):**
 - ◆ From January 1, 2025, to September 15, 2025, Budget Tourism cell achieved Rs 25.47 crore in revenue, resulting in a profit of Rs 10.92 crore (after deducting Rs 14.55 crore in expenses).

Employee Development & Educational Outreach

- Such initiatives have focused on internal staff motivation and external programs that connect travel with education and knowledge.
- **Employee Motivation Workshop:** Organized 'Haritha Sangamam,' a one-day workshop on August 6, 2025, in collaboration with the Haritha Keralam Mission, specifically to motivate employees and officials.
- **Educational Travel ('Travel to Technology'):** Launched the 'Travel to Technology' project, combining entertainment and knowledge by providing study tours for school/college students to various institutions, including Technopark/Infopark, with an option for hospital visits for those interested in healthcare.

Rail Transport

Kerala's railway network spans 1,257 km of route length and 1,588 km of track, managed under the Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram divisions with 200 stations. The Thiruvananthapuram Division, headquartered in Thycad, covers 625 route kilometres and 103 stations, extending from Vallathol Nagar in Kerala to Melappalayam in Tamil Nadu. The Palakkad Division spans 582.7 km across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Puducherry, serving eight districts, including six in Kerala, one each in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, and Mahe in Puducherry. Kerala is prioritizing two

Box 11.1.3. The Institutional Reforms in KSRTC- Fleet & Digital Transformation

The Fleet Modernization saw the induction of hundreds of new, technologically advanced, and fuel-efficient BS-6 compliant buses. The new fleet includes premium brands like the Gajraj (AC sleeper for interstate routes), the Orma Express, and AC Seater-cum-Sleeper (featuring a comfortable 2+1 layout, smart amenities, and CCTV). New Premium Superfast buses for intrastate routes were introduced with advanced safety systems like Electronic Stability Control (ESC) and AI-assisted driver monitoring. Alongside new inductions, KSRTC ensured cost-effectiveness by refurbishing older super-class buses, such as "Minnaal" and Volvo Low Floor units, to extend their service life. KSRTC also launched unique community-focused services: 'Gramavandi,' utilizing smaller buses in partnership with Local Self-Government bodies to connect rural, previously unconnected villages, and the 'Samudra' service, providing free daily travel primarily for fisherwomen.

The Digital Transformation and Institutional Reforms focused on enhancing efficiency and passenger experience. This included the implementation of the "Chalo App" for passenger real-time bus tracking and digital ticketing. Operational oversight was significantly strengthened by the "Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)" for real-time monitoring of revenue and operations, and the "e-Sutharyam" software for transparent inventory management. Administrative modernizations further included the adoption of the "e-Office" system for a paperless workflow, the development of AI-based tools for route optimization, and the transition to biometric face recognition for employee attendance.

Source: Kerala State Road Transport Corporation

major rail initiatives such as SilverLine semi high-speed corridor (awaiting Central approval) and the Angamaly–Sabari line, a 110-km pilgrimage and development project jointly funded with the Centre.

Kochi Metro Rail

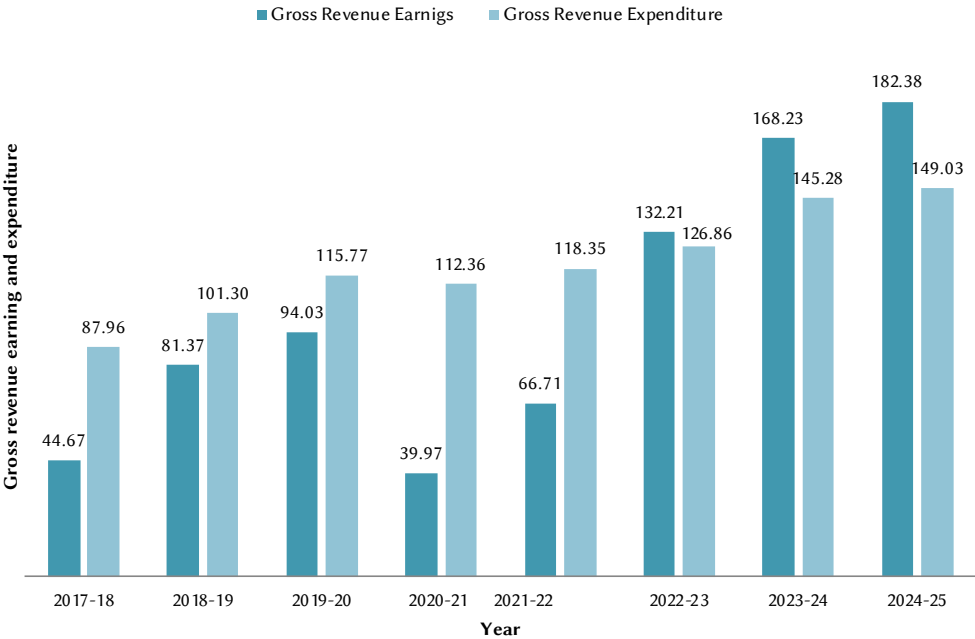
Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) is the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a 50:50 joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Kerala, responsible for implementing, operating, and maintaining the Kochi Metro system. It successfully completed and operates the 28-km Phase I (Blue Line), running from Aluva to Thrippunithura Terminal with 25 stations, making it one of India’s fastest-completed metro projects. KMRL is also notable for its integrated approach, which includes connecting rail, road, and water transport facilities, and for adopting solar power for a significant portion of its energy needs. Currently, the Blue Line is fully operational, with the Phase II (Pink Line) extension from JLN Stadium to Infopark/ Kakkanad actively under construction. The project’s final target for full commissioning is set for December 2027, although project timelines can sometimes experience delays due to factors like monsoons and utility shifting. The original scheduled completion date was previously November 2026.

Financial Performance

Kochi Metro has shown significant improvements in its financial performance, transitioning from initial operating losses to operational surplus. Revenue earnings have consistently moving upwards, reaching Rs 182.38 crore in 2024-25. This growth enabled the metro to move from operating losses of Rs 43.29 crore in 2017-18 and Rs 72.39 crore in 2020-21, to achieving operating profits of Rs 5.35 crore in 2022-23, Rs 22.95 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 33.35 crore in 2024-25, reflecting a dynamic growth trajectory and enhanced efficiency. Major indicators showing operational efficiency of Kochi Metro given in **Appendix 11.1.20**.

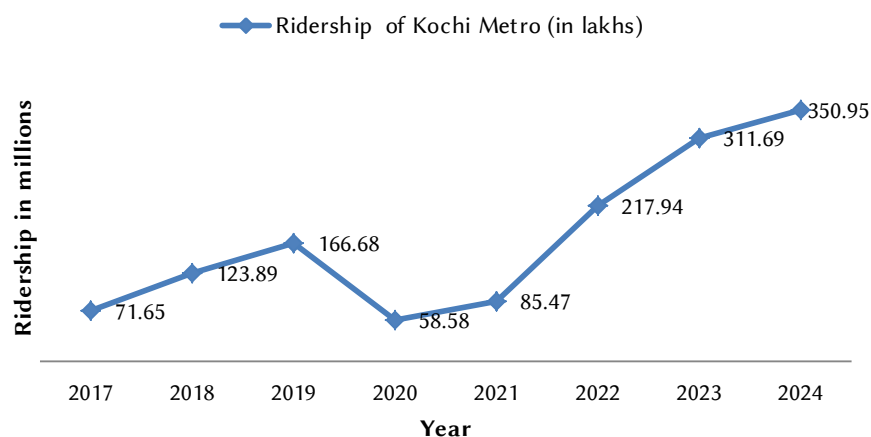
The operational performance of Kochi Metro has consistently improved, with the number of services operated increasing significantly, especially after a recovery from the decrease in 2020-21. This operational scaling has directly supported the substantial increase in ridership. Concurrently, the average cost per passenger per month has decreased significantly, from Rs 2,620 in 2017-18 to Rs 1,255 in 2024-25, indicating heightened efficiency. The positive trend in average occupancy per train per month further highlights better utilization of the metro’s capacity. Year wise Gross Revenue Earnings and Expenditure is given in **Figure 11.1.4**.

Figure 11.1.4 Kochi Metro Year wise Gross Revenue Earnings and Expenditure (Rs. In Crore)



Source: KMRL

Figure 11.1.5 Kochi Metro Year wise Gross Revenue Earnings and Expenditure (Rs. In Crore)



Source: KMRL

Ridership

Kochi Metro has seen a continuous and substantial increase in ridership, with average daily passenger numbers frequently crossing the 1-lakh mark in recent years. This growing patronage has contributed significantly to the system achieving an operating surplus for three consecutive financial years, highlighting its increasing success as a preferred mode of urban transport. Year wise ridership of Kochi Metro (Since 2017) is given in **Figure 11.1.5**.

Kochi Water Metro

The Kochi Water Metro, which started operation in April 2023, is a significant part of Kerala's water transport system. The Kochi Water Metro is India's first water metro system, offering a modern, eco-friendly way to travel across the city's backwaters using fast, air-conditioned electric-hybrid boats. Key operational routes connect major points like Vyttila to Kakkanad (serving the InfoPark area) and High Court to Vypin. Recent expansions have added new routes from High Court to South Chittoor (passing through Bolgatty and Mulavukad North), South Chittoor to Cheranalloor (via Eloor), and a direct service from Eloor to High Court, significantly improving connectivity for island communities. The service is easy to use, with affordable tickets starting at Rs. 20, and allows payment using the Kochi Card, which also works for the Kochi Metro.

Key Achievements

The operational statistics for the Water Metro show significant growth and expansion from the financial year 2023-24 to 2024-25. The Route

Distance covered more than doubled from 8.65 km to 25.11 km, supported by an increase in the number of Boats from 12 to 18, with all 18 boats operational in the latter year, leading to a substantial rise in the number of trips on schedule (from 39,770 to 54,408) and a subsequent increase in passengers carried (from 18.44 lakh to 21.03 lakh). This expansion directly contributed to a doubling of the total revenue receipts on Inland Transports from 413.2 lakh to 813.55 lakh. In 2025-26 (Up to August, 2025) Water Metro continued expansion in capacity with 20 boats and 25.3 km of route distance, though the passenger and revenue figures for this partial period (9.38 lakh passengers; 413.89 lakh Inland Transport revenue). Operational Statistics of Water Metro given **Appendix 11.1.21**.

Aviation

The state operates four international airports namely Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kannur providing global and domestic connectivity. Despite a sharp decline during the 2020-2021 COVID-19 pandemic, major airports have seen passenger and aircraft traffic strongly rebound and often surpass pre-2020 levels. Cochin International Airport (CIAL) consistently remains the busiest in Kerala, especially for international traffic. Kannur International Airport's emergence in late 2018 added significant capacity and redistributed some traffic. Developing Sabarimala Greenfield International Airport in Kottayam district is under processes primarily to serve pilgrims visiting Sabarimala and boost tourism in the Central Travancore region. The Sabarimala Greenfield International Airport project has

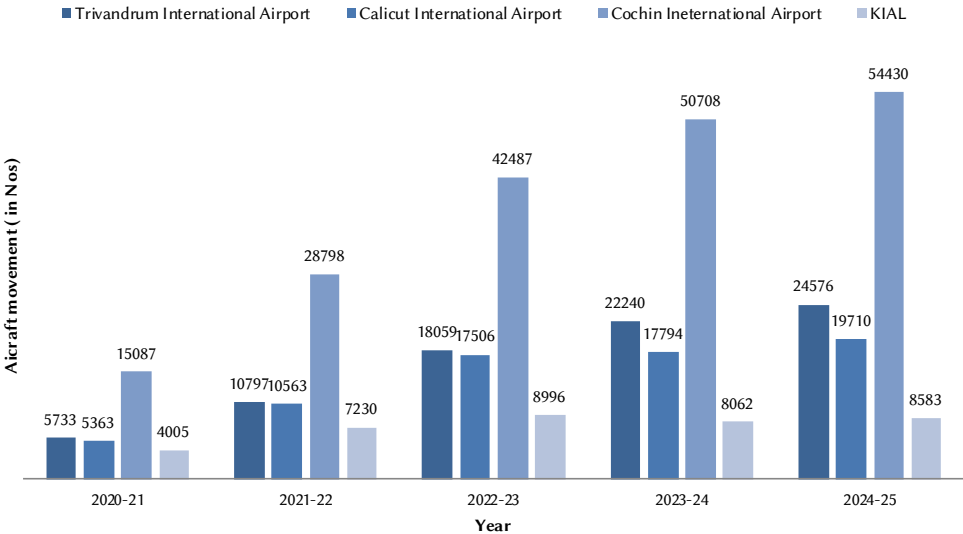
significantly advanced, securing Site, Defence, and Security clearances (April 2023 - May 2025), and is now awaiting ‘In-Principle’ approval from the Ministry of Civil Aviation following the submission of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) on July 8, 2025. Future expansion includes regional airstrips and intra-state routes, focusing on sustainability and connectivity to remote areas. Kerala aims to position itself as South India’s aviation hub, emphasizing modernized infrastructure and enhanced passenger experience.

The Passenger Movement of Airport in Kerala
The following **Figure11.1.6** shows the passenger movement of airports in Kerala

Kerala’s airport passenger traffic grew significantly until 2020, saw a sharp drop that year, but has since shown a strong recovery, with most airports reaching or exceeding their earlier peak traffic by 2023-24, reflecting the overall growth in Indian air travel.

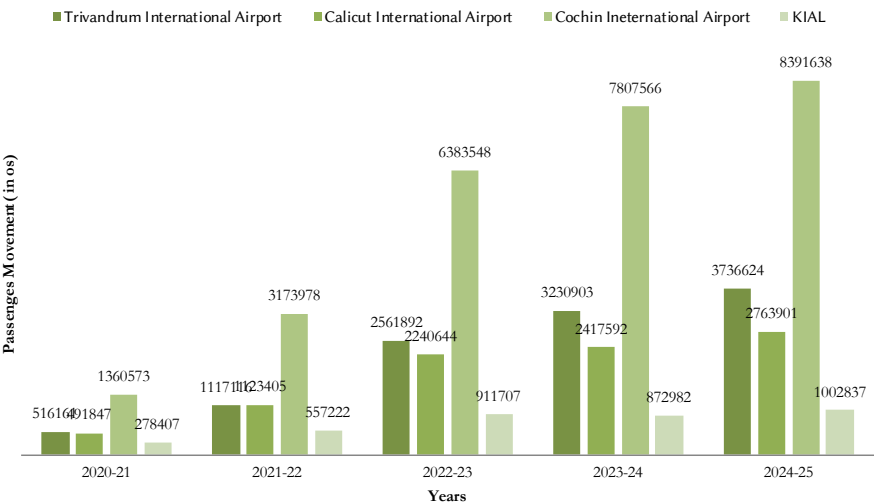
Aircraft Movement in Airports in Kerala
Similar to passenger movement, aircraft movements across all airports show a general upward trend in the pre-pandemic years, followed by a significant downturn in 2020-21 and a subsequent recovery and growth. Details are given in **Figure 11.1.7**.

Figure11.1.6 Passenger’s movement of Airports in Kerala (In No.s)



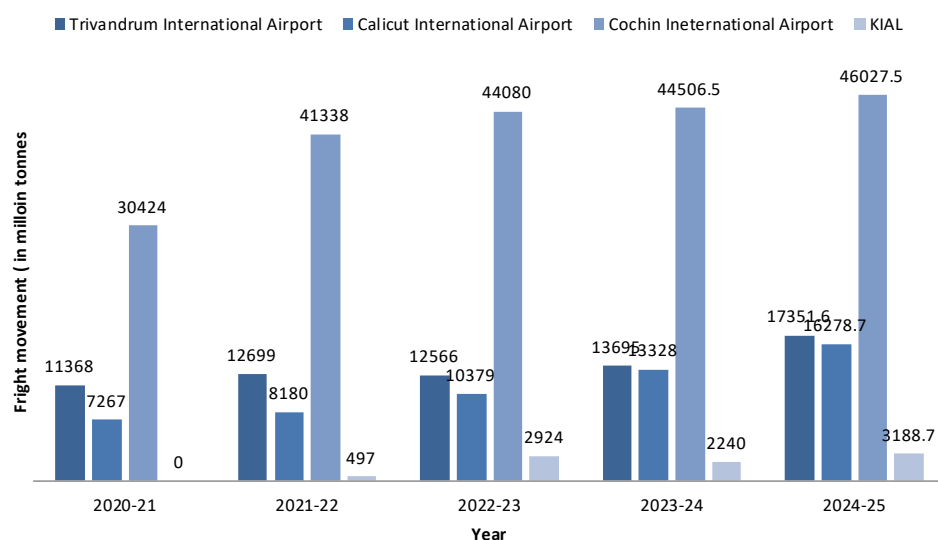
Source: Airport Authority of India

Figure11.1.7 Aircraft Movement in Airports in Kerala (in million tonnes)



Source: Airport Authority of India

Figure 11.1.8 Freight Movement in airports in Kerala



Source: Airport Authority of India

Freight Movement in airports in Kerala

Similar to passenger movements, freight movement across airports in Kerala experienced fluctuations, with a notable dip in 2020-21, consistent with the global economic slowdown. A recovery trend is observed in subsequent years. Details are given in **Figure 11.1.8**.

Infrastructure facilities in Airports

Cochin International Airport (CIAL) continues its trajectory of innovation and expansion. Its International Terminal 3 (T3) is undergoing a significant expansion, including a larger apron and terminal building with more aerobridges, expected to enhance passenger handling capacity and reduce congestion. Complementing this physical growth, CIAL launched a Rs 200 crore “CIAL 2.0” project in May 2025, aiming for full digitalization of airport operations. This initiative incorporates AI-powered surveillance with 4,000 cameras, automated screening, full-body scanners, and automated baggage systems to bolster security, efficiency, and passenger flow. CIAL has also diversified its revenue streams by commissioning a state-of-the-art Business Jet Terminal and developing commercial zones, retail outlets, and a 5-star hotel within airport premises, with “The Zone” project set for early 2025 commissioning.

Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV) is undergoing a major transformation under Adani’s management. A significant expansion of Terminal 2 (international terminal), known as “Project Anantha,” is planned with a

substantial investment of Rs 5,500 crore, aiming to increase annual passenger capacity from 4.5 million to 12 million. While the initial target for completion was January 2034, the master plan is being revised to expedite the process due to environmental clearance delays. Concurrently, refurbishment of Terminal 1 (domestic) is progressing, including new canopy installation and improved parking. The airport is also implementing cutting-edge cleaning technology, increasing check-in counters and e-gates, providing free Wi-Fi coupon kiosks, and enhancing city transfers for improved passenger experience.

Kannur International Airport (KIAL) is strategically positioning itself within the aviation landscape. Beyond passenger services, KIAL is focusing on fostering aviation-related skill development in the region, exemplified by partnerships such as the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Rajiv Gandhi Flying Training Academy (RAGAAT). This indicates a forward-looking approach to developing aviation talent and supporting the broader aerospace industry.

Calicut International Airport (CCJ) is prioritizing safety and capacity enhancements. Critical safety work for the Runway End Safety Area (RESA) development was awarded in February 2024, following the state government’s handover of 12.54 acres of land to AAI, to ensure international compliance. Looking ahead, there are significant plans to extend the runway to 3500

meters and acquire an additional 96 acres of land for a 75-meter runway strip on each side, which are crucial steps for accommodating larger aircraft and further enhancing safety at the airport.

Challenges/ Way forward

Road Transport

The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) must prioritize modernization and technological integration, including real-time tracking, digital payments, and AI-driven route optimization, to enhance efficiency and passenger experience. Concurrently, financial restructuring and revenue diversification are crucial, necessitating government support for pension liabilities and the exploration of non-fare box income sources like commercial complexes at bus stands or leasing depot spaces.

The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) faces challenges including an aging enforcement vehicle fleet, all of which hinder effective road safety enforcement and timely service delivery amid a rapidly growing vehicle population. The way forward for MVD involves urgently augmenting its manpower and modernizing staffing, expediting the establishment of Automated Vehicle Testing Stations, and fully leveraging digital transformation for citizen-centric services like online licenses and registrations. Strengthening enforcement through initiatives like the “Safe Kerala” project and continuous public awareness campaigns are also crucial to enhancing road safety and reducing accidents and injuries across the state.

Kerala grapples with significant road safety challenges, marked by a high number of accidents and fatalities, particularly on “crash vulnerable” highways, due to factors like driver error, poor road design, and increasing traffic. Over 4,500 “black spots” have been identified, necessitating urgent intervention. The path forward involves a comprehensive strategy encompassing stricter law enforcement, road engineering improvements, public awareness campaigns, mandatory safety education, and enhanced post-accident care. The Kerala Road Safety Authority is spearheading these efforts to implement a Road Safety Action Plan and cultivate a culture of responsible road use, aiming for a substantial reduction in accidents and fatalities by 2030.

Kerala’s road transport sector faces significant R&D challenges due to high population density, rising vehicular traffic, limited funding, and difficulties integrating research into policy, alongside land acquisition hurdles. To overcome these, a multi-pronged approach is essential: prioritizing data-driven research for traffic management and accident prevention, focusing on sustainable solutions like electric vehicles and resilient infrastructure, and integrating Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) through IoT and AI. Crucially, fostering strong collaboration among academia, government agencies, and the private sector, supported by consistent policy and funding, will pave the way for an efficient, safe, and sustainable road transport system in Kerala.

Rail Transport

Rail transport in Kerala, while vital for connectivity, faces significant challenges due to the state’s unique geography and high population density. The existing double-track lines are highly congested, leading to frequent delays and limiting both passenger and freight movement. Land acquisition for new projects is a major hurdle, often causing prolonged delays and public opposition due to the dense settlement and environmental sensitivities. Furthermore, the numerous curves and level crossings restrict train speeds, preventing the optimal utilization of modern trains.

Kerala’s rail sector needs crucial capacity enhancement and strategic project implementation. Plan for adding parallel third and fourth lines along the existing corridors is pivotal to decongest the network, allowing for dedicated tracks for faster passenger and freight services. Prioritizing the construction of Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) and Under Bridges (RUBs), with the Railways even fully funding some due to state financial constraints, will eliminate traffic bottlenecks and enhance safety. A strong emphasis on exploring more practical and environmentally viable alternatives focusing on optimizing existing infrastructure through signalling upgrades and curve straightening to improve speeds and operational efficiency is essential.

Air Transport

Kerala’s air transport sector, with its four international airports and a fifth proposed, is a vital gateway but faces significant challenges. Chief among these are capacity constraints and

potential congestion, particularly at major hubs like Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi, which require continuous expansion to meet growing passenger and cargo demands. Land acquisition for such expansions and new Greenfield projects, like the proposed Sabarimala airport, remains a major hurdle in densely populated Kerala, leading to delays and increased costs. Furthermore, the financial viability of newer airports, as seen with Kannur International Airport (KIAL) struggling with low load factors and limited airline operations, raises concerns about the long-term sustainability of additional infrastructure without strong strategic planning.

To navigate these challenges, the way forward involves a multi-pronged approach. Strategic expansion and modernization of existing airports, including Thiruvananthapuram's T2 expansion and KIAL's on-going "Flying into Tomorrow" initiatives with potential for a second runway, are crucial. Developing air cargo hubs with enhanced cold storage and customs facilities across all international airports is essential to capitalize on Kerala's export potential in perishables.

WATER TRANSPORT

Water transport is an integral part of transportation system. Being one of the most energy-efficient, cost-effective, and environmentally sustainable modes of transport, it has played a vital role in facilitating trade, communication, and connectivity across regions. India has a widespread network of inland waterways in the form of rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, and tidal inlets. Kerala, located along the south-western coast of India, occupies a unique and prominent position in the nation's water transport landscape. The state is endowed with an extensive network of backwaters, rivers, canals, and lakes that together form an integral part of its transport and livelihood systems. Water transport holds immense promise for Kerala's sustainable development. By integrating modern technology, environmental conservation, and community participation, the state can transform its traditional waterways into a model for green mobility and inclusive growth.

PORT SECTOR

Maritime transport is the backbone of globalised trade and the manufacturing supply chain. The Maritime Sector in India comprises of Ports,

Shipping, Shipbuilding and Ship repair and Inland Water Transport Systems. According to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water Ways, India has 12 Government owned major ports and more than 217 non-major ports. According to Ministry's Annual Report 2024-25, Indian Shipping Industry has over the years played a crucial role in the transport. Approximately 95 per cent of the country's trade by volume and 68 per cent by value is moved through maritime transport. Therefore, shipping and ocean resources, ship design and construction, ports and harbours, human resource development, finance, ancillaries and new technologies need to be developed in the light of the emerging scenario. The Indian Ports Act, 2025 passed by Parliament in August, 2025 marks a transformative milestone in India's maritime governance- replacing the century-old Indian Port Act of 1908 with a forward looking, integrated framework tailored to the demands of a modern economy. The Indian port sector has a cargo handling capacity of 2690 million metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) (1630 MTPA Major Ports + 1060 MTPA non- major Ports). In 2024-25, major and non-major ports in India handled a total cargo of approximately 1593 million metric tonnes (*Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India*).

Sagarmala Programme

The Sagarmala Programme is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, to harness the nation's 11,098 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes. By lowering logistics costs for both domestic and international trade, the Ministry hopes to improve the performance and efficiency of the logistics industry through this programme. The programme intends to promote port-led development in the country through modernisation and development of new ports, enhancing connectivity, promoting port linked industrialisation, coastal community development and promotion of Coastal Shipping and Inland Waterways in India.

There are 839 projects with investment of Rs 5.79 Lakh crore working under the Sagarmala Programme. Out of which, 272 projects worth Rs 1.41 Lakh crore have been completed and 214 projects worth Rs 1.63 lakh crore are under implementation. The rest of 353 projects worth Rs 2.75 Lakh crore are under various stages

Table 11.1.4. Summary of projects under Sagarmala Programme

SI No	Project Theme	Completed		Under Implementation		Under Development		Total	
		No. of Projects	Project Cost (Rs.in Cr)	No. of Projects	Project Cost (Rs.in Cr)	No. of Projects	Project Cost (Rs. In Cr)	No. of Projects	Project Cost (Rs.in Cr)
1	Port Modernisation	103	32,635	56	74,744	75	1,83,900	234	2,91,279
2	Port Connectivity	92	58,031	56	67,976	131	80,366	279	2,06,373
3	Port Led Industrialisation	9	45,865	3	9,247	2	625	14	55,737
4	Coastal Community Development	23	1,997	32	5,875	26	3,701	81	11,572
5	Coastal Shipping and Inland Water Transport	45	2,971	67	4,846	119	6,783	231	14,601
Total		272	1,41,499	214	1,62,688	353	2,75,374	839	5,79,562

Source: Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India

of development. These projects are being implemented by relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, major ports and other agencies primarily through private or PPP mode. A summary of schemes being undertaken under the Sagarmala Programme is provided in **Table 11.1.4**.

The Government of India has formed the Sagarmala Development Company Limited (SDCL), to achieve the objectives of this programme and to fast-track the implementation of the port-led development activities. As per the project requirements, SDCL will raise funds as debt or equity (as long-term capital), by leveraging resources provided by the Government of India and from multi-lateral and bilateral funding agencies. As per the approved structure of Sagarmala Programme, the implementation of the projects shall be done by the line ministries, State Governments and State Maritime Boards (SMBs) and SPVs. The SDCL will provide a funding window and implement only those residual projects that cannot be funded by any other means or mode.

Cargo Traffic through Ports in India

Major ports in India

The ecosystem of international commerce is facilitated by the maritime sector. Its affordability and global connectivity make it very vital to the world economy. Developments in the global economy, specifically expansion of the global

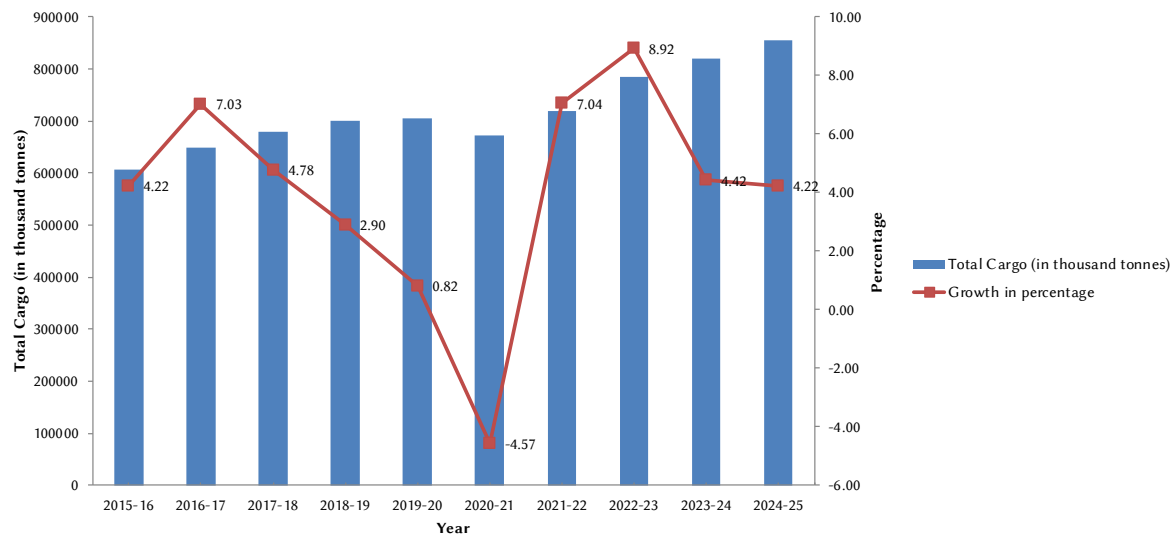
output and trade are the factors that boost maritime transportation activity. Thus, the volume of seaborne cargo traffic handled by ports is mainly shaped by the levels and changes in both the global and domestic activity. Cargo traffic at major ports in 2024-25, increased by 4.22 per cent to 853.57 million metric tonnes from 819.00 million metric tonnes handled in 2023-24, however, the growth rate is lesser compared to previous year.

Cargo handled by Major Ports, year on year growth rate is shown in **Figure 11.1.9**.

Cargo handled by major ports between the period 2015-16 to 2024-25 shows, the significant growth reported in 2022-23 (8.8 per cent), while the lowest reported in 2020-21 (-4.6 per cent).

Deendayal Port (DPA) recorded highest growth (13.4 per cent) in the cargo traffic handled at Major Ports in 2024-25, followed by Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) (7.4 per cent), Kamarajar Port (6.9 per cent), Chennai Port (6.5 per cent), Cochin Port (3.6 per cent), Paradip Port (3.5 per cent), Mumbai Port (2.0 per cent), Visakhapatnam Port (VPA) (1.0 per cent), V. O. Chidambaram Port, Tuticorin (0.8 per cent) and New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) (0.7 per cent). Among the major ports, Mormugao Port (-12.5 per cent), Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (-2.8 per cent) and Haldia Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (-4.3 per cent) recorded negative traffic growth rate in 2024-25.

Figure 11.1.9 Cargo handled by Major Ports during 2015-16 to 2024-25



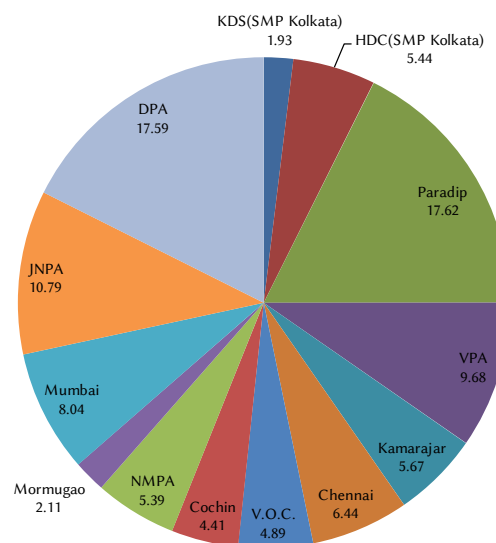
Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Amongst the Major ports, Paradip Port handled the maximum cargo of 150.41 million metric tonnes followed by Deendayal Port (150.16 MMT), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) (92.12 MMT), Visakhapatnam Port (VPA) (82.62 MMT), Mumbai Port (68.64 MMT), Chennai Port (54.95 MMT), Kamarajar Port (48.41 MMT), Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Haldia (46.45 MMT), New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) (46.02 MMT), V. O. Chidambaram Port (41.72 MMT), Cochin Port (37.61 MMT), Mormugao

Port (18.05 MMT) and Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (16.43 MMT) in 2024-25. The share of total traffic handled by major ports is shown in **Figure 11.1.10**.

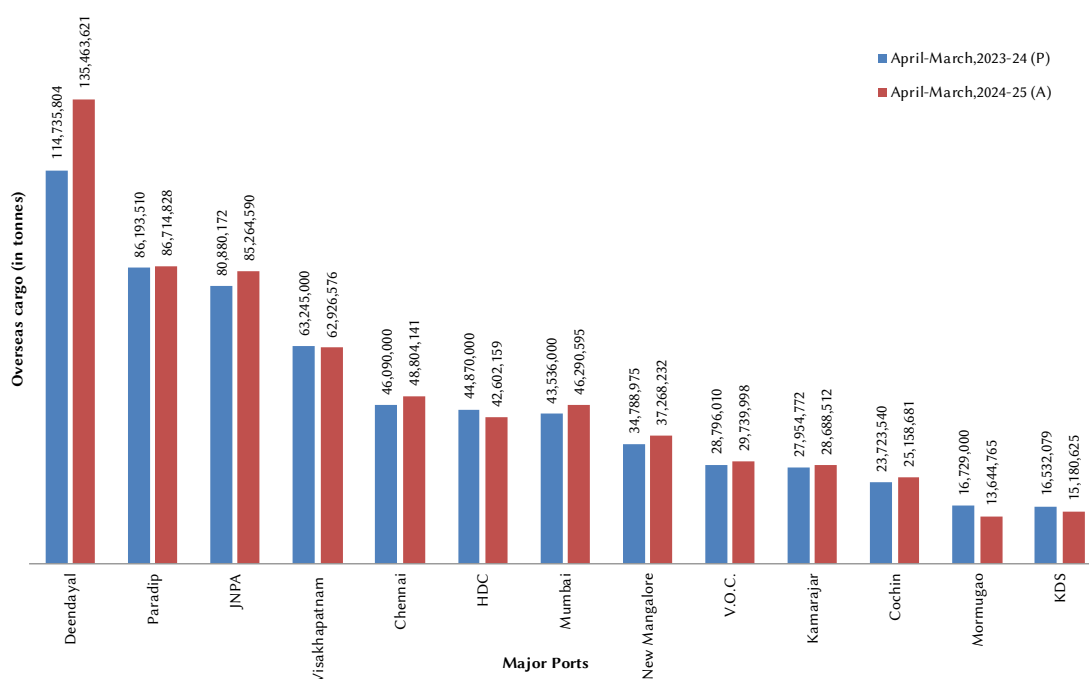
The overseas cargo handled through the 12 major ports increased by 4.7 per cent in 2024-25, to 657.75 million metric tonnes (MMT). Amongst the Major Ports, Deendayal Port (DPA) handled the maximum overseas cargo of 135.46 million metric tonnes with a share of 20.6 per cent, followed by

Figure 11.1.10 Major Port-wise percentage share of total cargo handled in 2024-25



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Figure 11.1.11 Share of overseas cargo handled through major ports in 2023-24 & 2024-25 (in tonnes)



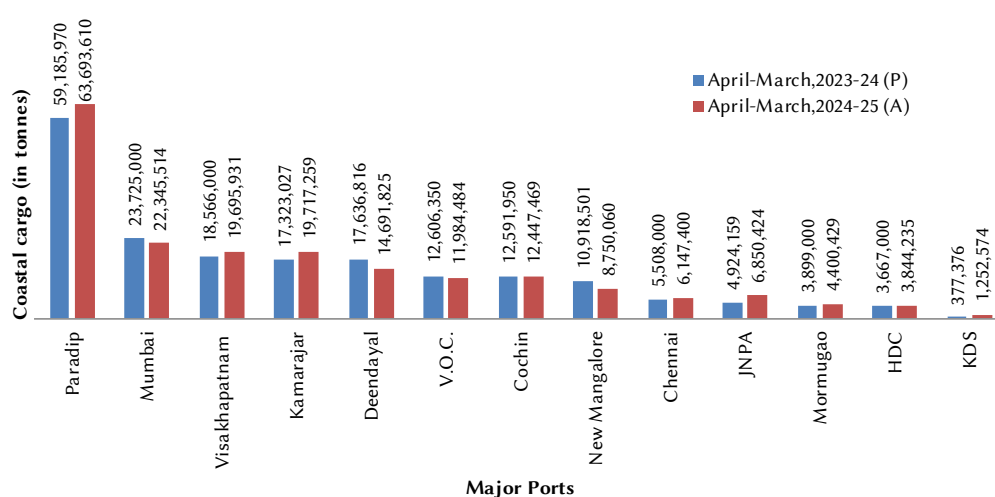
Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Paradip Port (13.2 per cent), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) (12.9 per cent), Visakhapatnam Port (VPA) (9.6 per cent), Chennai Port (7.4 per cent), Mumbai Port (7.0 per cent), Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Haldia (6.5 per cent), New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) (5.7 per cent), V. O. Chidambaram Port, Tuticorin (4.5 per cent), Kamarajar Port (4.4 per cent), Cochin Port (3.8 per cent), Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Kolkata (2.3 per cent) and Mormugao Port (2.0 per cent) in

2024-25. The share of overseas cargo handled by major ports is shown in **Figure 11.1.11**.

The coastal cargo handled through the 12 major ports increased by 2.6 per cent in 2024-25, to 195.82 million metric tonnes (MMT). Among the Major Ports, Paradip Port handled the maximum coastal cargo of 63.69 million metric tonnes with a share of 32.5 per cent followed by Mumbai Port (11.4 per cent), Kamarajar Port (10.1 per cent),

Figure 11.1.12 Share of coastal cargo handled through major ports in 2023-24 & 2024-25 (in tonnes)



HDC –Haldia Dock Complex, KSD- Kolkata Dock System

Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Visakhapatnam Port (10.1 per cent), Deendayal Port (DPA) (7.5 per cent), Cochin Port (6.4 per cent), V.O. Chidambaram Port (6.1 per cent), New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) (4.5 per cent), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) (3.5 per cent), Chennai Port (3.1 per cent), Mormugao Port (2.3 per cent) Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Haldia (1.9 per cent), and Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Kolkata (0.6 per cent). The share of coastal cargo handled by major ports in 2024-25 is shown in **Figure 11.1.12**.

Port-wise cargo traffic at major ports in 2023-24 and 2024-25 is given in **Appendix. 11.1.22**.

Cargo traffic through non-major ports in India

Growth trends in the cargo handled by non-major ports during the past ten years is given in **Fig 11.1.13**.

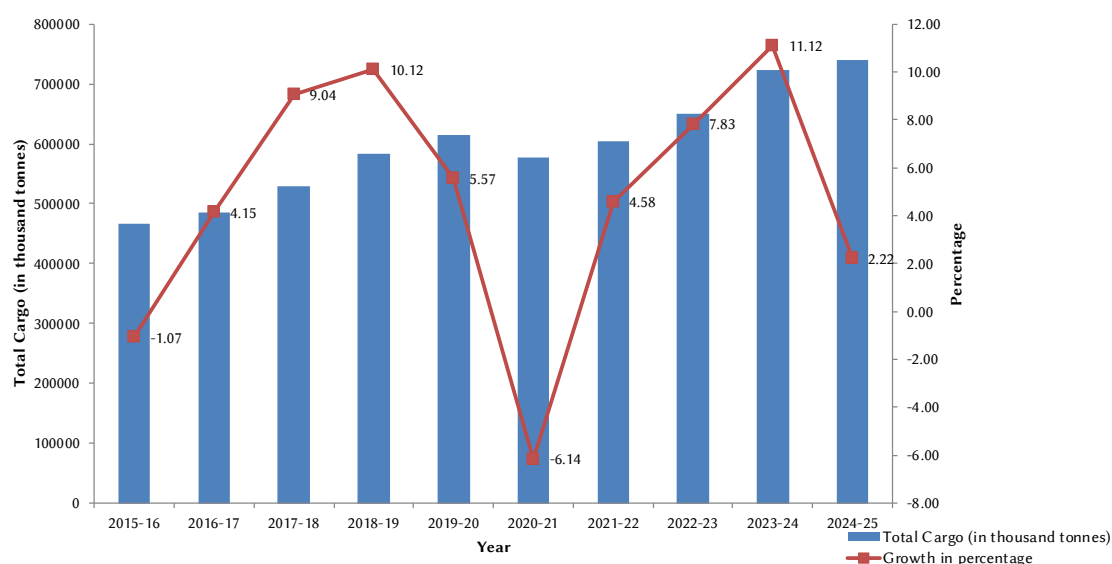
From 2015-16 to 2024-25, the total cargo handled through the non- major ports recorded the highest growth in 2023-24 (11.12 per cent), while the lowest growth was in the year 2020-21 (-6.1 per cent).

Cargo traffic through non-major ports in 2024-25, increased by 2.2 per cent to 739.47 million metric tonnes from 723.41 million metric tonnes handled in 2023-24. Amongst the State Maritime Boards (SMB) and Directorate of Ports (DoP), Gujarat Maritime Board handled the maximum cargo of

487.68 million metric tonnes with a share of 65.9 per cent followed by Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (104.12 MMT), Maharashtra Maritime Board (67.95 MMT), Directorate of Ports, Odisha (52.08 MMT), Directorate of Ports, Puducherry (12.79 MMT), Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (11.89 MMT), and Others (2.95 MMT) which includes cargo handled by Non-major ports of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala and Lakshadweep. The share of total cargo traffic handled by Non-Major Ports is shown in **Figure 11.1.14**.

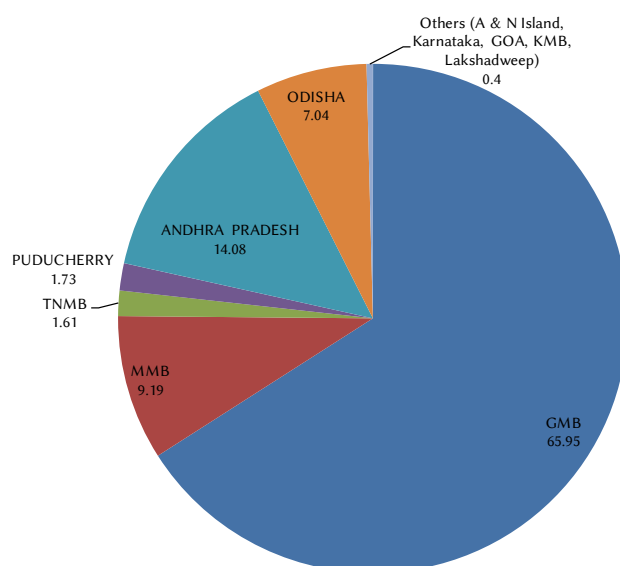
The overseas cargo traffic handled through non-major ports in 2024-25 (April-March) increased by 3.94 per cent to 604.49 million metric tonnes from 581.60 million metric tonnes in 2023-24 (April-March). Amongst the SMB/DoP , Gujarat Maritime Board handled the maximum overseas cargo of 437.98 million metric tonnes with a share of 72.5 per cent followed by Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (11.5 per cent), Directorate of Ports, Odisha (7.2 per cent), Maharashtra Maritime Board (4.8 per cent), Directorate of Ports, Puducherry (2.1 per cent), Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (1.9 per cent) and Others (0.09 per cent) which includes cargo handled by Non-Major Ports of Andaman and Nicobar Island, Karnataka and Lakshadweep. The share of overseas cargo handled by non-major ports is shown in **Figure 11.1.15**.

Figure 11.1.13 Growth trend in cargo handled by non-major ports during 2015-16 to 2024-25



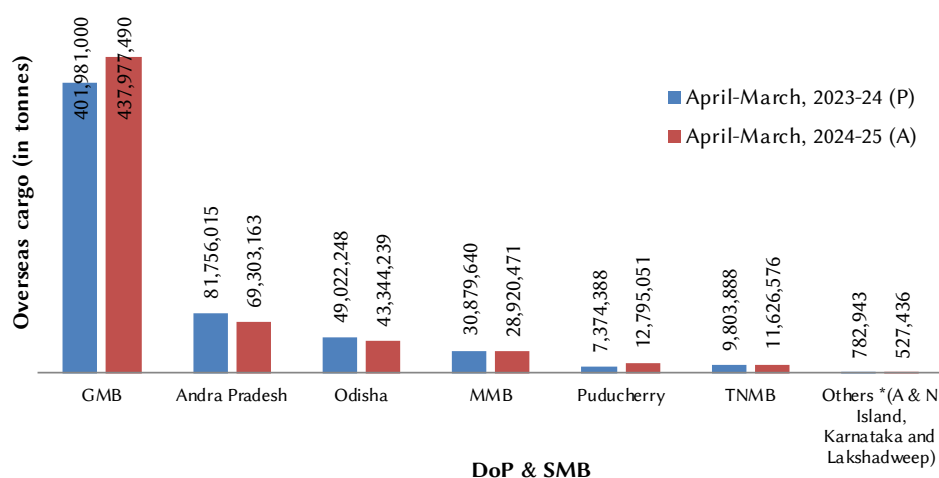
Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Figure 11.1.14 SMB/DoP wise percentage share of cargo traffic handled at non-major ports in 2024-25



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Figure 11.1.15 Share of overseas cargo handled through SMB/DoP in 2023-24 & 2024-25 (in tonnes)



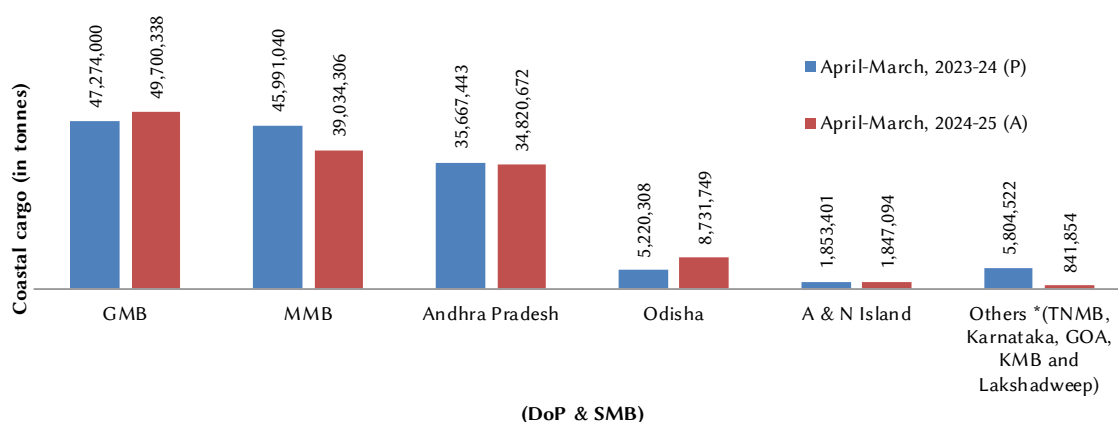
Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India
 * Goa and Lakshadweep did not handled overseas cargo during the period.

The coastal cargo traffic handled through non-major ports in 2024-25 decreased by 4.8 per cent to 134.98 million metric tonnes from 141.81 million metric tonnes handled in 2023-24. Amongst the SMB/DoP, Gujarat Maritime Board handled the maximum coastal cargo of 49.70 million metric tonnes with a share of 36.8 per cent followed by Maharashtra Maritime Board (28.9 per cent), Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board (25.8 per cent), Directorate of Ports, Odisha (6.5 per cent), and

Others (0.6 per cent) which includes cargo handled by Non-Major Ports of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (TNMB), Goa, Kerala and Karnataka. The share of Coastal Cargo handled by non-major ports is shown in **Figure 11.1.16**.

SMB/DoP -wise cargo traffic at non-major ports in 2023-24 and 2024-25 is given in **Appendix. 11.1.23**.

Figure 11.1.16 Share of coastal cargo handled through SMB/DoP in 2023-24 & 2024-25 (in tonnes)



Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

* Puducherry did not handled Coastal Cargo during 2024-25.

Ports in Kerala

Kerala has a coastal length of approximately 590 km. There is one Major Port at Cochin and 17 non-major ports. Out of 17 non-major ports in Kerala, only four viz Vizhinjam, Beypore-Kozhikode, Azhikkal and Kollam ports are fully operational. There is also a riverine port at Nattakom in Kottayam. Malabar Port & SEZ is a company formed for the development of a PPP port in Malabar area (Azhikkal based).

Kerala Maritime Board (KMB)

Kerala Maritime Board came into existence after the approval of Kerala Maritime Board Act on September 2017. As per the act, KMB is constituted for the non-major ports in Kerala and is vested with administration, control and management of non-major ports. The Government constituted KMB by merging Directorate of Ports, Kerala State Maritime Development Corporation Ltd and Kerala Maritime society. The Board consists of a chairman, a vice chairman, 6 ex-officio members and four nominated members. All port related activities such as modernisation of non-major ports and enhancement of shipping activities are major objectives of Kerala Maritime Board.

Major achievements of Kerala Maritime Board

- *Implementation of Inland vessel Act*-State Government has made the Kerala Maritime Board as the nodal agency for the implementation of the provisions in the Act related to the registration and survey of mechanized inland vessels. As part of this,

KMB conducts inspections and facilitates registration of vessels. Launched “Kerala Nowka- The IV connect”, an online portal for vessel registration and surveys.

- *Development of land and other assets under Non-major Ports on PPP mode*- The Board has taken steps to develop the land and various assets coming under the Non-major Ports viz building, bungalows, Godowns, warehouses, light houses etc. on PPP mode. Under this initiative, Expression of Interest (EOI) released for 13 projects and 11 projects are in tender stage.
- *Development of port Infrastructure*-As part of developing port infrastructure, KMB has submitted 8 proposals for approval under Sagarmala project.
- *Others*-Established certification and infrastructure for ship operations (including foreign vessels) in all functional ports. Initiated training courses under IV (manning) Rules -2022 for crew licensing. Began digitalization of all KMB assets.

Registered Vessels

The Union Government has enacted the Inland Vessels Act-2021 for regulating the registration and survey of all mechanized inland vessels in the nation. The new Act, introduced ‘One Nation One Registration.’ Eleven rules were notified to unify inland vessel registration, certification, and specifications nationwide.

The type of vessels registered includes passenger vessel, speed boat, house boat, cargo vessel, floating resort, motor boat, cutter section dredger,

Table 11.1.5 Details of inspection conducted for IV Act implementation

Sl.no.	Item	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	No. of Vessels inspected	580	651	1120	1145	1091
2	No. of Vessels found perfect	435	485	830	904	866
3	No. of Vessels found defective	145	166	290	241	225
4	No of detention orders issued	16	17	45	19	1

Source: Kerala Maritime Board

Table 11.1.6 Number of vessels registered in Kerala

Sl. no.	Item	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Category A	6	1	5	0	0
2	Category B	158	192	224	36	210
3	Newly constructed vessel	37	56	80	52	28
4	Registration Name changed	73	109	122	149	65
Total		274	358	431	237	303

Source: Kerala Maritime Board

jankar, shikkaras, tug, rescue boat, and cruise boat. In 2024-25, 1091 vessels were inspected, of which, 866 vessels were found to be perfect and 225 were defective. Details are in **Table 11.1.5** and **11.1.6**.

Cargo handled through non-major ports in Kerala

The details of cargo handled by non-major ports in Kerala for the last five years is shown in **Table 11.1.7**. The quantity of cargo handled by Kerala's non-major ports varies significantly during the last five years. In all these five years, export cargo (coastal and overseas) is higher than import cargo (coastal and overseas). The total cargo export from Kerala increased from 77,307 tonne in 2023-24 to 90,608 tonnes in 2024-25.

Out of the 17 non major ports, four ports (Beypore, Kollam, Azhikkal and Vizhinjam) are

operational for trade. In 2024-25, only Beypore port (Kozhikode) and Azhikkal port had cargo transportation and Kollam and Vizhinjam port had no trade. The coastal cargo movement through non-major ports shows a fluctuating trend, it is increased from 84,750 tonnes in 2023-24 to 1,01,479 tonnes in 2024-25. Details are given in **Appendix 11.1.24**.

Revenue from Ports in Kerala

Details of revenue collected through the non-major ports of Kerala from 2020-21 to 2024-25 are given in **Table 11.1.8**. Non-major ports in Kerala generated Rs 40.49 crore from various port-related activities in 2024-2025. Merchandise transport is considered the main activity of ports. Data shows that the share of export import duties in the total revenue is low over these years. Major share of port revenue (Rs. 28.17 crore) was earned from

Table 11.1.7 Cargo Handled through the non-major ports of Kerala 2020-21 to 2024-25, in tonne

Year	Import			Export			Total
	Coastal	Foreign	Total	Coastal	Foreign	Total	
2020-21	8,074	119	8,193	41,118	69	41,187	49,380
2021-22	57,253	0	57,253	2,64,989	549	2,65,538	3,22,791
2022-23	7,648	0	7,648	2,33,216	0	2,33,216	2,40,864
2023-24	7,443	0	7,443	77,307	0	77,307	84,750
2024-25	10,871	0	10,871	90,608	0	90,608	1,01,479
Total	91,289	119	91,408	7,07,238	618	7,07,856	7,99,264

Source: Kerala Maritime Board

Table 11.1.8 Category-wise break up of Revenue collected through the non-major ports of Kerala from 2020-21 to 2024-25, Rs in crore

Year	Port Dues		Export Import dues		Merchant Overtime Charges		Dredged Material		All Others		Total
	Amount	% of total	Amount	% of total	Amount	% of total	Amount	% of total	Amount	% of total	
2020-21	0.04	0.10	0.37	0.90	10.15	24.66	25.78	62.6	4.81	11.69	41.16
2021-22	0.12	0.23	0.55	1.05	0.74	1.42	39.51	75.7	11.28	21.62	52.17
2022-23	0.06	0.13	0.17	0.37	0.33	0.72	35.58	77.33	9.87	21.45	46.01
2023-24	0.002	0.08	0.013	0.40	0.007	0.23	25.62	76.47	7.65	77.17	33.50
2024-25	0.06	0.16	0.37	0.92	0.15	0.37	28.17	69.58	11.73	28.97	40.49

Source: Kerala Maritime Board

dredged materials, which is around 69 per cent of the total revenue. Category -wise break up of revenue earned by non-major ports of Kerala is given in **Appendix 11.1.25**.

Port Activities and Operations (Non-Major ports in Kerala)

In 2024-25, the total number of sailing vessels (break-bulk ship, mini container vessel, passenger vessel, mini bulk vessel, urus, research vessels, barges and yachts) that arrived at the operational ports in the State was 542, which included 264 steamers and 278 sailing vessels. Of the four operational ports in Kerala, largest number of vessels arrived (372 nos) at Beypore (Kozhikode) port. This was followed by Vizhijnam (148 nos), Kollam (12 nos) and one at Azhikal. The number of steamers that arrived in the Vizhinjam port was higher (148 nos) than in the other ports. Details are shown in **Appendix 11.1.26**. The infrastructural facilities available in the ports of Beypore, Azhikkal, Kollam and Vizhinjam are detailed in **Appendix 11.1.27**.

Cochin Port

Cochin Port, the only major port in Kerala spreads over 827 hectares with water frontage of 7.5 km. In addition to rail access (Konkan and Southern Railway), the port is connected to the hinterland via NH 544, NH 66, and NH 185. An inland waterway connecting Kollam and Kottappuram is being developed on either side by the Inland Waterways Authority of India. Because of its closeness to the international sea route connecting Europe, the Far East, and Australia, Cochin port attract a lot of container lines, which provides an immense amount of commercial potential.

The Kochi International Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal is the first transshipment terminal in India to operate in a SEZ. It is part of the Cochin Port. The first part of the Terminal was commissioned on 11th February 2011. The Terminal can handle cargo up to one million TEUs (Twenty-foot equivalent units) per annum. It is operated by the Dubai Ports World (DPW). The Terminal is located on the Vallarpadam Island in Kochi. In 2024-25, ICTT handled Containers of 8.35 lakh

Table 11.1.9. Year Wise Cargo Handled at Cochin Port (In thousand tonnes)

	Financial Year (2023-24)		Financial Year (2024-25)	
	Cargo handled	% share to total Major ports	Cargo handled	% share to total Major ports
Overseas	23,724	3.78	25,159	3.82
Coastal	12,592	6.60	12,447	6.36
Total	36,315	4.43	37,606	4.41

Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

TEUs, shows an increase of 10.7 per cent over 2023-24

Cochin Port has 22 Berths including 1 Single Point Mooring SPM with an effective rated capacity of 80.50 MMTPA. From April to March, 2024-25, Cochin port handled 4.4 per cent of the total cargo handled by India's 12 major ports. Details are given in **Table 11.1.9**.

Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd (VISL) - Significant milestone in Kerala's port infrastructure

The Vizhinjam International Seaport, nestled in Thiruvananthapuram, is more than just a port; it's a symbol of India's maritime aspirations. With its strategic location along the Arabian Sea, this deep-sea water container transshipment hub is poised to revolutionise the nation's maritime landscape. Vizhinjam International Transshipment container terminal, the first deep water transshipment terminal in India, with a capacity of 1 Mn TEUs/ annum, is commissioned on 3 December 2024. Government of Kerala has constituted a special purpose vehicle namely Vizhinjam International Sea port Limited (VISL) to facilitate the implementation of the project. VISL is functioning on behalf of Government of Kerala in terms of project execution. The Vizhinjam port has many geographical advantages to be developed as an international transshipment terminal. The Vizhinjam international seaport is the only project of Government of Kerala that has been identified and prioritized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in its vision document, the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030.

Out of the total Phase 1 investments of Rs 8667.00 crore, the Government of Kerala's share Rs 5,395 crore (62.25 per cent), and State Government had spent Rs 3474.88 crores. The VGF support of Rs 817.8 crore (9.32 per cent) from the Union Government was released with the condition that it should be repaid with interest after 2034 by sharing 20 per cent of the income from the concession fee. VISL also received NABARD loan of Rs 890 crores and Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) fund Rs 1504 crores (2023-24- Rs 145 crore, 2024-25-Rs 1134 crore, 2025-26- Rs 225 crore). The Concessionaire's (Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited) share of investment for Phase 1 is approximately Rs 2,454 crores (28.31 per cent). Over all progress of construction work is given in **Appendix 11.1.28**.

Major achievements so far

- The first international cargo ship 'Shenhua 15' docked at Vizhinjam International Port, India's first mother port on 15 October 2023.
- A container vessel named, MSC Clause Girardet, an Ultra Large Container Vessel (ULCV) category vessel with 24,116 TEUs capacity had called at the port on 13 September 2024. This is the biggest container vessel to have berthed at any of the South Asian ports.
- The world's largest shipping company, Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), has included Vizhinjam Port in two of their shipping services: (a) Jade service, connecting Europe and Asia, and (b) the Dragon service, connecting Asia and the Mediterranean. These new routes are expected to increase the frequency of ships docking at Vizhinjam.
- As of November 30, 2025, the Port handled a total of 13,13,609 containers of Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) from 611 vessels and generated a revenue of Rs 534.59, of which, Rs 96.23 crore has been collected as GST. The port is currently operating at an average 137 per cent capacity utilization.
- Administrative Sanction has been obtained for the underground railway connecting the VISL to Balaramapuram railway station for an estimated cost of Rs 1,485 crore. It is for setting up of the 10.77 km railway line (including 9.00 km underground tunnel) and the work handed over to the Konkan Rail Development Corporation. The construction is expected to be completed in December 2028.
- Union Ministry has officially declared Vizhinjam International Seaport as a designated Immigration Check Post (ICP). This status enables the port to conduct dedicated immigration clearances for both passengers and crew members, streamlining entry and exit procedures.

Future development

The State Government entered into a supplementary concession agreement with the Concessionaire on November 28, 2024, extending the concession period of the project by an additional five years. However, the revenue sharing schedule with the concessionaire remains unchanged, as per the original agreement, ensuring early commencement of revenue sharing. The supplementary agreement mandates that the remaining phases of capacity augmentation must be completed by 2028, advancing the timeline

from the originally stipulated 2045. This capacity expansion will increase the port's container handling capacity from the current 10 lakh TEUs to 30 lakh TEUs. The port currently handles transshipment cargo, but the focus is now on establishing gateway traffic by December 2025.

Malabar International Port and SEZ Limited (Azhikkal Port)

Malabar International Port and SEZ Limited (MIPS Ltd), a Company wholly owned by the Government of Kerala was incorporated to execute the project for development of Azhikkal Port. Azhikkal Port is envisaged as an international as well as coastal shipping seaport with inter-modal connectivity with SEZs/industrial parks that can funnel cargo to the port and entrepreneurial resources into potential sectors in the Malabar region.

The development of a new seaport for domestic and international cargo in the open sea at Azhikkal is envisaged in 3 Phases - capable of handling up to Panamax size ships (capacity of 4000 to 5000 containers). A 500-metre berth is planned in Phase I, a 300-metre berth in Phase 2 and another 300-metre berth in Phase 3. Once the port becomes fully operational, Azhikkal port will handle even internationally plying ships of around 5000 TEU Panamax vessels with a dredged depth of around 14.1m in the harbour basin. The port can handle containers, liquid bulk, petroleum products, dry bulk and break-bulk cargos. The estimated project cost (including the land acquisition cost) as per the latest financial assessment done by the Technical Consultant M/s.Howe is Rs.5,047 crore: in 3 phases (Rs.3,742+Rs.375+Rs.930 crores respectively) and the Technical Consultants submitted the Draft DPR of the project to the Government of Kerala in September 2023 for approval. As per G.O.(Ms)No.27/2025/F&P dated: 07-11-2025 the Government approved the DPR along with Financial Model submitted by CMD. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report was submitted to KSPCB on 30.01.2025 and application for the Environment Clearance was submitted in the Parivesh Portal on 10.04.2025.

Kottayam Port and Container Terminal Services (KPACT)

Kottayam Port and Container Terminal Services (KPACT), a State notified minor Port located in Kottayam commenced its full operations as a fully-

fledged Customs station in 2012. KPACT also functions as a Customs notified Inland Container Depot (ICD), and is currently the only ICD within the State of Kerala. The ICD under the custodianship of KPACT, is situated on the banks of the Kodoor River (NW9), which connects to Vembanad Lake. Notably, Kottayam Port is the first and only ICD in the nation equipped to transship EXIM containers via inland waterway. This unique connectivity to gateway Port Cochin through National Waterways 3 and 9 provides a cost-effective mode of transportation. Kottayam Port plays a vital role in the import/export trade for the central Travancore area, optimizing cargo turnaround time and reducing transportation costs. In the year 2024-25, the port handled 60,575 tonnes of cargo.

Harbour Engineering Department (HED)

The HED carries out investigation, planning, design, evaluation, execution, operation, maintenance and management of fishing harbours and fish landing centres as well as related marine engineering and technical works for the development schemes of the Fisheries and Port Departments. HED functions as a service department of Tourism and LSGD. HED also undertakes development works of state owned ports in Kerala. Kerala Maritime Board entrusts HED for all kind of specialised construction works in the Port sector.

Major achievements of HED in 2024-25

- Documentation of various projects of HED completed.
- An in-house training was implemented to departmental staff through CWPRS Pune and IIC Kollam.
- Construction of various infrastructure works – (1) Staff quarters at Puthiyaniyathu in Kozhikode, (2) Office building complex at Thiruvananthapuram division office, (3) renovation of pond at Kamaleswaram.

Hydrographic Survey Wing (HSW)

Hydrographic Survey Wing (HSW) was established in 1967 with the objectives of investigation and collection of Hydrographic Survey data for inland navigation development of all water bodies of the State of Kerala. HSW is the agency of the State in the port sector conducts investigations and prepares hydrographic charts both in digital and printed format. Such hydrographic charts give direct information on depth of overall water

Table 11.1.10 Details of Survey conducted by Hydrographic Survey Wing

Sl. No.	Department	No. of survey
1	Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)	24
2	Harbour Engineering Department (HED)	21
3	Kerala Maritime Board (KMB)	2
4	Irrigation department	4
5	Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL)	4
6	Cochin Port Trust (CPT)	1
7	Haritha Keralam	5
8	National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)	3
9	PWD Bridges	1
10	Lakshadweep Island	5
11	CIAL	2
12	DTPC	2
13	APCON (Private)	1
14	KCC Buildcon (Private)	1
15	Tamara projects (Private)	1
Total		77

Source: Hydrographic Survey Wing

mass, underwater topography, contours, shore and land features and nature of bottom of water mass. The Wing also collects all hydrographic data and forwards to the National Hydrographic Office for updating navigational charts. The wing is equipped with a fleet of seven survey vessels. The Kerala Institute of Hydrography and Advanced Studies (KIHAS), established under the Hydrographic Survey Wing, conducts academic courses to equip the officers.

A total of 77 surveys were carried out by the Hydrographic Survey Wing during the period 2024-25. Details of the survey are given below **Table 11.1.10**.

Major initiatives of the HSW during the 14th Five Year Plan

- 1.Developed *Jalanethra*- Hydrographic Survey Management System', a web based system which facilitates a platform for the customers for availing survey related services/requests online.
- 2.Developed *Theeram app*', an android mobile app useful to HSW Marine Surveyors for the internal communications and for managing the internal operational processes. All preliminary / reconnaissance surveys can also be managed by this.

- 3.Developed *Hydrographic Data Management System* (HYMSYS)', an open-source Web-based GIS platform developed by Digital University with the goal of transforming the Hydrographic Data Management process by transitioning to a digital model.
- 4.Developed *Bon voyage*', QR code-based vessel information and tracking system that help passengers get safety-related information by scanning the QR code on the vessel using their smart phones.
- 5.Developed *'Augmented reality- Virtual reality'*, a project which will convert the existing coastal topography into 3D for further understanding of the importance of coastal topography, navigation etc.
- 6.Conducted a detailed topographic and hydrographic survey district-wise along the entire Kerala coast line of 590 km and detailed hydrographic report and charts were prepared.

This has multiple uses:

- i. Helps in coastal shipping, coastal tourism, aqua culture and for the effective establishment of Kerala IV Rules and coastal security,
- ii.National Institute of Oceanography uses the charts and data for research and numerical model studies,

- iii. For specific study of vulnerable coastal stretches of Kerala and for design and solution of coastal protection works by NCCR and irrigation department.
- iv. For identifying the dangerous hindrances over the navigation area such as submerged rocks, ship-wrecks etc.

- 7. In connection with various port-led development activities, HSW completed bathymetric survey in Kalpeni, Androth, Kadmat, Kiltan and Cherthlet Island in the Lakshadweep islands.
- 8. To identify the vulnerable areas and to construct coastal protection, HSW conducted coastal erosion survey in 10 hot spots in Kerala for irrigation department.
- 9. For survey purpose HSW procured various equipments like an inflatable rubber boat, two DGPS and two eco sounder.
- 10. Conducted short term Basic Hydrographic Survey Courses (BHC), AutoCAD and GPS courses for 185 students. These students got selected in various survey organizations in and abroad.

Challenges and way forward

Despite progress made, Kerala's maritime sector encountered a range of structural, environmental and financial challenges. Understanding these challenges is critical for refining the strategic direction of the sector and ensuring more robust, inclusive growth in the coming years.

The integration of port development with other sectors will play an important role in future economic development. Several initiatives have taken to increase its investments in port sector by developing ports, augmenting existing facilities, mechanising ports and improving connectivity and logistics. Development of the port infrastructure requires huge investment.

The vision is to transform Kerala into a globally competitive, environmentally sustainable, and technologically advanced maritime economy leveraging its natural coastal advantages, skilled workforce, and inclusive development ethos. This vision recognizes that Kerala's future lies not just in being a transit point for cargo or cruise tourism, but in developing a comprehensive maritime ecosystem integrating ports, logistics, industry, workforce, and communities into a resilient and forward-looking framework.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

Inland Water Transport (IWT) in the form of rivers, canals, backwaters and creeks, is intended to enhance the overall capacity of transportation network. This is an environment - friendly mode of transportation for freight and passenger movements. Inland waterways have its own natural advantages compared to roads and railways and hence it is important to develop and promote the Inland water transport sector. India's hinterland connectivity is mainly based on road and rail with waterways. Inland Water Transport (IWT) in India has the potential to supplement the over-burdened railways and congested roadways. In addition to cargo movement, IWT sector also provides a convenient function in related activities such as carriage of vehicles on Roll-on-Roll-off (Ro-Ro) mode of cross ferry and tourism.

The National Waterways Act, 2016 has declared 111 inland waterways as 'National Waterways' (NWs) in the country to promote shipping and navigation on them. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Shipping Ports and Water ways is primarily responsible for the development, maintenance and regulation of those waterways which have been declared as NWs under National Waterways Act, 2016.

Cargo Traffic through Inland Water Transport in India

In the year 2024-25, cargo movement through National Waterways was 145.5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) as compared to 133.03 MMT in 2023-24, showing a growth of 9.3 per cent (Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GoI). The Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 document sets a target of 200 MMT for cargo movement through national waterways by 2030.

National Waterways in Kerala

Inland Navigation was the principal mode of passenger and commercial traffic till the middle of the twentieth century. Total length of inland waterways network in the State is estimated to be 1687 km, consisting of the National Waterways maintained by the Inland Waterways Authority of India and the other feeder and link canals maintained by the Coastal shipping and Inland Navigation/Irrigation Department of Kerala State.

Table 11.1.11 National Water Ways in Kerala

Sl.No	Route	Length (in km)	NW No.
1	Kollam – Kottapuram portion of WCC stretch including Udyogamandal canal and Champakara canal-205 km Kottappuram-Kozhikkode portion of WCC-170 km	375	NW-3 NW-3 (extension)
2	Alappuzha –Changanassery canal	28	NW-8
3	Alappuzha- Kottayam- Athirampuzha	38	NW-9
4	Anantha-Victoria-Marthandam (AVM) canal-(Poovar- Erayumanthurai)	11	NW-13
5	Kottayam-Vaikkam canal	28	NW-59
Total Length		480 KM	

Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

As part of a programme for developing waterways by the Central Government, the portion of West Coast Canal (WCC) from Kollam to Kottapuram and Udyogamandal and Champakara Canals were declared as National Waterway 3 in 1993. The NW-3 is now extended up to Kozhikkode by the National Waterway Act 2016. After the National waterway Act 2016; three canals were added to National Waterways under class 3 specification of 2.20m draught, 6.0m vertical clearance and 32-40m width. National Water Ways in Kerala are listed in **Table 11.1.11**.

Total length of WCC is 616 km. There are 1,100 km feeder and link canals connecting WCC and important destinations like commercial centres, ports and tourism spots. WCC can broadly be divided into five sections namely (1) Kovalam-Kollam (74.18 km), (2) Kollam-Kottapuram (Kodungallur) (168 km), (3) Kottapuram-Kozhikkode (160 km), (4) Kozhikkode-Neeleswaram (187.82 km) and (5) Neeleswaram-Bekal (26 km) respectively. Out of the total length of 616 km, three portions between Mahe and Valapattanam having total length of 26 km are uncut portions. Further extension for 41 km from Neeleswaram to Kasaragod is also under consideration.

Most of the canals in the State was silted up and suffer from many navigation constraints like shallow depth and narrow width, bank erosion, absence of infrastructural facilities like jetties and terminals and navigation aids and need development. Kozhikkode-Vadakara stretch is partially navigable. National waterways-3 between Kollam and Kottapuram and the feeder canals of Champakkara and Udyogmandal were developed in class-3 standard and barge services are operating

in these canals. The Present status of reaches of WCC is given in **Appendix 11.1.29**.

Inland Waterway Transport (IWT) mode is the preferred mode for transportation of Over Dimensional Cargo (ODC) because of multiple advantages vis-à-vis land transport. Rail transport doesn't have significant flexibility to accommodate ODC cargo because of standard wagon sizes. Road transport faces significant challenges such as route and time restrictions, the requirement of multiple permissions, and significant effort in carrying out route surveys to carry ODC cargo. IWT mode allows the movement of ODC cargo in a relatively convenient manner. An analysis of cargo movement in NW 3 in the last five years is given in **Table 11.1.12**.

Table 11.1.12 Cargo Movement in NW.3 (Kollam – Kottapuram portion) during last 5 years in metric million tonnes (MMT)

Financial Year	Cargo Movement (in MMT)
2020-21	0.73
2021-22	1.7
2022-23	3.23
2023-24	3.29
2024-25	3.49

Source: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Water ways, Government of India

Coastal Shipping and Inland Navigation Department (CSIND)

The Coastal Shipping and Inland Navigation Department is involved in the development of waterways and promotion of Inland Navigation in Kerala. To make the state waterways navigable, the

department had undertaken various works. Listing below the works that were completed during the review period -

- Renovation work of the Cicily boat jetty, Hospital boat jetty and Ponjikkara boat jetty in Mulavukad Panchayat
- Three road bridges (Kalleri, Kaliyamvally and Vengoli) in Vadakara- Mahi reach.
- A road bridge at Vengoli across Vadakara- Mahi canal
- Construction of approach road to Moozhikal lock cum bridge
- Boat jetties at Kadinamkulam, Arivalam, Kappil, Ashtamudi-vallakadavu, Nellettilkadavu, Kappilkadavu, Guhanandapuram, Cherikadavu, Tholukadavu
- Tunnel cleaning works of Chilakkoor tunnel
- Construction of lock cum bridge at Veliyamcode in Ponnani Taluk in Malappuram District
- Some of the ongoing projects are - (1) side protection work at the left bank of Kollam thodu from Kanchikkadavu to Mundakkal, (2) renovation of the Kothad boat jetty in Kadamakudy Panchayat, (3) construction of St. Andrews bridge in Thiruvananthapuram district, (4) construction of steel lattice bridge across Parvathy Puthanar, (5) construction of platform and allied works at the Thanthonnithuruthu boat jetty under Cochin Corporation (6) land acquisition for the construction of bridge at Kadakom, Thekkearayathuruth and Vadakkearayathuruth near Anchuthengu kayal, (7) construction of Thrikkunnupuzha Lock cum bridge in Alappuzha district, (8) construction of boat jetties at Danakkadavu, Thriprayar and Enamavu in Thrissur District, (9) development of WCC at Varkala and at Kadinamkulam, (10) Development and revival of historic waterway from Anchuthengu kayal including revival of two tunnels at Varkala reach II from Thazhveetoor to Ramanthali and (11) Construction of 2 Lock cum bridges at Moozhikkal and Karinalimukku in Vadakara- Mahe canal in Kozhikode district.

For developing the waterways, State has formed a Special Purpose Vehicle named Kerala Waterways and Infrastructures Ltd (KWIL)) with equal shares by State Government and CIAL Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) in 2017. The Company has been entrusted with several projects in connection with the development of the

proposed West Coast Canal from Kovalam to Bekal along with the various works taken up by the Inland Navigation Department.

Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation. Ltd (KSINC)

Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation Ltd. (KSINC) is the pioneer of inland navigation in the Kerala waterways and is a Government of Kerala undertaking. KSINC owns two yards for the construction and maintenance of small vessels. KSINC maintains high standards of excellence in every aspect of building, maintaining and operating vessels catering to a wide range of customer requirements. KSINC's own cruise vessels, the premier Sagararani (1 and 2) and the exclusive luxury cruise, Nefertiti are its highlights.

KSINC started tourism operations in 2005. Trips in Sagararani to the sea are scheduled for the general public. Currently, two vessels are operational. It is also the pioneer in mechanised cargo movement in Kerala and still the largest player. KSINC now operates two cargo barges, six petroleum barges, two acid barges and two RO-RO. KSINC earned a net profit of Rs.87.98 Lakh and a turnover of Rs.30.47 crore during 2024-25. Operational statistics of the Inland Water Transport Agencies in Kerala is provided in **Appendix 11.1.30.**

State Water Transport Department

The State Water Transport Department (SWTD) is an essential service department under the State Government and is committed to cater to the transportation needs of the public residing in the waterlogged areas of Alappuzha, Kottayam, Kollam, Ernakulam, Kannur and Kasaragod Districts. The State Water Transport Department operates across 128 identified routes. The vessels utilized for passenger services include wooden, steel, and solar-based fiberglass models. The SWTD maintains a current fleet strength of 66 vessels. Utilizing this fleet, the department operates approximately 2, 96,075 trips per annum. In the fiscal year 2024-25, the department ferried 106.05 lakh passengers. (Source: SWTD). The operational Statistics of the department is given in **Appendix 11.1.31.**

Key Achievements of the department

The State Water Transport Department (SWTD) has marked a historic achievement by initiating a

shift towards solar and electric-powered vessels, replacing older wooden boats to modernize its fleet and infrastructure. This movement is epitomized by 'Aditya', India's first solar ferry, which began service in 2017. 'Aditya' has ferried approximately 38.6 lakh commuters over eight years, resulting in a substantial saving of about 3.5 lakh liters of fuel, equating to roughly Rs 2.8 crores for the exchequer, and successfully averting 946 tonnes of Carbon emissions. The operational efficiency is notable, with a solar ferry's daily expense (approx. Rs 1,000) being significantly lower than a diesel ferry's (approx. Rs 12,000), yielding a quick break-even period of 2.5 years.

Further expanding its green fleet, the SWTD introduced 'Indra', India's largest solar-electric cruise vessel, designed for 100 passengers. This vessel has proven to be a profitable venture, recording a revenue of Rs 22 lakhs in the financial year 2024-25 and maintaining a strong daily average profit of Rs 24,100/-. Beyond 'Indra', the department has strategically launched new tourism-focused vessels that also cater to commuters, significantly promoting water tourism. Key examples include 'Vega-2' (which has earned a cumulative income of Rs 522 lakhs so far with a daily average profit of Rs 19,900/-), 'See Kuttanad' (cumulative earning Rs 163 Lakhs), and 'See Ashtamudi' (cumulative earning Rs 226.36 Lakh till August 2025). Additionally, the overall fleet modernization includes the introduction of 31 safety-enhanced passenger boats under the IRS class.

To support its modernized fleet and ensure operational efficiency, the SWTD has significantly upgraded its repair and maintenance infrastructure. A major achievement is the completion of an innovative Dry Dock in Ponjikkara, Alappuzha, specifically designed for inland navigation vessels. This facility handles a large volume of major and running repair works, leading to considerable cost savings by avoiding expensive private docking charges. Complementing this is the Ayitti Slipway in the Malabar region (Payyannur), a modern repair yard capable of simultaneously handling two vessels. Furthermore, the department has enhanced its rescue capability by procuring five highly advanced rescue vessels. These vessels have proven crucial, notably in evacuating commuters and casualties during the 2018-19 Kuttanad floods and handling approximately 200 medical emergency trips in a recent three-month period.

The SWTD's broader focus on modernization, technological upgrades, and operational efficiency is underpinned by its move towards digital governance. Key digital initiatives have been implemented to streamline both internal and external processes. This includes the launch of an E-office system, which enhances file movement efficiency, reduces the incidence of missing documents, and strengthens data protection for official functioning. Externally, the department created an Online Pass system for Differently Abled Persons (PwDs). This system provides special privileges like free or discounted travel, effectively eliminating the need for physical documentation and ensuring easier, barrier-free access for commuters with disabilities.

Challenges and Opportunities

The development of inland waterways in Kerala faces several interconnected challenges. A key physical constraint is severe siltation and the continuous dumping of solid waste, which significantly reduces the navigable depth and width of canals, making them unusable for commercial traffic and even impacting flood-carrying capacity. Furthermore, efforts to modernize or realign waterways are often hampered by the difficulty of land acquisition in the densely populated state. Also, the sector faces competition from other modes of transport, especially the highly developed road and rail networks, which are often preferred by industries and commuters for their reliability and faster door-to-door connectivity, thereby limiting the utilization of the cost-effective water routes for cargo movement.

The way forward is centered on the rapid completion of the West Coast Canal, with the Kerala Waterways Infrastructure Ltd. (KWIL) driving the major capital work of canal development, dredging to maintain the minimum stipulated depth, and reconstructing bridges to ensure sufficient air-draft for smooth vessel passage. Crucially, the Coastal Shipping and Inland Navigation Department (CSIND) will play a vital role in formulating supportive policies, coordinating the various agencies, and promoting investments, especially for integrating IWT with major ports and logistics hubs across the state. The future success of inland water transport in Kerala hinges on its seamless integration into a multimodal transport network, allowing for efficient first and last-mile connectivity by linking waterway terminals with existing road and rail

infrastructure to facilitate passenger and cargo transfer. The revitalization of services and financial viability depends on the combined efforts of operating agencies like the Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation (KSINC) and SWTD, which are modernizing their fleets with eco-friendly vessels like Ro-Ro ferries and solar ferries to attract both cargo and passengers. By focusing on modern terminal development, encouraging public-private partnerships, and ensuring seamless last-mile connectivity, these agencies aim to restore the IWT as a primary, sustainable component of Kerala's transportation backbone.

11.2 ENERGY

The global energy system is rapidly shifting towards cleaner and more resilient sources. Global electricity demand is increasing by over 3 per cent annually, driven by electrification of transport, expansion of data centres, and rising cooling demand. Renewable energy is expected to meet most of this additional demand, according to the International Energy Agency's Electricity Mid Year Update 2025.

India plays a central role in the global clean energy transition and in global efforts with respect to Global Warming. India has committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2070.

Power Sector – Indian scenario

India is projected to post the fastest electricity demand growth among major economies through 2026, driven by rising industrial activity, expanding cooling needs, and continued economic development (IEA's Electricity Mid-Year Update, 2025). The national grid has an installed capacity of 4,62,002 MW as on December 31, 2024. In India, electricity from thermal energy is the dominant source of power. It constitutes nearly 53 per cent of the total installed capacity in the country. The contribution of electricity generation from different sources is given in **Table 11.2.1**. Recently, renewable sources have emerged as the second largest electricity source, relegating hydroelectric power to the third position.

Table 11.2.1 Installed Generation Capacity (MW) in India as on 31.12.2024

Sl. No	Fuel	Installed Capacity(MW) as on 31.12.2024	per cent
1	Thermal	2,44,377	53
2	Renewable Sources	1,62,477	35
3	Hydro	46,968	10.2
4	Nuclear	8,180	1.8
Total		4,62,002	

Source: Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Power, Gol

In the sector-wise breakup of total energy generation as given in **Table 11.2.2**, as on December 31, 2024, the contribution of the State sector is 1,09,007 MW (23.6 per cent), Central sector is 1,05,113 MW (22.8 per cent), and private sector is 2,47,882 MW (53.6 per cent).

Table 11.2.2. Installed Generation Capacity (MW) in India as on 31.12.2024, Sector wise

Sl. No	Sector	Installed Capacity(MW) as on 31.12.2024	per cent
1	Central Sector	1,05,113	22.8
2	State Sector	1,09,007	23.6
3	Private Sector	2,47,882	53.6
Total		4,62,002	

Source: Annual Report 2024-25, Ministry of Power, Gol

Power Sector in Kerala

Kerala was included in the 'Achiever' category as per the State Energy Efficiency Index (SEEI) 2024, published by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India. According to the report, in the State of Kerala, 74 per cent of its agricultural pumps are energy-efficient or solar-powered, demonstrating a strong commitment to clean energy adoption in the sector. By 2040, Kerala plans to rely solely on renewable energy, and by 2050, it seeks to become a net-carbon-neutral State.

Energy occupies a central position in Kerala's development efforts. Major focus is on energy security, energy quality and efficiency, scientific management and safety. The energy sector has been taking concrete efforts towards green transition. The State's proactive measures, including renewable energy adoption and infrastructure enhancements, are considered pertinent in ensuring a stable and sustainable power supply. This silver lining must be seen amidst various challenges faced by Kerala's power sector, including rising demand, inadequate generation, infrastructural challenges, climate vulnerabilities and other financial pressures. The State's focus is on ensuring a reliable, affordable, decentralised and environmentally sustainable energy future. The growth of the power system in Kerala in the last three years is given in **Appendix 11.2.1**.

Power development activities in the State are carried out mainly through four agencies, namely, Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL), Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT), Electrical Inspectorate, and Energy Management Centre (EMC).

Power Availability

In Kerala, power supply comes from central stations, private generators, power exchanges, and internal sources including stations owned by Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd (KSEBL), Independent Power Producers (IPPs), Captive Power Plants (CPPs), and prosumers. Details are given in **Table 11.2.3**.

Power Demand

The State's electricity demand is projected to grow at a CAGR of 5.1 per cent from 2023-24 to 2029-30, as per the forecast by the 20th Electric Power Survey India (Source: Central Electricity Authority, Ministry of Power, GoI).

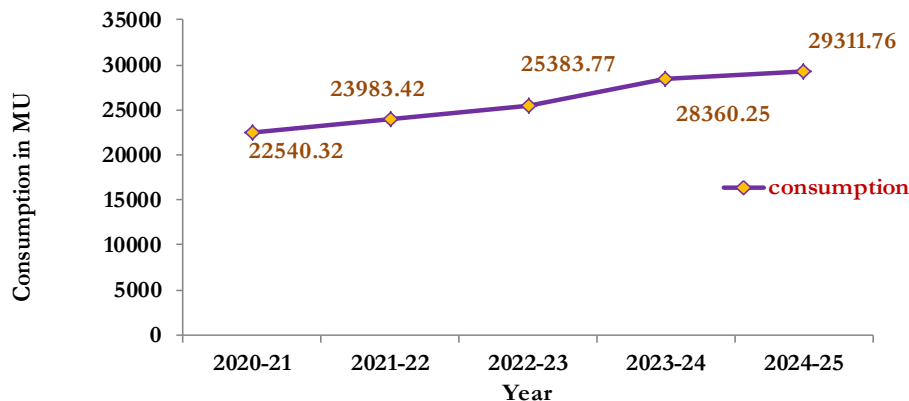
The State's all-time maximum peak demand and power consumption was reported in 2024-25, with highest daily consumption reaching a record of 115.95 MU. Peak demand of the State in 2024-25 was 5,797 MW (on May 2, 2024), a 9.3 per cent increase from 5,301 MW the peak demand in 2023-24. In 2024-25, the morning peak demand was 4,515 MW, and the day peak demand was 5,111 MW.

Table 11.2.3 Energy sources and quantum procured during 2024-25

Sl. No.	Particulars		Energy (MU)
1	Gross generation KSEBL	A	7,393.77
2	Power purchase from CGS at Kerala periphery	B	11,565.82
3	Power purchase through long term/medium term/short term contracts/swap at Kerala periphery	C	13,129.84
4	Total power purchase from IPPs/CPPs inside the State	D	1,590.65
5	Total power purchase at Kerala periphery	E=B+C+D	26,286.3
6	Energy injected by Private IPPs at generated end for sale outside the State through open access	F	77.16
7	Energy availed through open access at Kerala Periphery	G	453.64
8	Auxiliary consumption	H	115.08
9	EXPORT-Energy sales by KSEBL, SWAP Return by KSEBL and Energy injected by Private IPP's at KSEB periphery for sale outside the State through open access	I	1,789.64
10	Total energy input to Kerala periphery for meeting the consumption of the State including energy wheeled through open access	J=A+E+F+G-H-I	32,306.15

Source: KSEBL

Figure 11.2.1 Electrical energy consumption in Kerala from 2020-21 to 2024-25



Source: KSEBL

Pattern of Power Consumption

The electrical energy consumption in Kerala has increased to 29,311.76 MU (including open access consumers, and including consumption against captive generation) in 2024-25, from 28,360.25 MU in 2023-24. This is an increase of 3.36 per cent. This indicates steady growth in power demand, reflecting economic development and increased consumer usage across the State. Electrical energy consumption in Kerala from 2020-21 to 2024-25 is given in **Figure 11.2.1**.

The total number of consumers as on March 31, 2025 was 1,40,71,621, with 1,06,18,663 (75.5 per cent) domestic-LT and 26,78,406 (19.03 per cent) commercial-LT users. KSEB has sold 28,544.05 MU power, which includes its own consumers, sales outside State and also sale to other bulk licensees. The contribution of the domestic-LT sector to consumption was 48.6 per cent, and that of commercial-LT establishments was 17.5 per cent. The contribution of the industrial-LT category (which comes to 1.1 per cent of total consumers) was 4.6 per cent and overall HT and EHT was 21.29 per cent.

An amount of Rs 20,861.21 crore was collected as revenue from the sale of power to various categories in 2024-25. Revenue from domestic-LT, industrial-LT and commercial-LT sectors was 37.9 per cent, 5.1 per cent and 26.3 per cent, respectively. The details of category-wise power consumption and revenue collected in 2024-25 are furnished in **Appendix 11.2.2**.

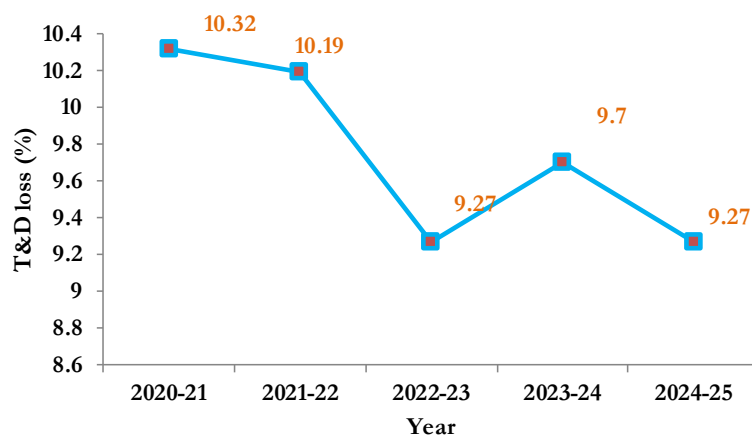
Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT & C) Losses data

Kerala has achieved commendable success in reducing Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses in recent years. This indicates efficient power management and infrastructure upkeep. While Kerala has achieved sustained reduction in AT&C and T&D losses through efficiency improvements, year-to year variations are influenced by demand growth, peak load conditions, and system loading, which also affect the quantum and cost of power purchase. The T&D loss decreased from 10.32 per cent in 2020-21 to 9.27 per cent in 2022-23. With a significant increase in peak demand, the T&D loss increased to 9.7 per cent in 2023-24. However, this reduced to 9.27 per cent in 2024-25, reflecting sustained efforts towards efficient power management and robust infrastructure maintenance. The impact of AT&C loss reduction during the last five years is shown in **Appendix 11.2.3**, and **Figure 11.2.2** illustrates the T&D loss from 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Generation

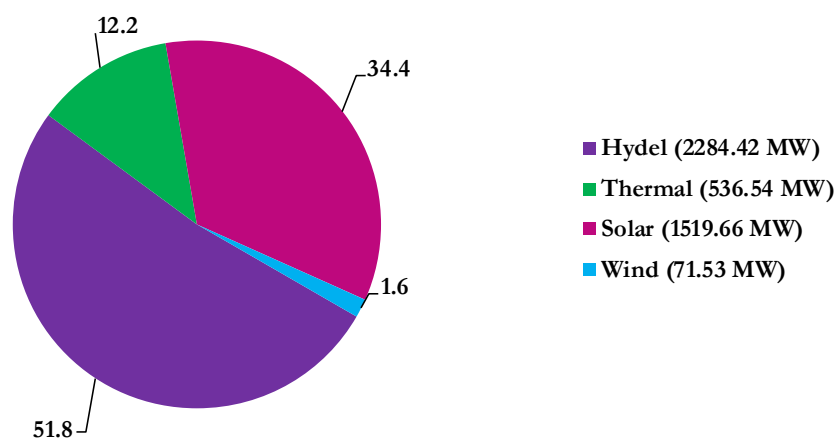
The power generation landscape in the State includes hydroelectric, thermal, wind and solar plants. Total installed capacity of power in the State as on March 31, 2025 is 4,412.14 MW, of which, hydel power contributed the major share of 2,284.42 MW (51.8 per cent); while 1,519.66 MW was contributed by solar power (34.4 per cent), 536.54 MW (12.2 per cent) from thermal and 71.53 MW from wind (1.6 per cent). **Appendix 11.2.4** gives the details of energy source and its installed capacity during the last five years, while sector-wise details are presented in **Appendix 11.2.5**.

Figure 11.2.2 Transmission and Distribution (T&D) loss (2020-21 – 2024-25), in per cent



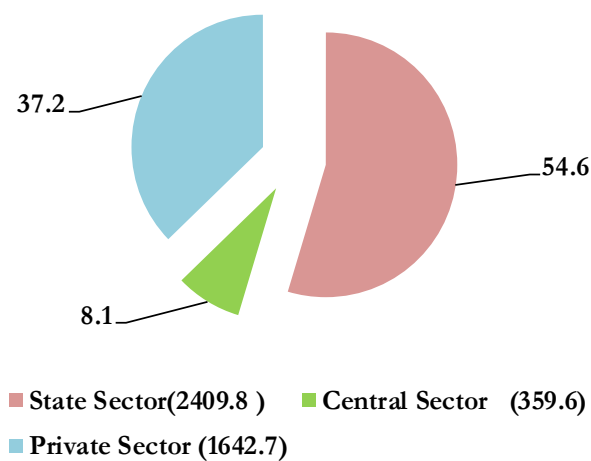
Source: KSEBL

Figure 11.2.3 Total Installed capacity (MW) in Kerala in 2024-25 (in per cent)



Source: KSEBL

Figure 11.2.4 Total Installed capacity (MW) in Kerala in 2024-25, sector wise (in per cent)



Source: KSEBL

Figure 11.2.3 highlights the total installed capacity of Kerala from hydel, thermal, and renewable sources.

Of the total installed capacity of 4,412.14 MW in 2024-25, the contribution of State sector is 2409.8 MW (54.6 per cent), central sector is 359.6 MW (8.1 per cent), and private sector is 1642.7 MW (37.2 per cent). **Figure 11.2.4** shows sector-wise details on installed capacity and the details of surplus power during the last five years are shown in **Appendix 11.2.6**.

The total installed capacity of the Kerala State Electricity Board Limited, as on 31.03.2025, is 2,409.8 MW. This is generated by 44 hydel stations of capacity 2,196.4 MW, two thermal plants of 160 MW, solar plants of 51.4 MW, and one wind farm of 2.0 MW. Due to the high production costs associated with power generation, KSEB does not rely on thermal plants for daily electricity needs. Details are shown in **Table 11.2.4**.

Table 11.2.4 KSEB Internal Generation

Sl. No.	Particulars	Capacity as on 31.3.2025 (MW)	Total Internal Generation in 2024-25 (MU)
1	2	3	4
1	Hydel	2,196.4	7,343.8
2	Thermal	160	1.5
3	Solar	51.4	47.38
4	Wind	2.0	1.0
Total		2,409.8	7,393.77

Source: KSEBL

The details of nine ongoing hydroelectric generation projects with installed capacity of 127.54 MW executed by KSEB are given in **Appendix 11.2.7**, and the list of existing Small Hydro Projects owned by KSEBL is presented in **Appendix 11.2.8**.

Transmission

Kerala has 435 transmission substations with 14,803.44 circuit km lines having 26,551.6 MegaVolt-Ampere (MVA) total transformation capacity, of which 6 stations (1,813.9 Ckm) are owned by Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL), as on March 31, 2025.

In 2024-25, six substations including three 110 kV and three 33 kV substations were commissioned,

which added an additional 79.29 circuit km of transmission lines with 199.4 net MVA capacity added.

Transgrid 2.0

The Transgrid 2.0 project is aimed at strengthening Kerala's power transmission infrastructure to meet the growing energy demand of the State, improve grid reliability, minimize transmission losses and thereby enhance the overall efficiency of the power grid. All 12 substations targeted in the first phase of the Transgrid 2.0 project (2017-23) have been commissioned, with around 1,766 circuit km of lines completed.

Kerala's transmission infrastructure as on March 31, 2025 and details on substations and lines completed in 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 11.2.9** and **Appendix 11.2.10**.

Distribution

The distribution network as on March 31, 2025 has 68,576 circuit km of 11 kV & 22 kV lines, 3,07,674 circuit km of LT lines, and 92,203 distribution transformers with step down capacity of 11,323 MVA.

In the distribution sector, 856 kms of HT lines and 3,751 kms of LT lines were constructed, and 2,554 new distribution transformers were installed in 2024-25. The number of new service connections during the year was 3,19,338. The target and achievement of the distribution infrastructure during 2024-25 are given in **Appendix 11.2.11**.

Performance of Power Sector Agencies in 2024-25

Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL)

Kerala State Electricity Board Limited is a power utility company incorporated under the Companies Act 1956 (Central Act 1 of 1956). It is fully owned by the Government of Kerala, under the provisions of Section 131 of the Electricity Act 2003 by re-vesting (under sub section (2) of Section 131 and 133 of the Act) the functions, properties, interest, rights, liabilities, proceedings and personnel with the State Government from the erstwhile Kerala State Electricity Board. It is responsible for the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in the State, with the specific mandate to provide electricity at affordable prices for domestic, agricultural, and industrial use.

Box 11.2.1 “Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G)” Initiative

Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL), in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), has initiated a ‘Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) Pilot Study’. The project aims to explore the feasibility and operational potential of bidirectional electric vehicle (EV) charging systems that enable EVs not only to draw power from the grid but also to supply it back. This innovative initiative is expected to support peak load management, renewable energy integration, frequency regulation, and overall grid resilience, thereby contributing to a more flexible and sustainable power system.

The project will be implemented in two phases:

- Phase I: Conducting a comprehensive technical feasibility study to identify potential V2G applications, suitable locations, and regulatory requirements.
- Phase II: Deployment of V2G infrastructure, integration with the distribution network, and performance evaluation.

The outcomes of this initiative will form a replicable and scalable model for wider V2G adoption across Kerala and India.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KSEBL and IIT Bombay for the execution of this project was signed on 11th July 2025 at Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram. This collaboration reflects KSEBL’s continued commitment to advancing innovative technologies and strengthening sustainability in the power sector.

Similar model is being adopted by ANERT. A pilot project was initiated jointly with India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) by ANERT during May 2025 and inaugurated by Hon’ble Minister for Electricity in July 2025. One electric car was converted to work in V2G mode and necessary grid-interface equipment installed in ANERT Headquarters.

Source: KSEB/ANERT

Major Achievements of KSEB in 2024-25 are as follows:

- 40 MW Thottiyar HEP was commissioned in 2024-25.
- 60 MW Pallivasal Extension Scheme with an annual generation capacity of 153.90 MU was synchronized to grid.
- In the distribution sector, 856 kms of HT lines and 3,751 km of LT lines were added.
- KSEBL added substantial solar capacity of 566.63 MW to the grid.
- Provided 14,167 BPL connections and electrified six tribal nagars.
- 6 substations (3 nos of 110 kV and 3 nos of 33 kV) and 93.588 ckm lines were charged during 2024-25.
- KSEBL has identified five Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects with a total capacity of 250 MW/1000 MWh. In 2024-25, a 125 MW/500 MWh BESS at the 220 kV Substation in Mylatti, Kasaragod was awarded. Tenders have been floated for the remaining 125 MW/500 MWh across four locations.
- KSEB achieved a profit of Rs 571.22 crore in 2024-25.

- The State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) employed Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) based tools to improve demand forecasting during the year.
- The Electric Vehicle (EV) Accelerator Cell was formally set up in December 2024. It coordinates and facilitates various EV charging initiatives across Kerala.

Agency for Non-Conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT)

Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT) is an autonomous body under the Power Department, GoK. ANERT is the nodal agency for the implementation and propagation of non-conventional sources of energy, rural technologies and promoting the idea of Carbon-neutral governance for government institutions with renewable energy and electric-mobility in the State. It is also the nodal agency for the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Sources (MNRE), GoI, to carry out the Central Government programmes in Kerala. Major achievements of ANERT are as follows:

I. Solar Projects for the public

- Green Income Scheme: - 1700 LIFE Mission houses were solarised under the Green Income Scheme, envisaged to provide free grid-connected solar power plants to economically weaker families. Each house has a solar power plant with a capacity of 2-3 kW. This project is unique in that in addition to providing free electricity to the houses of the disadvantaged, the households also get a small income through the sale of excess electricity to the grid.
- Solar electrification of tribal unnathies: - Programme implemented in 3 unnathies in Palakkad and 1 unnathi in Wayanad district. Hybrid power plants with 1 kW solar panels and 500 kW wind turbines were installed in each house, electrifying houses of 60 families in Palakkad and 10 families in Wayanad. Additionally, 30 solar street lights were installed in the Palakkad unnathies.
- PM KUSUM Project: - As part of PM KUSUM project, ANERT aims to solarise agricultural pumps. A total of 2,425 installations were completed. In 2024-25, a total of 1,517 agricultural pumps with a generating capacity of 4.554 MW were solarised.

II. Solar Projects for the public building

- RESCO Project: - Installed solar power plants (600 kW capacity) in four institutions under the Kerala Agricultural University under RESCO project.
- Solar City Project: - Under the Solar City project, funded by Smart City, a total capacity of 17.1 MW has been installed in 514 public buildings in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation area.
- Pilot installation of Battery Energy Storage System: - A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) with a capacity of 100 kW / 150 kWh was installed as a pilot project at ANERT's central office.
- Solarisation of Anganawadis: - Solar power plants with a capacity of 2 kW each have been set up in 90 anganwadis in Chittoor constituency in Palakkad district.
- ANERT installed solar power plants with a total capacity of 5.315 MW in 254 institutions as deposit work. This includes off-grid, hybrid and grid-connected power plants. In addition, 320 solar street lights have also been installed.

III. Green Hydrogen Projects

- Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster (HVIC): Kerala was selected as one of four states under DST's Hydrogen Valley Innovation Cluster to develop green hydrogen infrastructure and pilot projects supporting carbon-neutrality goals.
- Pilot projects in the transport sector: A pilot project by ANERT under the National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to introduce hydrogen powered vehicles in Kerala, including hydrogen internal combustion (HICE) and hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) with two refuelling stations, implemented in collaboration with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) and Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).
- Green Hydrogen Hub in Kochi: Roadmap for Kochi Green Hydrogen Cluster prepared (with GIZ). The project envisages a capital investment of Rs 18,542 crore.

IV. e-Mobility Projects

- A total number of 216 vehicles have been provided in 25 departments and 50 offices under Lease Contract of E-Car Project to Government Departments.
- Implemented a pilot Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) scheme enabling electricity supply from EV batteries back to the grid.
- Installed 17 nos of new fast charging stations on major roads, increasing the total to 37 stations. Of these, 4 are solar charging stations, bringing the total solarised stations to 17.

Energy Management Centre (EMC)

Energy Management Centre (EMC) is the State-designated agency of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, MoP, GoI for promoting/implementing energy conservation activities in order to enhance efficient energy management in the State. EMC also promotes small/mini/micro hydel schemes. The Small Hydro Promotion (SHP) Cell constituted by GoK under the Power Department is also attached to EMC, to give impetus for the development of SHPs through private participation. EMC is also the nodal agency for the 'Go Electric' campaign, promoting electric vehicles, electric cooking, and other green energy solutions. Major achievements in 2024-25 are given

below:

- The efforts of EMC paved the way for the State to achieve second position in the Energy Efficiency Index at the National level.
- “AnganJyoti” project has been successfully implemented in 2,387 Anganwadis across 91 Local Self-Governments (LSGs), setting a benchmark in sustainable development and clean energy transition at the grassroots level. The project has earned global recognition as a model for carbon-free self-sufficiency in community institutions.
- The “Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Cycles” (STREE) initiative, under the “Go Electric” campaign, distributed 600 subsidised e-cycles to SHG women in Palakkad and Kannur to promote electric mobility.
- As part of Smart Electric Kitchen initiative, country’s first carbon-neutral electric kitchen project for large-scale mid-day meal preparation in Government schools has been successfully implemented, benefiting 500 students.
- The “Kulirma” initiative promotes cool roof technology to reduce indoor heat and energy use. Coatings were applied in 32 Anganwadis and one Government school.
- EMC upgraded 13 Government buildings, including Secretariat Annex I, and completed audits in 160 Government buildings and 4 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the “Urjjayan” project
- Under the “Chaithanyam” initiative, 31

Government Health Centres in the Vamanapuram Assembly Constituency were retrofitted with efficient appliances, and energy audits were conducted in other facilities.

- Conducted investment-grade energy audits for eight plastic units in Ernakulam to promote energy efficiency among MSMEs.
- Identified 10 potential sites for Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Projects (PSPs) and conducted pre-feasibility studies at five locations to strengthen energy stability in Kerala.
- The Energy Meter Calibration Lab of EMC calibrated a total of 5,399 different types of energy meters.

Department of Electrical Inspectorate

The Department of Electrical Inspectorate and Meter Testing and Standards Laboratory (MTSL) carries out safety inspections and sanctions energisation for all HT/EHT and other medium voltage installations in the State. The motto of the Meter Testing and Standards Laboratory (MTSL) is to provide testing and calibration of various types of electrical equipment. The Department also conducts enquiries into all electrical accidents occurring in the State.

Electrical Accidents

A total number of 455 electrical accidents that affected humans or animals were reported in the State in 2024-25. Details are shown in **Table 11.2.5**.

Table 11.2.5 Electrical Accidents– Human/Animals affected in 2024-25, in Number

Sl. No.	Reasons	Human		Animals		Total
		Fatal	Non-Fatal	Fatal	Non-Fatal	
1	Snapping of conductors	12	8	35	0	55
2	Accidental contact with live electric wire/equipment	116	71	16	1	204
3	Violation /neglect of safety measures/ lack of supervision	29	35	2	0	66
4	Defective appliances/apparatus /tools	26	3	4	0	33
5	Inadequate/lack of maintenance	2	0	4	0	6
6	Unauthorised work	8	8	1	0	17
7	Others(Temporary extensions, P&T crossings ,misuse etc)	48	15	11	0	74
Total*		241	140	73	1	455

*Figures indicates the number of human/animal affected and not number of accidents
Source: Department of Electrical Inspectorate

Appendix 11.2.12 gives a comparison of electrical accidents in the State in the last 5 years, and district wise details are given in **Appendix 11.2.13**.

Achievements in 2024-25

- Electrical Safety Awareness Programme has been conducted throughout the State.
- The department has maintained the SEVOTTAM certification as per IS 15700:2018 awarded by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- Nine Regional Meter Testing Laboratories got NABL accreditation for electro technical calibration in energy parameters.
- Electrical Safety Week – 2025 was organised across the state. As part of the safety awareness initiatives, the department conducted various competitions on electrical safety for high school students.
- Exhibitions were conducted across the state as part of the ‘Ente Keralam’ initiative and also as part of the Electrical Safety Awareness Programme.
- An amount of Rs 3.40 crore has been received as testing fee from Meter Testing and Standards Laboratory and Regional Labs.
- In 2024–25, 12,022 new electrical installations were inspected and certified, while 1,12,101 existing installations underwent periodic safety inspections. A total revenue of Rs 47.62 crore was generated through inspection fees.
- The Department has made a revenue of Rs 90.02 crore in 2024-25(excluding duties from KSEBL).

Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission (KSERC)

The Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission is a quasi-judicial statutory organisation responsible for maintaining a fair, transparent, and objective regulatory system in the power sector of the State. The major function of the Commission is to issue licenses and determine the tariffs for generation, transmission, distribution and retail sale of electricity in the State. It is also vested with other functions such as regulating electricity purchase and procurement process, approval of power purchase agreements of distribution licensees in the State, facilitate intra-State transmission and wheeling of electricity, resolving disputes among licensees/generating companies, issues relating to tariff

and determination of compensation as per the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

Electricity Ombudsman

Electricity Ombudsman is a statutory authority appointed by the Commission under sub-section (6) of Section 42 of the Electricity Act, 2003, to settle grievances of consumers, aggrieved by non-redressal of their grievances by the Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum. A total number of 147 petitions were disposed of during 2024-25.

Consumer Grievances Redressal Forum (CGRF)

CGRF has been set up under the Electricity Act 2003, for the redressal of the grievances of the consumers by all distribution licensees in the State. KSEB had set up three consumer grievance redressal forums for settling the disputes or grievances of consumers. A total number of 525 petitions were disposed of by the forum during the period 2024-25(up to August 2025).

Consumer Advocacy Cell (CAC)

Consumer Advocacy Cell is formed for creating awareness among the consumers about the power sector and the regulatory process thereby ensuring consumer participation in the electricity regulatory process. CAC aims to empower consumers to participate effectively in the regulatory process, to act as a clearing house of information on electricity issues, to arrange workshops and training programmes for consumer groups, and to publish pamphlets and other informative materials. Compliance examiner is entrusted with the responsibilities relating to consumer advocacy, consumer protection, and awareness initiatives of the Commission.

Challenges of the sector

- Climate and disaster resilience: Natural disasters and environmental constraints increase project costs and highlight the need for climate-resilient planning.
- Renewable energy integration: Integrating renewables poses technical, financial, and grid stability challenges.
- Capacity expansion: Growing electricity demand requires increased generation capacity and reliable power supply.
- Regulatory and human resource gaps: Regulatory delays and skill shortages hinder timely project execution and modernisation.

Way Forward

Kerala, having achieved full electrification, is now focused on strengthening energy security, expanding renewable energy, and promoting environmental sustainability. Key priorities include grid modernisation, green hydrogen development, decentralised energy generation, and scaling-up energy efficiency across sectors. Mobilising green finance and investing in advanced technologies and skilled manpower will be crucial for achieving the State's targets of 100 per cent renewable energy by 2040 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

11.3 COMMUNICATION

Telecommunication

The telecommunication sector includes infrastructure, devices, and services that enable voice, data, and video communication. It is a key driver of economic and social development and connects people, businesses, and governments through fibre optics, wireless networks, and satellite systems. The sector evolves rapidly, moving from one generation of connectivity to another, such as from 4G to 5G and 6G.

India has the second largest telecom network in the world, with a subscriber base of 1.20 billion as of March 2025, including wireless and wireline connections. Tele density, which measures the number of telephones per 100 population, stood at 85.04 per cent. Rural tele density was 59.06 per cent, while urban tele density reached 131.45 per cent, according to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India data.

Telephone Subscriber Base

The total telephone subscriber base is overwhelmingly dominated by wireless (mobile) connections, underscoring the success of the mobile revolution in connecting the nation.

The urban telephone subscription increased to 666.11 million in March 2025, from 665.38 million at the end of March 2024. The rural telephone subscription increased from 533.90 million in March 2024 to 534.69 million in March 2025. The annual growth rates of urban and rural telephone subscription base are 0.11 per cent and 0.13 per cent, respectively. The overall tele-density in India has decreased to 85.04 per cent at the end of

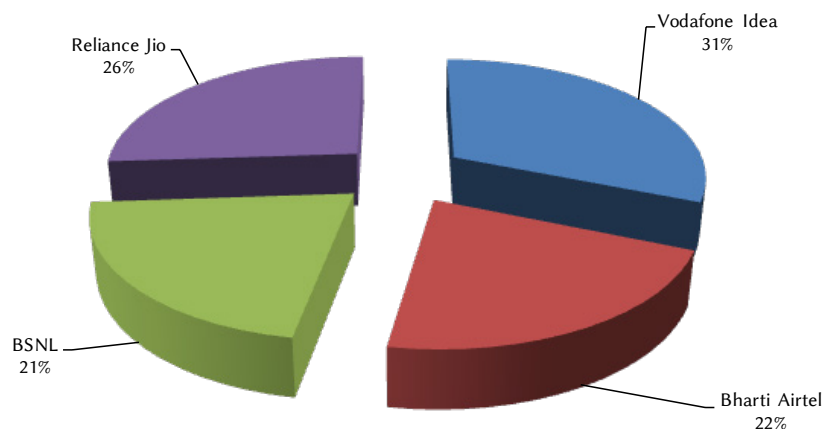
March 2025 from 85.69 in March 2024. The Urban Tele-density decreased from 133.72 per cent in March 2024 to 131.45 per cent in March 2025. The Rural Tele-density has also decreased from 59.19 per cent in March 2024 to 59.06 per cent in March 2025.

Telecommunications and Internet Growth in Kerala

Total telephone connections in Kerala as on March 2025 are 43.1 million, which is 3.59 per cent of the total telephone connections in the country. The number of wire line connections in the State has witnessed a slight increase from 1.54 million in March 2024 to 1.74 million in March 2025, with an annual growth of 13 per cent, while mobile connections (Wireless) have increased to 42.2 million from 41.3 million in the same period. The tele-density of the State is 119.51 per cent as on March 2025. (*Source:* The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators, March 2024 & 2025, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).

The Government has placed considerable emphasis on the growth of the internet and broadband in the State. There has also been accelerated growth in Internet traffic. Internet subscribers per 100 population in the State have jumped from 89 million in March 2024 to 99.94 million in March 2025, registering a growth of 12 per cent. The number of internet subscribers per 100 population in the rural area was 197.69 in March 2024. This rose to 248.13 million in March 2025 (*Source:* The Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators, March 2024 & 2025, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).

Figure 11.3.1 Market share of wireless service providers as on 31.03.2025



Source: Press Release, March 2025, TRAI

The total number of wireless subscribers in Kerala as on March 2025 is 41.44 million, of which Vodafone Idea (VI) has the largest number of subscribers with 12.92 million, followed by Reliance Jio with 10.81 million subscribers. BSNL has 8.78 million subscribers, and Bharti Airtel (including Tata Tele Services) has 8.93 million. The market share of various wireless service providers in Kerala is given in **Figure 11.3.1**.

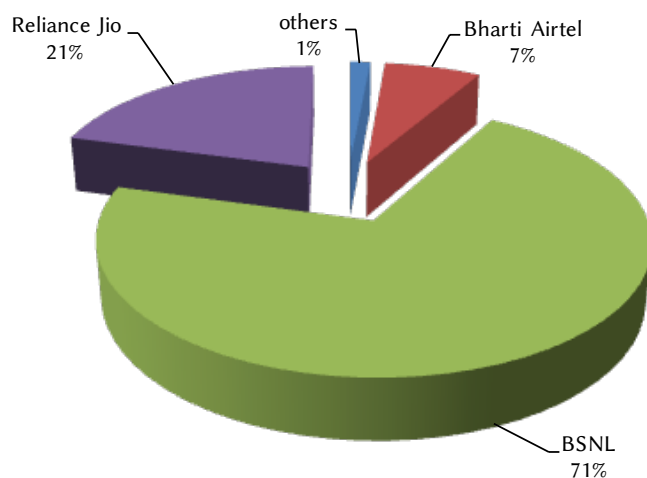
The total number of wire line subscribers in the State as on March 2025 is 17.4 million. BSNL has the largest wire line subscriber base of 1.23 million connections, followed by Reliance Jio with 0.36 million subscribers. Reliance Communications

is the telecom service provider with the least subscriber base of 2,401 connections. The wire line market share of service providers is given in **Figure 11.3.2**.

Digital Infrastructure-Integration of KFON and KSWAN in Kerala

The integration of the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) and the Kerala State Wide Area Network (KSWAN) is a crucial strategic step by the Kerala government to centralise and significantly upgrade the state's core digital communication infrastructure. KSWAN, the existing government network, connected around 3,800 government offices but suffered from limited

Figure 11.3.2 Market share of wire-line service providers, as on 31.03.2025



Source: Press Release, March, 2025, TRAI

reach and reliance on external service providers. The transition to the KFON backbone aims to overcome these limitations, providing a reliable, secure, and scalable information highway. KFON is designed as a non-discriminatory network that not only connects government entities but also promotes universal internet access, leveraging existing infrastructure like KSEBL's electric poles to lay over 30,000 km of optical fibre. This merger is intended to streamline all Government-to-Government (G2G) and Government-to-Citizen (G2C) interactions, paving the way for advanced e-governance services and a better quality of service for all users.

The operational transition and integration process is currently in progress, marked by significant physical achievements in KFON's deployment. The KFON network, which was officially launched and went live state-wide in June 2023, has rapidly expanded its reach. KFON has connected over 30,000 government institutions as part of its core objective, effectively absorbing and expanding upon KSWAN's original mandate. Kerala's public internet revolution has reached a defining milestone. The Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON) has officially crossed 1,31,561 (as of Aug 2025) active connections, marking a defining moment in the state's mission to make the internet a universal right. Of the total connections, 90, 114 are Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH), providing reliable broadband to families across Kerala. Another 14,194 connections have been provided free of cost to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, delivering on KFON's promise of social equity through technology. The project also powers more than 27,000 businesses and institutions through high-capacity lines, strengthening Kerala's growing digital economy. However, the complete formal merger of KSWAN into KFON, including the final transfer of operations and resolution of all legacy network issues, is a phased process that is being actively managed.

Kerala Telecom Circle of BSNL: Bridging Kerala

Kerala Telecom circle serves the whole of Kerala State and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and part of Puducherry (Mahe). The circle has 11 major Secondary Switching Areas (SSAs) and one minor SSA of Lakshadweep. 316 telephone exchanges are working under the Circle with an equipped capacity of 5,88,294 Direct Exchange Lines. Number of working connections under the circle is 97,16, 233

(89,31,207 Mobile, 77,479 landline connections and FTTH 7,07,537). Interestingly, Idukki district has the largest number of BSNL telephones per 1000 population. The District-wise details of the telephone network of BSNL Kerala as of August 2025 are given in **Appendix 11.3.1**.

Postal Network

Kerala Postal Circle includes the entire State of Kerala, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Islands, and Mahe under the Union Territory of Puducherry. In Kerala, every village has at least one post office. As of August 2025, there are 5,056 Post offices in the Circle, of which 1,504 are Departmental Post offices and the remaining 3,552 are Extra Departmental Post offices (Branch Post Offices). On average, each post office in the State serves an area of 7.7 sq km and a population of 6,622, as against the national average of 21.21 sq.km and a population of 7,175 people. 82.4 per cent of these Post offices are in rural areas. The District-wise distribution of the post offices in Kerala as of August 2025 is given in **Table 11.3.1**.

Table 11.3.1 District-wise distribution of post offices, as of August 2025

Sl. no.	Name of District/Union Territory	Number of Post Offices
1	Kasaragod	231
2	Kannur	378
3	Wayanad	163
4	Kozhikode	404
5	Malappuram	438
6	Palakkad	455
7	Thrissur	483
8	Ernakulam	391
9	Idukki	296
10	Kottayam	410
11	Alappuzha	300
12	Pathanamthitta	312
13	Kollam	367
14	Thiruvananthapuram	414
15	UT of Lakshadweep	10
16	UT of Puducherry (Mahe only)	4
Total		5,056

Source: Chief Post Master General, Kerala Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

There are 52 Head Post Offices, 1452 departmental sub offices and 3552 branch post offices in the circle. Every Grama Panchayat in the State is having atleast one Post Office, which is a unique achievement of the circle. Details of the number of Post offices in the State over the years and rural-urban divide, district/category-wise post office and district-wise details of area and population served by one Post Office during 2024-25 under the circle, etc., are given in **Appendix 11.3.2, 11.3.3, 11.3.4 and 11.3.5.**

Kerala is the only post circle in the country where speed post facility is available in every post office linked to a mail office on the same day. Many RMS offices in the State offer speed post booking facility at their counters both day and night. As part of a national policy, the Circle has also revamped the network for processing ordinary mails to ensure better quality of service in this sector. The e-based and value-added services offered by Kerala Postal Circle are given in **Table 11.3.2.**

Philately

As part of the efforts to promote philately as a hobby, various measures are being adopted by the Kerala Postal Circle. There are 45 “My Stamp Centres” in Kerala Postal Circle. Philately revenue during the financial year 2024-25 was Rs.1.06 crore, and revenue earned up to 31 August 2025 is Rs.18.29 lakh.

The District Level Philatelic Exhibition, KANNURPEX 2025, took place in Kannur district from October 15th to 16th, 2025 and another in Thiruvananthapuram District from November 20th to 21st, 2025. Furthermore, the State Level Philatelic Exhibition is scheduled to be held in Ernakulam from January 20th to 23rd, 2026.

India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)

India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) is the first payments bank in India had been added in Schedule 2 of the RBI Act 1934, thus obtaining the status of a Scheduled Bank. With the launch of the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS)

Table 11.3.2 e-based and value-added services of Kerala Postal Circle

Sl. No.	Type of Service	Functions
1	‘e post’	Service to send a communication speedily to the destination, avoiding physical transmission but retaining the last mile reach through the Postman. As on August 31st, 2025, 1,344 post offices have been provided with this facility.
2	Many to One	This facilitates sending of same ePost message from many senders to one recipient on recipient’s email box
3	One to Many	It facilitates sending of same ePost message from a sender to multiple recipients on the recipient’s email inbox
4	eMO	This service was introduced in 2008 for remitting money to and from addressees within the country. All the Head Post Offices and departmental sub-post offices in the circle are offering this service
5	e-payment	The service enables the collection of bills, including utility bills, on behalf of various service providers from all the computerised post offices and payment centrally to the client organisation as per the periodicity desired by them. This service is available in all Head Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in Kerala Postal Circle.
6	International Speed Post or EMS	This is a facility that is available from India to 99 countries.
7	Direct Post	Direct Post is a product which allows establishments/firms to reach their present or prospective clients through targeted marketing. Any pamphlet, brochure, or handbill can be sent as unaddressed mail to them under Direct Post, and they will be delivered in areas where the target customers reside, based on a selection of locations by the post offices in consultation with the customer.
8	Parcel and logistics Services	Parcel business in India Post primarily focuses on accountable parcel services, mainly Speed Post Parcel, Registered Parcel. Business parcel is a premium surface service to suit the requirements of business customers for an economical, reliable distribution solution. Business parcel is available throughout the country. There are 181 parcel packaging units and 6 logistic post centres functioning across the circle.

Source: Chief Post Master General, Kerala Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

services, IPPB has become the single largest platform in the country for providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any bank by leveraging the unprecedented last-mile reach of the Postal network. 52,118 IPPB accounts were opened from 1st April 2025 to 26th August 2025. Out of this, 30,813 are male account holders, and 21,305 are female account holders.

Life Insurance

India Post provides insurance coverage to the citizens through Postal Life Insurance (PLI) and Rural Postal Life Insurance (RPLI). Postal Life Insurance is an insurance scheme offered to employees of the Central and State Governments, defence personnel, Local bodies, State PSUs and scheduled/commercial banks. Now, this has been extended to the teaching/non-teaching staff in all private educational institutions and Professionals. Kerala Postal Circle has initiated a special campaign to empower women, by way of insuring their lives with Rural Life Insurance. The number of women policyholders is more than the number of male policyholders (Total number of male policyholders in Kerala Circle in 2024-25 and up to 31st August 2025 is 2, 88,459 and that of female policyholders is 1,59,733).

The State's communication sector, supported by a vast postal network and competitive telecom services, solidifies Kerala's position as a "knowledge society" where information accessibility is central to its human development progress.

11.4 DRINKING WATER

Access to safe drinking water and effective wastewater management is essential for public health and social wellbeing. Challenges such as water contamination, groundwater depletion, climate change, and over extraction continue despite sustained government efforts. Strengthening water supply, sanitation, and resource management remains critical for economic growth and poverty reduction.

The Composite Water Management Index developed by NITI Aayog supports effective water management across States. The CWMI 2019 report projects that India's urban population will reach 600 million by 2030, creating significant water demand challenges. India supports 17 per cent of the world's population but has only 4 per cent of global freshwater resources.

Kerala has higher water demand than the national average due to social norms and higher hygiene standards. A specific feature of Kerala is the high use of well-water for domestic consumption, a source of supply not otherwise cited in data sources. As on August 31, 2025, 69.31 per cent of Kerala's population was covered by piped water supply, including public taps, under the Kerala Water Authority. The 14th Five Year Plan outlines a roadmap to improve water and sanitation services and Kerala's Composite Water Management Index ranking.

The Kerala Water Authority and the Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency are the main implementing agencies. Local governments also play a key role.

Kerala Water Authority (KWA)

KWA was established in 1984 under the Kerala Water Supply and Waste Water Ordinance, 1984 by converting the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) for the development and regulation of water supply and waste water collection and disposal in Kerala. Its major functional units are operation and maintenance, projects, project planning and development, quality control, consultancy and sewerage verticals.

The KWA has an elaborate water quality control setup with a State Referral Institute at Kochi and has 14 District labs and 71 sub divisional labs. KWA labs 85 have obtained NABL (National Accreditation Board for Laboratories) recognition conforming ISO/IEC/17025:2017 standards.

Sewerage

KWA has the mandate for collection and disposal of waste water. The same has been carried out only in Thiruvananthapuram and in Kochi Corporations to some extent. Presently, the main activities taken up under this head include enhancement of undersized lines to the desired size, repairing damaged manholes so as to avoid overflow of sewage and providing sewerage facility to areas by minor extensions where no other source of sewerage disposal system exist. In order to overcome the threat of environmental damages, adequate attention is essential for strengthening the existing sewerage system. The need for more focused attention in sewerage sector is essential. However, issues related to funds, public protest against sewage plants and pump houses, delay in getting land and sanctions for road cutting need

to be addressed. KWA envisages new small-scale projects sufficient for 2 to 3 ward clusters. A total of 21 works in 2024-25 and 19 works in 2025-26 were completed, which include replacing the old sewer lines, extension of sewerage network, and rehabilitation of old manholes and construction of new manholes. The total expenditure incurred in 2024-25 was 1571.20 lakh.

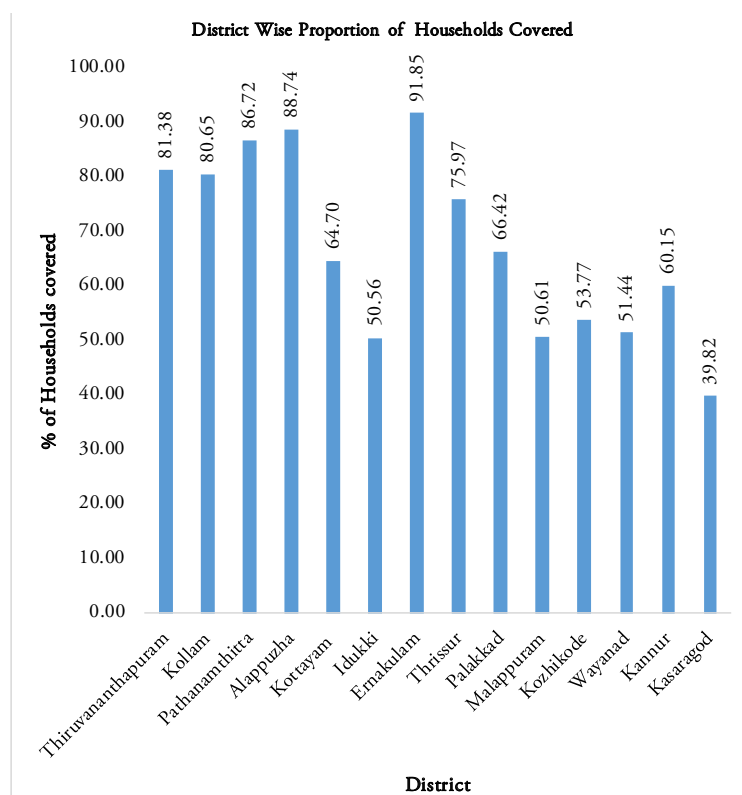
Water Supply Coverage

KWA, operates and maintains 853 Water Supply Schemes producing 3634 MLD in operation as on 31.08.2025. As part of progressive development, several limited coverage schemes have been phased out and integrated into comprehensive drinking water supply schemes, resulting in a reduction in the total number of schemes. KWA, through its 45.73 lakh connections and 90,492 public taps provides water supply to nearly 2.58 crore people in Kerala. It has made remarkable progress in the rural and urban water supply sectors, commissioning various Water Supply Schemes implemented with the help of Central/ State Government grants and Schemes (JJM, NABARD, State Plan, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), KIIFB, AMRUT,

RKI). Projects worth more than Rs 19,700 crore are in various stages of implementation. On completion of these projects 1,400 MLD (million litres per day) of water will be additionally available for distribution in the next three years.

In 2024-25, 25 works were completed under AMRUT 1.0 and 67 sub works were completed under AMRUT 2.0. 223 projects under State Plan, 3 projects under NABARD, 9 projects under RKI and 27 water supply projects and 5 replacement work under KIIFB were completed in 2024-25. As on August 31, 2025, 69.31 per cent population of Kerala has been covered with piped water supply (including public taps) from the existing KWA schemes (65.22 per cent in rural and 83.14 per cent in urban). District-wise percentage of households covered by water supply schemes as on August 31, 2025 is shown in **Figure 11.4.1**. Ernakulam District with coverage of 91.85 per cent population shows highest coverage among 14 districts of Kerala, followed by Alappuzha District (88.74 per cent). In Kasaragod, the coverage is the least (39.82 per cent). Details are given in (**Appendix 11.4.1**)

Figure 11.4.1 District wise Proportion of Households population covered by Water Supply Schemes as on August 31, 2025



Source: KWA

District-wise and category-wise analysis shows that Ernakulam has the highest number of water supply schemes (91) and Wayanad has the least (21). Kozhikode has the highest number of urban water supply schemes (12) while Wayanad has the lowest number (1) as on August 31, 2025 (**Appendix 11.4.2**).

KWA distributes water through house service connections (HSC) and street taps. The total number of domestic, non-domestic (including special connections), and industrial connections are 43.71 lakh, 1.99 lakh and 2121 respectively as on August 31, 2025. Out of the total 90,492 street tap connections, 55662 are in Panchayats, 21482 in Municipalities, and 13,348 in Corporations (**Appendix 11.4.3**) as on August 31, 2025.

The total number of rural water supply schemes of KWA transferred to local bodies as on 31.08.2025 is 200 and the total population coverage in all the 14 Districts is 3,45,366. District-wise details of water supply schemes transferred to Local Governments are given in (**Appendix 11.4.4**). As per District-wise water availability data as on August 31, 2025 shown in **Figure 11.4.2**,

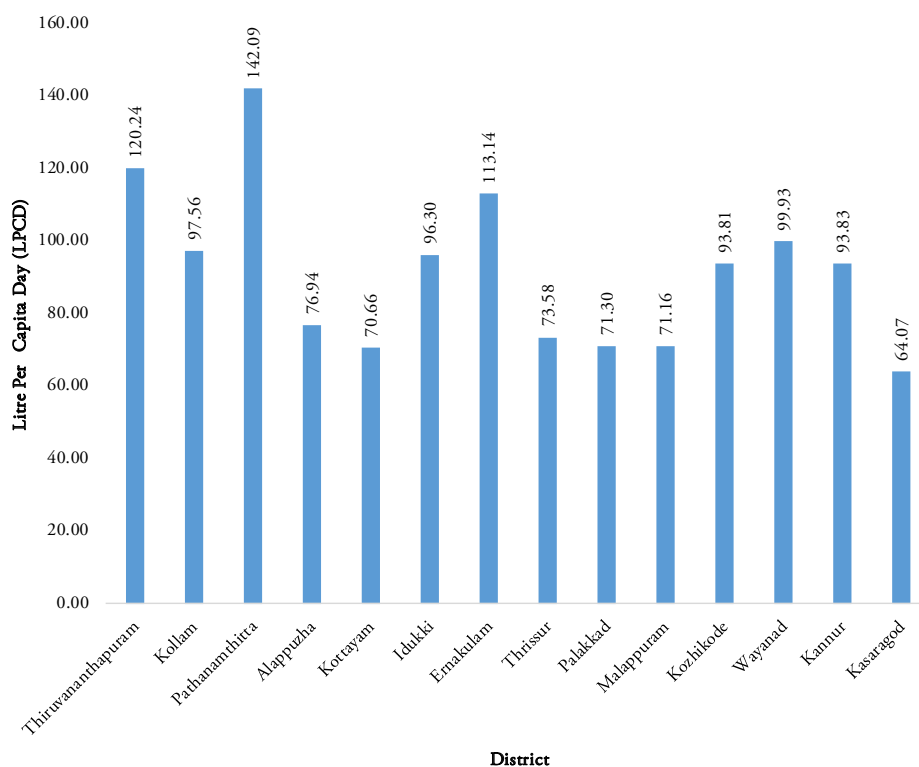
Pathanamthitta District has the highest availability (142.09 lpcd) and Kasaragod has the lowest availability (64.07 lpcd). The average per capita availability of piped water is 93.82 litres per capita per day (the lpcd is varying in different habitations in all the districts). Details are given in (**Appendix 11.4.5**).

Revenue

The major income for KWA is from the sale of water and Kerala is the only State in the country with 100 per cent metered water connections. The water tariff is uniform across the State with block tariff structure (increasing rate with increasing consumption). The total revenue collected in 2023-24 was Rs 1165.77 crore against the demand including fine of Rs 1694.34 crore and that in 2024-25 was Rs 1908.51 crore against the demand including fine of Rs 1721.06 crore. As per the current tariff, the minimum rate for domestic connections is Rs 14.41/KL upto 5000 liters, for non-domestic connections is Rs 26.54/KL up to 10,000 liters, for industrial connections is Rs 54.10/KL and Rs 16.62/KL for bulk supply.

Out of 46.63 lakh consumers (including street

Figure 11.4.2 District wise per capita water availability as on August 31, 2025



Source: KWA

taps), 43.72 lakh connections come under domestic category (92.86%) and 2.01 lakh consumers belong to non-domestic/industrial/special categories. Moreover, KWA is providing water through 90492 street taps. KWA is supplying 15,000 litres of drinking water per month free of cost to about 8.69 lakh BPL families in the State which cost Rs 94.28 crore in 2024.

In 2024-25 and 2025-26 (up to August 31, 2025) revenue from water charges of domestic, non-domestic and industrial schemes was Rs 108943 lakh and Rs 34530 lakh respectively and that from street taps was Rs 81909 lakh and Rs 2786 lakh respectively (Appendix 11.4.6).

State Plan Schemes

1. Addressing the issues of water supply in rural areas:

To address the water supply challenges in rural areas, several programmes and schemes have been implemented. The two major schemes include: NABARD Assisted Rural Water Supply Schemes (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund) and scheme for rural water supply. With the loan assistance from NABARD, KWA implements water supply schemes in the rural areas of Kerala. During the financial year 2024-25, 3 schemes were completed, benefiting a population of approximately 2.11 lakh. The 3 schemes are CWSS to Agali & Adjoining panchayats, CWSS to Vithura and Tholicode villages- Phase 11 and WSS to Kulakkada Panchayat. Expenditure incurred during 2024-25 was Rs. 4922.96 lakhs.

As on April 1, 2020, only about 34 per cent of rural households have piped water supply. More emphasis has been given to improve the water supply coverage in rural areas with the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission which aims to provide piped water supply to all households within two years. New rural schemes, completion of ongoing rural schemes, and revamping of existing schemes are being implemented under rural water supply scheme. During 2024-25, 16 works and 3 works in 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025) were completed. The total expenditure incurred during 2024-25 was Rs 494.22 lakh.

2. Addressing the issues of quality of service and efficiency in implementation of water supply schemes:

There is a growing need to improve the quality of water services delivered by existing water supply schemes, including ensuring reliable access to clean water and optimizing the operational efficiency of these schemes to minimize waste and maximize resource utilization.

The major schemes include renovation of existing civil structures owned by KWA, innovative technologies and modern management practices, human resource development, research & development and quality control, water supply scheme to specified institutions/locations and optimisation of production and transmission. The major aim of renovation of existing civil structures is to renovate the structures which are in damaged condition because of lack of timely repair, protection and renovation. During the period 2024-25, 31 works which include maintenance of office buildings, guest houses, tanks and pump houses located in various districts have been completed and in 2025-26, 6 additional works have been completed.

Innovative technologies and modern management practices aim at improving network coverage, reducing non-revenue water (NRW) in water supply system which in turn creates an efficient water supply system with minimum O&M expenses and maximum revenue generation. The project envisages the procurement of bulk meters for all major schemes and their integration with the SCADA system, the procurement of leak detection equipment, automation of pump houses, adoption of dual media systems for augmentation of Water Treatment Plants (WTPs), and to improve energy efficiency. These interventions will enhance the operational efficiency of water supply schemes, reduce wastage of treated water, and increase revenue realization. During the financial year 2024-25, 9 works were completed and 2 additional works were completed in 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025).

Human Resource Development (HRD), Research and Development (R&D) and Quality Control are all integral functions that contribute to the enhancement and advancement of overall performance. For the timely execution of large projects and maintenance of new high-tech

systems, the engineers and other staff need to be updated and equipped with modern project management practices and tools. During the financial year 2024-25, 1,987 officials were trained. In the financial year 2025-26, up to 31.08.2025, training has been imparted to 488 officials.

Water Supply Scheme to specified institutions/ locations is designed to ensure a continuous water supply to designated institutions and locations, including Medical Colleges, Taluk Hospitals, District Hospitals, rural schools and other educational institutions. It also covers the provision of water to government institutions such as Civil Station compounds, prisons and correction home. In addition, the scheme aims to improve existing water supply systems and ensure adequate availability of safe drinking water at major pilgrimage centres such as Sabarimala and other locations with high public demand. During the financial year 2024-25, 3 works were completed and 1 additional work was completed in the current financial year 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025).

3. Addressing the issues of Urban Water Supply Schemes:

Kerala Water Authority is the major service provider both in urban and rural areas. The major schemes include rehabilitation and improvement works of urban water supply scheme, ADB Assisted Kerala Urban Water Supply Improvement Project (KUWSIP). Rehabilitation and Improvement Works of Urban Water Supply Scheme is to achieve 100 per cent coverage in urban areas, taking up of new schemes in uncovered Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and laying distribution systems in schemes where production components are completed. 16 works in 2024-25, and 8 works in 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025) were completed.

ADB Assisted Kerala Urban Water Supply Improvement Project (KUWSIP) aims at improving the water supply in Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram Corporations by rehabilitating the old production components and the supply networks. The project envisages achieving 24 x 7 water supply in the above areas by considerable reduction of Non-Revenue Water (NRW) and overall improvement of efficiency.

4. Addressing the issues of Water conservation:

Traditional knowledge and water conservation techniques will help in source protection, augmentation as well as creation of new sources. The objective of works undertaken in source improvement and water conservation is to ensure that sufficient water is available at the source in summer and drought season and enhance storage capacity of water sources. In 2024-25, several works for strengthening the source and increasing the storage capacity were undertaken. By this activity, the water stress in summer could be mitigated to a large extent. 1 work in 2024-25 and 3 works in 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025) were completed.

Drought relief activities and unforeseen emergency interventions are undertaken under the scheme 'Drinking water-Drought mitigation'. Besides natural calamities, emergency situations of calamitous proportions such as damages to properties in case of large diameter pipe bursts, damages to water supply installations and water supply to emergency relief camps during natural calamities are also taken up under this scheme. Pipeline extensions to drought-hit areas, additional pumping and capacity enhancement during drought period are also included. During the financial year 2024-25, administrative sanction has been accorded for 121 works, of which 55 works have been completed.

5. Addressing the issues of water quality and ensuring safety in operations

To address water quality concerns and ensure operational safety, key strategies include: conducting regular water quality monitoring, implementing effective treatment processes, maintaining the integrity of infrastructure, educating employees on safe water handling practices and actively managing potential contamination sources through source control measures. The schemes include infrastructure development and surveillance activities under quality control wing of KWA, energy efficiency improvement, optimization of electromechanical items, safety audit and ensuring safety in operation of WTPs and pump houses.

Surveillance and monitoring of the quality of water supplied through various water supply schemes is being carried out by the Quality Control Wing of KWA. The quality of water in river sources, wells, private samples etc are

also been tested in the labs under the Quality Control Wing. All the 14 districts have district level laboratories and have obtained NABL accreditation. The State Lab - State Referral Institute for Water Quality (SRI), Nettoor, Ernakulam, set up in 2009, serves as the apex body for monitoring and surveillance activities. For the financial year 2024-25, an amount of Rs. 250 lakhs has been provided under this head and Administrative Sanction has been accorded for 2 works. The expenditure incurred during the financial year 2024-25 was Rs. 104.97 lakhs. Under energy conservation measures and the rehabilitation of obsolete pumps, motors, and other electrical installations are undertaken to enhance power efficiency. Annual power consumption and associated costs can be reduced by installing static capacitors, replacing old and inefficient electrical and mechanical machinery, and converting deemed connections to High Tension (HT) connections.

Pump houses and water treatment plants are vital infrastructure for ensuring human and environmental health. They play a crucial role in providing society with clean, safe water. Defects in operation, structural instability, chemical exposure and work fatigue are all potential risks. ISO certifications for plants require modern practices involving proper attire and safety equipments. As an effort to increase the safety, Personal Protection Equipments are to be procured and provided to workplaces. Installation of CCTV cameras in WTPs and pumphouses of KWA are also recommended to ensure safety. In the year 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as on 31.08.2025) 19 works have been completed

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), E-governance, GIS and Information Management

This scheme aims to develop a well-equipped web-based management system in KWA. During 2024-25, Kerala Water Authority moved fast forward in E-Governance, GIS and Information Management. Several IT initiatives have been taken up by the IT Wing during this period. Major Digital Initiatives of KWA are the followings

- **PRAVAHAK** – (Project Analysis and Evaluation in a Holistic Approach for KWA)
Centralized software platform developed for the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) to efficiently manage and evaluate all projects

implemented through various Water Supply Schemes, under multiple funding heads such as JJM, NABARD, KIIFB, and others.

- **JJM Dashboard:**

A specialized dashboard developed for the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) funding head, offering a comprehensive overview of physical progress, Work Package Monitoring, Financial Progress, FHTC (Functional Household Tap Connection) Coverage, Component-wise Progress Tracking

- **e-Abacus Enhancements**

Many changes in sewerage reports, revenue recovery reports and BPL reports have been incorporated as per request from Revenue Monitoring Cell (RMC) and field officers. Centralized Billing for all Government Departments has been implemented.

- **Palm-Held Machines**

Purchased 1060 palm held machines to enhance public service and streamline doorstep services such as meter reading, spot billing, and spot payment. Billing application loaded in the palm held machines developed by K-DISC.

- **LSGD Deposit Work Tracking System**

The Local Self Government Department (LSGD) work tracking system meant for tracking the life cycle of work orders provides real-time status updation for each task and generates reports for administrative review and decision-making. It also maintains historical records of completed works.

- **Aqualoom**

The existing Consumer complaint redressal system – AQUALOOM used for registering Complaints has been revamped to include the complete workflow from registering to status check facility. By using this system, fast action and solution on complaints are achieved. More than ten lakhs complaints received in AQUALOOM so far. From this, 98.37% complaints have been resolved

- **Website Revamp**

The KWA website underwent a major revamp in 2024-25 with several new features include monitoring unauthorized logins, testing environment for updating plugins, themes, CMS, design for publishing

DCBs, Re-designed dashboard publishing LSGD Arrears, Designed new pages and templates for general transfer 2024 etc.

- **PASK (Project Monitoring Tool)**

It is introduced for tracking project progress, collects data on schedule, budget, and quality. It offers real-time insights through a dashboard, improving efficiency and ensuring timely completion of ongoing projects.

- **GIS Mapping**

- a. Asset mapping and Monitoring: GIS cell tracked 90% of total pipeline laid under JJM. These data are displayed on the portal. For further spatial data collection KWA and CUSAT jointly developed an android application which is under final modification stage and deployed soon to collect assets of KWA.
- b. PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan: GIS cell is currently handling the GIS activities as instructed from NJJM and act as the nodal office. GIS cell providing scheme wise updation of pipeline laid under JJM to PM Gati Shakti portal. Acted as nodal GIS office for NJJM coordination, contributing critical spatial data integration.

- **e-Tapp**

The e-Tapp platform simplifies the process for water and sewage connections, meter replacements, ownership changes, and other services.

- **BPL Application**

A new online application launched to invite BPL applications from eligible consumers, and around 10 lakh consumers applied through it this year. The application successfully completed the security audit and received certification, which was forwarded to the Civil Supplies Department and NIC. With the integration of the live Civil Supplies API, real-time verification and sorting of BPL data became possible. The system is directly connected to the Civil Supplies database, ensuring accurate verification of the authenticity and eligibility of BPL ration card numbers submitted through the application.

- **Material Management System (MMS)**

The Material Management System (MMS) is a comprehensive full-stack web application

designed to handle the procurement, distribution and tracking of materials across departments or work sites. The system ensures that materials are requested, approved, issued and monitored in a systematic and transparent way.

KIIFB Projects

Government of Kerala (GoK) had accorded sanction for 77 drinking water projects of KWA under KIIFB. Approval has been given for funding of 77 projects for an amount of Rs 5406.95 crore. This includes 66 water supply projects amounting to Rs 4976.72 crore and replacement of transmission mains in 11 circles (Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Muvattupuzha, Kochi, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Kannur) for an amount of Rs 430.23 crore. Of this, 27 water supply projects amounting to Rs Rs.935.85 crore and 5 replacement works amounting to Rs.160.39 crore have so far been completed up to March 2025.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

AMRUT 1.0

Under AMRUT 1.0, works to the tune of Rs. 1376.62 crores (206 works) in Water Supply and Rs 246.18 crores (131 works) in Sewerage sector have been sanctioned, out of which 180 Water Supply projects and 110 Sewerage projects were completed at an amounting of Rs 1137.14 crore . Balance works are in progress.

75 MLD WTP at Aruvikkara, 5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant at Thiruvananthapuram Medical college, 20 MLD WTP at Peechi, 45 MLD WTP at Malampuzha in Palakkad district, 5 MLD STP at Elamkulam in Kochi, etc are the major works completed under AMRUT 1.0. 100 MLD WTP at Vasoorchira and 12 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant at Kureepuzha in Kollam district are nearing completion.

AMRUT 2.0

Government of India (GoI) has launched AMRUT 2.0 for providing universal piped water supply with household water tap connections. AMRUT 2.0 target is to provide universal coverage of Water Supply in all 4800 statutory towns and 100 per cent Sewerage/Septage management in

500 AMRUT cities. In Kerala, 93 ULBs are to be provided with universal coverage of water supply and nine AMRUT cities sewerage/septage management with total outlay of around Rs 3500 crore. Out of this Rs 2449.56 crore is for water supply and Rs 902.16 crore for sewerage/septage management and the balance amount is assigned for rejuvenation of water bodies and developing green spaces and park projects.

Administrative Sanction (AS) has been received to 157 drinking water supply projects worth Rs.1674.80 crore and 14 sewerage projects worth Rs.457.80 crore, (SWAP 1 & 2). Out of these, 67 sub projects have been completed. The project period is 5 years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. (For more details see chapter on Local Governments and Decentralised Planning)

Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI)

Under Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI), 17 water supply projects have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs 303.75 crore. These include construction of new reservoirs, distribution system, new water connections and rehabilitation of existing distribution system, new intake well and Water Treatment Plant under water supply sector. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for rehabilitation of existing system and providing sewerage/septage management system for Thiruvannthapuram Corporation, energy optimisation and replacing the inefficient pumping system, Topographical Survey in 28 Selected ULBs and 7 new ULBs for DER Preparation, Automation of Rural Pump houses, Networking in Kochi -Elamkulam STP etc. are also included under RKI works.

Among the above RKI works, 9 works have been completed, which include Water Supply Scheme (WSS) to TV Puram Panchayath in Kottayam district, WSS to Erumeli Panchayath in Kottayam district, WSS to Cheranalloor Panchayath in Kochi, construction of dilution tank for septage treatment at Chakkamkandam, and study on energy optimization and replacing the inefficient pumping system and DER preparation. All other works are in different stages of execution.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Assisted Kerala Water Supply Project.

JICA assisted Kerala water supply project envisages the implementation of five water supply schemes in Thiruvananthapuram, Meenad,

Cherthala, Kozhikode and Pattuvam. All the five projects have been commissioned and water supply is ensured to the beneficiaries. The distribution networks envisaged for Thiruvananthapuram, Cherthala and Pattuvam have been completely laid. The rehabilitation works of two WTPs at Thiruvananthapuram are also completed. For Kozhikode and Meenad Schemes, all components except a part of distribution system have been completed and schemes partially commissioned. The project will benefit a population of about 41 lakh in 5 districts viz, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Kozhikode and Kannur

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) is a project of Government of India envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) within two years to all households in rural India. The mission aims to ensure that every rural household has drinking water supply in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long-term basis at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities. In Kerala, the share of Central and State Governments is 50:50. Out of the 50 per cent State share, 15 per cent is to be borne by the Panchayat and 10 per cent should be ensured as beneficiary contribution. The financial progress of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) since its inception is shown in **Table 11.4.1**.

The total fund utilized under JJM including the State matching share during the period from 2019-20 to 2024 -25 was Rs. 11629.65 crore. In 2024-25, the total fund utilized under JJM including the State matching share was Rs 2481.17 crore. Kerala provided 1,38,000 rural household connections under JJM in 2024-25. Under JJM 20,87,583 FHTCs were provided till date (October 31, 2025).

Jalanidhi

Kerala Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (KRWSA) was constituted as a special purpose vehicle to implement Jalanidhi, a World Bank Aided project. KRWSA has successfully implemented two phases of Jalanidhi project, ie, Jalanidhi Phase-1 during 2000-2008 and Phase-2 during 2012-2019. The Gram Panchayats have a key role in implementing community based water supply projects under Jalanidhi. KRWSA has also established a wide network of NGOs in

Table 11.4.1 Financial & Physical Progress of JJM as on October 31, 2025(in crore)

Year	JJM allocation *	Opening Balance	Release by Gol (central share)	Release by GoK (state share)	Total funds available	Expenditure	Expenditure	Total expenditure (central and state share)	Physical Achievement (No. of Connections/ FHTCs)
						(central share)	(state share)		
2019-20	497.52	0	101.29	101.29	202.58	62.26	63.7	125.96	0
2020-21	808.84	76.62	303.18	303.18	682.98	304.29	317.61	621.9	404464
2021-22	3609.18	61.08	1353.44	1353.44	2767.96	957.44	1059.57	2017.01	663874
2022-23	4413.08	750.95	2206.56	1616.28	4573.79	1741.93	1741.67	3483.6	529487
2023-24	2653.4	1090.17	671.18	1207.15	2968.5	1465.42	1448.53	2913.95	352208
2024-25	3853.23	54.55	974.68	1451.94	2481.17	1233.62	1233.61	2467.23	137550
Total	15835.25		5610.33	6033.28		5764.96	5864.69	11629.65	2087583

Source: Kerala Water Authority(KWA)

*Only allocation based on Gol allocation. But not fully released

mobilising communities towards implementing the participatory, community driven water supply and sanitation facilities owned and managed by them. This model of scheme implementation under Jalanidhi has demonstrated successfully an equitable, inclusive and decentralised delivery system mainly benefiting the SC, ST and BPL category of rural households in Kerala.

KRWSA is also the nodal agency of the State Government for the implementation of rain water harvesting programme in the State. Rain Centre functioning as part of KRWSA was constituted in 2004 to promote rain water harvesting (RWH) and ground water recharge (GWR) activities in the State. The programme is well accepted by the people in the State, especially those who are living in hilly, coastal and remote areas with limited access to potable water. Several Grama Panchayats, particularly those in hilly and coastal regions, are actively adopting rainwater harvesting as a technological solution to address their drinking water challenges. As on August 31, 2025 KRWSA completed 12,186 rain water harvesting structures of 10,000 litre capacity and 2,936 open well recharge structures under the plan head. Presently KRWSA is also an implementing Agency for the central flagship programme “Jal Jeevan Mission”. The concept and implementation procedures followed in Jal Jeevan Mission are very much similar to the Jalanidhi model implemented in Kerala.

District wise details of water supply connections of Jalanidhi as on August 31, 2025 are given in **Table 11.4.2**.

Table 11.4.2 District-wise details of Water Supply Connections of Jalanidhi as on August 31, 2025

Sl. No.	District	Domestic Connections
1	Thiruvananthapuram	4,572
2	Kollam	22,663
3	Pathanamthitta	5,977
4	Alappuzha	0
5	Kottayam	58,247
6	Idukki	41,677
7	Ernakulam	2,173
8	Thrissur	66,632
9	Palakkad	50,771
10	Malappuram	95,770
11	Kozhikode	51,110
12	Wayanad	41,086
13	Kannur	24,416
14	Kasaragod	23,831
TOTAL		4,88,925

Source: KRWSA

Project Achievements

Jalanidhi has made remarkable achievements in the fields of project preparation, design, quality of entry, implementation arrangements, monitoring and evaluation, compliance with environmental and social safeguards, fiduciary management and procurement. KRWSA had implemented 5884 schemes in Phase-1&2 projects covering 227 GPs benefiting 4.52 lakh households- 1.04 lakh individual latrines, 24,194 latrine conversion, 96,703 environment management plan units (soak pits, compost pits, vermi composting units etc) and installation of 1,916 bio gas units. The schemes in Phase 1 have been operational for more than 20 years. KRWSA also popularized rain water harvesting programme in the state by constructing nearly 40,600 rain water harvesting structures both under plan scheme and Jalanidhi Phase 1 and 2 put together. During 2024-25, out of the targeted 900RWH/GWR structures, 740 units were completed by 31.03.2025, while the remaining units are at various stages of implementation.

Considering the district-wise rural population covered by the water supply schemes of Jalanidhi, Thrissur has the highest (26.32%) coverage. Kozhikode has the highest number of schemes (1,052) while Alappuzha has no scheme. A total of 23,68,162 rural population are covered by 5,926 schemes of Jalanidhi (as on August 31, 2025). Out of the total 4,88,925 water supply domestic connections as on August 31, 2025 Malappuram has the highest number 95,770 followed by Thrissur with 66,632 connections. As per Jalanidhi project guidelines, after commissioning of schemes, entire operation and maintenance management has to be done by beneficiary groups. Hence, water rates vary from scheme to scheme, as decided by the respective scheme management committee. The average cost per household per month charged for 10,000 litres is Rs 100 in most of the schemes. The lpcd water availability of water supply schemes of Jalanidhi in all the Districts is 70 lpcd.

In order to ensure sustainability of investments made, Government of Kerala has introduced a project named “Sustainability support to community managed water supply schemes” to reinstate all partially or fully defunct community driven schemes to functional schemes and allocated budget provision from 2018 onwards. KRWSA could reinstate 1451 schemes as on August 31, 2025 under this project. Restoration works are ongoing in another 297 schemes.

Conversion of domestic wells into protected and sustainable drinking water sources is highly important to protect the traditional water sources to ensure future water security. The dug wells are excellent means of ground water recharge and if properly protected and recharged wells can serve as reliable source of drinking water and at the same time replenish the decreasing ground water table. A total of 502 domestic wells have been protected and converted into sustainable drinking water sources with rain water recharge system as on August 31, 2025.

One of the major issues facing the community managed small water supply schemes is the absence of a mechanism to regularly test and monitor water quality. Being a public water supply, though small in capacity, needs regular monitoring and timely mitigation in case of water quality issues. Absence of waste water collection, treatment and disposal is emerging as a major threat to public health in the State. The grey water collected from the households can be treated and reused for gardening and other non – domestic purposes. The reuse of grey water in the region of implementation will solve many problems related to water scarcity and will lead to the saving of financial resources which in turn helps to support the water economy. As on August 31, 2025, 67 water quality mitigation units out of 104 have been installed. Furthermore, 100 greywater management systems have been set up in vulnerable settlements in Marayur GP, Idukki, in a tribal residential school at Noolpuzha, Wayanad.

KRWSA have achieved a milestone by implementing a solar-based pumping system in community-managed water supply schemes. This innovative system has been successfully piloted in the tribal areas of Noolpuzha Grama panchayat in Wayanad district, specifically in Alathur and Rampilly regions, both inhabited by tribal communities. Jala Sowhrudha Vidhyalayam, which provides financial assistance to selected Government and Aided schools across the state for constructing RWH structures, and 840 structures have been completed. As of 31.03.2025, a total of 11,346 rooftop rainwater harvesting structures and 2,936 open well recharge structures have been completed. Overall, 467 domestic wells have been converted as on 31.03.2025 into protected and sustainable drinking water sources.

Water literacy promotion programme is the only

way to promote water conservation & water quality improvement in our state. The state government as well as Local-Self Governments have given high priority for water conservation. Water literacy campaign should start from school. Jalasree clubs organize a variety of activities including campaigns, surveys, camps, field trips, and rallies, all focussed on water conservation. The club also engage in practical water quality testing in homes and surrounding areas, further reinforcing the importance of safe drinking water and hygiene. The Jalasree Club focuses on the development of life skills and mobilisation of parents, communities, governments and institutions to work together to improve ground water level by water conservation techniques and also to improve hygiene and environmental sanitation by promoting best practices. Presently KRWSA with the help of Jal Jeevan Mission and Implementation Support Agencies (ISAs) formed 858 Jalasree clubs in schools.

Although KWA is actively engaged in sanitation efforts across various areas, KRWSA is also making significant contributions to sanitation activities. District-wise achievements of sanitation activities of Phase 1 and 2 show that Malappuram District has 26,385 meters drainage coverage which is the highest among 14 districts and Kottayam has the highest number of biogas plants(557) as on August 31, 2025 (**Appendix 11.4.7**). Total number of Ground Water Recharge (GWR) structures as on August 31, 2025 is 2,912. Most of GWR structures are in Kottayam (988). Similarly, total number of rain water harvesting (RWH) tanks installed by KRWSA in the State is 35,576 as on August 31, 2025. The highest number is in Idukki (10897) and the lowest is in Wayanad (251) (**Appendix 11.4.8**). As per KRWSA data, as on August 31, 2025, out of 5,926 schemes, 5033 small water supply schemes, 39 large/bulk water supply schemes and 4 multi-grama panchayath schemes are functional and the schemes cover 4,88,925 households (**Appendix 11.4.9**).

Way Forward

Urbanisation and climate change significantly affect the availability of quality water, creating pressure to identify new water sources. Expansion of piped water supply, modernisation and automation of small water supply schemes, upgradation of operation and maintenance systems, strengthening of sewerage services, introduction of surveillance and security systems, strengthening of IT and

GIS infrastructure etc. play a crucial role in ensuring water security. Systems such as water quality monitoring and surveillance will help prevent waterborne diseases. Promoting roof top rainwater harvesting and ground water harvesting will help reduce water scarcity. Through IEC, capacity building, and initiatives like Jalasree Clubs, awareness on water conservation among consumers needs to be strengthened.

11.5 HOUSING

Housing quality and availability are key indicators of living standards and human development. Kerala has prioritised housing for poor and low income groups as part of its development strategy. The State has implemented several housing programmes to ensure safe and adequate housing as a basic right.

The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights defines adequate housing as more than physical shelter and includes security, peace, and dignity. The Constitution of India recognises the rights to shelter and livelihood. The Sustainable Development Goals promote safe, resilient, and sustainable settlements.

Kerala has consistently prioritised social housing and introduced innovative housing initiatives. Private sector participation has also increased since the late 1970s. The State has made notable progress in providing housing for economically disadvantaged groups, even before the introduction of centrally sponsored schemes.

In recent years, the Government of Kerala has focused on high-quality housing for people who do not own homes. The LIFE Mission provides comprehensive housing support for people living in poverty.

1. Livelihood, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Mission

The LIFE project stands out as a comprehensive housing initiative with a bold mission to alleviate the housing crisis among the poor. It goes

beyond addressing housing needs, aiming to provide its beneficiaries access to various welfare and social security programmes as well. This holistic rehabilitation programme for the landless and houseless leverages various government programmes to ensure their social and financial stability, while also enhancing their skills to improve their livelihoods. The unique feature of the project is its involvement of local self-governments, which play a critical role in planning and implementing housing schemes within the State.

LIFE's primary goals encompassed two key elements: (a) facilitating the construction of secure and respectable homes for all families without land or housing within the State, all to be accomplished within a five-year timeframe, and (b) achieving this target through the pooling of resources from diverse channels, including corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds, philanthropic financial support and all other potential funding sources.

Under the LIFE Mission, plan allocations are made through the Local Self Government Department (LSGD) and the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) Departments. In addition, plan provisions are extended to the Kerala Urban and Rural Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (KURDFC), which supports the implementation of the comprehensive housing programme by availing loans from the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) with a government guarantee.

Besides state plan allocation, Grama, Block and District Panchayats allocate not less than 20 per cent of the total amount of the normal share of the General Fund, Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP) and TSP allocations for the housing sector. While making such allocations, it is ensured that at least 20 per cent is earmarked from the normal Share of the General Fund.

Under the LIFE programme, those who have signed the agreement for construction of houses are provided with financial assistance of Rs. 4.00 lakh in four instalments, based on the progress of their house construction. ST beneficiaries living in remote ST hamlets are provided Rs 6.00 lakh in five instalments.

The activities of the LIFE Mission were originally structured in three phases. The first phase was dedicated to completing houses that were only partially built or left incomplete. In this segment, the Mission has achieved a significant milestone, completing 52,680 houses out of the 54,116 incomplete houses identified in the State (97.35%). Of the total dwellings completed, 42,850 houses have been completed in rural areas and 9,830 in urban areas. During the first phase, 19,153 SC beneficiaries and 17,400 ST beneficiaries had completed construction of houses.

In the second phase of the LIFE Mission, financial assistance was provided for constructing houses for individuals who owned land but did not have a house. In LIFE Phase II, the target was 1,02,448 beneficiaries, and as of October 31, 2025, 98,576 houses were completed (96.22%). For individuals without housing but with land ownership, additional beneficiary lists from the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Fisheries and Minority departments were incorporated, as their respective housing programmes were merged with the LIFE Mission. Additionally, houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) for both urban and rural areas were merged into LIFE. Hence, the achievement of the LIFE Mission in Phase II also includes houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), as well as houses completed by the Scheduled Castes Department, the Scheduled Tribes Department, the Fisheries Department, and the Minorities Department. While the SC department targeted 21,386 houses, the ST department aimed at 10,692 houses.

Fisheries and Minority departments targeted 6,009 and 2,363 houses, respectively. All these targets were fully achieved. Under PMAY Gramin, the target was 76,700, of which 34,602 houses were completed. Similarly, as of 31st October 2025, the number of completed houses in the PMAY Urban segment was 93,634.

The third phase of the LIFE Mission was a significant step towards rehabilitating landless and houseless individuals in Kerala. Kudumbashree was entrusted with conducting a survey in 2017 to identify landless and homeless individuals, and approximately 3.37 lakh individuals were identified. After comprehensive verification, 1,57,775 beneficiaries were confirmed eligible, and land was allocated to 34,321 beneficiaries, comprising 33,015 in rural areas and 1,306 in urban areas. Among those provided with land, 28,363 beneficiaries completed house construction.

In addition, the SC/ST and Fisheries Departments provided further lists of houseless with land, and 29,475 houses were completed from these lists. An additional list of landless houseless from the SC/ST and Fisheries Departments led to the completion of 2,054 houses. The LIFE 2020 list accounted for 83,768 completed houses for the homeless with land, and the LIFE 2020 homeless and landless list added another 1,492 completed houses for the landless. In the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), 64,006 families have been identified as EPEP families. Out of which, 7,484 beneficiaries were identified as landless homeless, and 8,629 beneficiaries were identified as homeless. Under the EPEP homeless category, 4,005 houses were completed, and in the EPEP landless and houseless category, 1,417 houses were completed. Overall, LIFE Mission has successfully facilitated the construction of 4,71,442 houses, including LIFE Tower units, across the state as of 31st October 2025, including 1,25,360 for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries and 45,976 for Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. (see **Table 11.5.1**). As of October 31st 2025, 1,26,660 houses are under construction.

District-wise details of houses constructed up to 31st October 2025, in association with other schemes such as PMAY (U), PMAY (G), the SC Department, the ST Department, Fisheries, etc., are provided in **Table 11.5.2**.

Table- 11.5.1 LIFE Mission progress at a glance – Completed houses of SC/ST (2017 to 31.10.2025)

No.	LIFE Mission/ Departments	Number of houses completed	
		SC	ST
1	LIFE – Phase I (Completion of incomplete houses)	19153	17400
2	LIFE – Phase II (Housing for houseless with land)	53642	17127
3	LIFE – Phase III (Housing for landless houseless)	6618	630
4	Additional list (Houseless with Land)	19621	7304
5	Additional list- land less (Housing for landless and houseless)	1692	280
6	LIFE 2020 +EPEP (Housing for houseless with land)	24136	3204
7	LIFE 2020 +EPEP(Housing for landless and houseless)	498	31
Total		125360	45976

Source: LIFE Mission

The support from Union government housing programs needs to be more robust to meet the housing requirements of the economically disadvantaged population in Kerala. In PMAY-(G), unit assistance of a house under PMAY– Gramin fixed by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is only Rs 1.20 lakh, which is shared between the Union and State governments in the ratio 60:40 (Rs 72,000 + Rs 48,000). As the state government has decided to integrate this programme with the LIFE Mission, the assistance per unit has been enhanced to Rs4.00 lakh. The balance amount of Rs 2.80 lakh is shared between Grama, Block and District Panchayats in the ratio of 25:40:35. The unit assistance under PMAY (Urban)1.0 for house construction isRs1.50 lakh, and the Union Government releases funds in three instalments (40 per cent, 40 per cent, 20 per cent). Under the Affordable Housing Project (AHP), the average cost per dwelling unit is Rs 10.50 lakh, and the Central share of the component is only Rs 1.50 lakh. Under Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC), the central share is Rs1.5 lakh per dwelling unit, and the State and Urban Local Governments should meet the remaining Rs 2.5 lakh together.

The LIFE Mission also aims to rehabilitate landless and houseless beneficiaries in housing complexes. To date, 926 housing units have been constructed under LIFE Towers, with 380 in rural areas and 546 in urban areas. Of these, 857 units (354 in rural areas and 503 in urban areas) are currently occupied.

Given the high population density and escalating demand for land, identifying suitable land for

landless, homeless beneficiaries has become increasingly challenging. To address this, the State has launched a campaign to encourage the voluntary contribution of land, “Manasodithiri Mannu,” by philanthropists to construct homes for the landless and homeless. Through this, 3042.214 cents of land have been offered, and 2743.14 cents of land have been registered to Local Governments concerned.

Sponsorship of houses - Beacon initiatives in LIFE MISSION

Chittilappilly Bhavana Padhathi:

The K. Chittilappilly Foundation entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Kerala to provide financial assistance of Rs25.00 crore, offering up to Rs 2.5 lakh per family for the purchase of land for 1,000 landless families included in the LIFE Mission beneficiary list. All 1,000 beneficiaries have already purchased and registered land. Furthermore, the foundation has signed an additional agreement with the LIFE Mission to provide similar financial support for an additional 1,000 landless families belonging to the EPEP beneficiary category.

LIONS LIFE Village

The State Government has undertaken initiatives to collaborate with philanthropic and voluntary organisations in implementing LIFE Mission projects. As part of this effort, Lions International District 318-A expressed its commitment to construct 100 houses for beneficiaries of the LIFE Mission. The Government accordingly issued an order permitting 100 homeless individuals

Table 11.5.2 Details of houses constructed by the LIFE Mission as on 31.10.2025

District	Completion of incomplete houses Phase 1	Homeless with land				Homeless landless				Rehabilitated by flat	Total completed houses	Construction progressing			
		Phase II	PMAY (U)	PMAY (R)	Other Departments (SC/ST/Fisheries/Minorities) (homeless with land)	Additional List SC/ST/Fisher-ies) Homeless with land	LIFE 2020 (homeless with land)	EPEP homeless	Phase III				Additional List SC/ST/Fisher-ies) Houseless Landless	LIFE 2020(Homeless land-less)	EPEP homeless landless
Thiruvananthapuram	6050	15823	14215	5325	4909	1868	7138	290	2436	87	166	125	24	58456	15116
Kollam	3618	8546	7179	3041	3069	2331	6915	220	4972	43	246	147	37	40364	9706
Pathanamthitta	1176	2056	1786	1429	1337	1322	3622	57	1012	125	47	13		13982	4443
Alappuzha	2728	9487	5532	1881	2428	2112	8203	221	1389	36	60	51		34128	8258
Kottayam	1102	4334	2693	961	1205	772	5273	67	2198	166	58	50	40	18919	5316
Idukki	3138	10495	1930	1858	1963	1878	1920	202	1675	108	60	36	246	25509	7651
Ernakulam	1059	5830	12647	1379	2571	2287	6693	259	2888	200	199	146	101	36259	5661
Thrissur	2997	5193	9041	2767	2612	1160	7403	318	2721	196	101	198	34	34741	9407
Palakkad	7628	14651	6919	4799	3518	2712	6585	440	3031	156	23	112		50574	19076
Malappuram	2735	6783	12359	3956	6842	5410	13473	579	2694	523	209	189	400	56152	19073
Kozhikode	6484	5147	8561	2365	2192	1971	6860	579	688	181	44	162		35234	7384
Wayanad	8440	4091	3105	2244	3699	2177	1868	276	900	0	12	17		26829	6285
Kannur	2645	2544	5725	1109	2023	1465	4782	392	736	140	228	121	44	21954	3860
Kasaragod	2880	3596	1942	1488	2082	2010	3033	105	1023	93	39	50		18341	5424
Total	52680	98576	93634	34602	40450	29475	83768	4005	28363	2054	1492	1417	926	471442	126660

Source: LIFE Mission

listed under the LIFE Mission to receive housing support through this partnership. The construction is planned on land owned by the Chirayinkeezh Block Panchayat, Kilimanoor and Chemmaruthy Grama Panchayats in Thiruvananthapuram District, and the Kadakkal Grama Panchayat and Paravur Municipality in Kollam District. The entire construction cost will be borne by Lions International District 318-A.

A significant challenge LIFE beneficiaries face is the high cost of construction materials. To address this issue, the LIFE Mission has engaged in discussions with various vendors and arranged for the distribution of materials at rates that are 20-60 per cent lower than the maximum retail price (MRP). This initiative encompasses electrical fittings, wiring materials, paint, ceramic materials, tap fittings, water tanks, and cement, resulting in substantial savings for LIFE beneficiaries. Also, in association with ANERT, rooftop solar panels are being installed in LIFE houses as part of the ‘Green Energy Income Project’.

Legal restrictions on land use in various locations pose a significant obstacle in implementing the scheme. For instance, some beneficiaries own land in Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) or wetland areas, where construction is prohibited. The Mission is actively working to facilitate legal amendments that address this issue.

The LIFE Mission has made considerable progress in delivering safe and secure housing, as well as sustainable livelihood opportunities, to Kerala’s homeless and landless population. To achieve this objective, the Mission has established a unique and pioneering model for housing provision to disadvantaged groups by aligning and integrating various institutional mechanisms and programs. This innovative approach has garnered national and international recognition as an effective strategy for achieving universal housing for people without homes, marking a crucial advancement toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in this sector.

Apart from this, other agencies involved in implementing housing schemes in the State include i) Kerala State Housing Board, ii) Housing (Technical Cell) Department (Housing Commissionerate), and iii) Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra, SC Development

Department, Kudumbasree, Rural Development Commissionerate and the Local Governments.

Other Housing Programmes

With the adoption of the decentralized planning framework in Kerala, the responsibility for formulating and implementing housing schemes for weaker sections has been entrusted to Local Self Government Institutions. This shift has fostered a more participatory and locally responsive approach to housing development, particularly under the LIFE Mission. Along with this, the Housing Department, has redefined its role to complement the initiatives of LSGIs and avoid duplication of efforts. Housing Department now focuses on areas such as housing for middle-income groups, affordable rental housing for government employees, renovation of existing housing stock, and support for senior citizens and working women. Through these focused efforts, the Housing Department is realizing Kerala’s vision of comprehensive and sustainable housing development.

The Housing Department implements several housing schemes in the State through exclusive agencies in the sector. These are:

Kerala State Housing Board,
Housing (Technical Cell) Department (Housing Commissionerate), and
Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra.

1. Kerala State Housing Board

Kerala State Housing Board (KSHB), one of the major implementing agencies in the housing sector under the Government of Kerala, has provided residential facilities to prospective beneficiaries through its public housing schemes. In 2024-25, the Kerala State Housing Board implemented schemes such as the Grihasree housing scheme, Working Women’s Hostel, EWS/LIG housing scheme and Aswas rental housing scheme near Medical Colleges. KSHB is trying to address the housing needs of economically weaker sections who are not eligible for house under the LIFE Mission.

Under the Grihasree housing scheme, 1,585 houses have been constructed since 2018-19, of which, 141 houses were constructed in 2024-25. Under LakshamVeedu scheme, construction of 1 house at Maranchery (Malapuram), 14 houses at Puthoor (Marathakara, Thrissur) and 4 houses

at Madakathara (Mattampuram) were completed and remaining houses are at various stages of construction. Administrative sanction obtained for MN Suvarna Bhavanam projects for modernising dilapidated Laksham Veedu houses.

Under EWS/LIG Scheme, completed projects include 36 flats at Pattuvam (Kannur) and 11 houses at Thrikkaipetta (Wayanad). Steps have been taken to ensure the timely completion of the 36 flats at Mukkam (Kozhikode). Loan-Linked Subsidy Scheme (MIG Housing) aimed at middle-income groups who are generally left out of housing subsidies. This scheme enables affordable homeownership through a combination of institutional loans and targeted subsidy support. This fills a critical gap not addressed by LIFE Mission or LSGIs, as on August 31, 2025, first installment distributed to 60 people under the scheme

Under Women's Hostels SASCI for women empowerment and social security, KSHB is implementing Working Women's Hostels in seven districts namely Thiruvananthapuram, Pathanamthitta, Thrissur, Kottayam, Idukki, Kozhikode, and Kannur

The Swapnakoodu Project is an innovative housing initiative, implemented in Kollam district with the objective of providing safe and affordable housing to deserving families. The project was initially approved for the construction of 75 houses, undertaken in collaboration with Local Self Government Institutions and the Government on a 60:40 cost-sharing basis.

Working women's hostel at Balaramapuram, (Thiruvannathapuarum), Ranni (Pathanamthitta), Mulamkunathukavu (Thrissur), Gandhinagar (Kottayam), Mattanoor (Kannur), Kozhikode are in the implementation stage. The construction started for 12 flat in Kanjangad under housing scheme for Govt. Employees in Govt. land .

Aswas rental housing scheme provides accommodation to the patients and by-standers of medical colleges at an affordable rate. Thrissur project has been completed, while Alappuzha and Kannur are under construction. In Kottayam and Idukki, land has been allotted to the Board by Medical College and MoU has been executed.

'Thanteyidam' (My own space) scheme aims at providing housing to homeless children in welfare homes run by the government or by non-government organisations who have to leave the institutions when they reach 18 years of age. The KSHB implements the scheme in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development. The scheme caters to the housing needs of beneficiaries not listed in any of the housing schemes of central or state governments. The most striking feature of this scheme is that while identifying beneficiaries, priority is given to women, especially the survivors of POCSO. Beneficiaries identified by the Women and Child Development Department are given houses/flats constructed by KSHB under its scheme for economically weaker sections (EWS)/ low-income groups (LIG). In budget 2024-25 and 2025-26, Rs 2.00 crore each has been earmarked for the Thanteyidam project.

Under the Rental Housing Schemes (RHS), the construction of housing projects for Government employees is in progress at Vellarikund and Kanjangad in Kasaragod district. The Kozhikode project has been completed and inaugurated. While administrative sanction has been received for Mananthavady for undertaking preliminary activities, including feasibility studies, towards the implementation of the scheme at Erimayoor in Palakkad district during the financial year 2025-26.

2. Housing (Technical Cell) Department (Housing Commissionerate)

The Housing (Technical cell) Department acts as the State-level technical cell and nodal department to coordinate and support housing activities of Kerala State. This department was formed in 1980 to plan and coordinate activities in the housing sector and achieve technical excellence in housing solutions.

This department is primarily engaged in providing data support and technical guidance, reviewing policies and programmes, setting housing targets, facilitating decision-making in the housing sector, extending technical and other support related to housing to all agencies working in this area, and providing assistance for emerging needs and technologies in the housing sector. The department has made pioneering attempts to create spatially-oriented information systems in the housing sector. The Scheme- 'e-Griha', is a digital platform, for easily accessible and understandable to all sections

of the society, regarding every matter related to the housing sector and to monitor the projects of the agencies under housing department. In the first phase, during the financial year 2023-24 & 2024-25, the web/mobile application was developed. The provision for online monitoring of the various projects of the Kerala State Housing Board was included in this stage. During the financial year 2025-26, development of the next phase of the project is initiated in which it is decided to create an interface between consultants, contractors and agencies for the execution of the projects spanning from invitation of tender to project completion. The geofencing technology, time and attendance tracking were also included in this stage.

Under the scheme Rent and Apartment Ownership Management System, is a digital platform, which will act as the one-stop method to register the tenancy agreements under the Kerala Buildings (Rent and Lease Control) Act and also the Association of Allottees under the Kerala Apartment Ownership Act. The platform will also offer draft agreement formats and terms and conditions for landlords and tenants, ensuring that agreements are standardized and legally binding, with minimal costs.

3. Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra

Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (KESNIK), established in 1989, is an accredited agency under the Housing Department, Government of Kerala. It is involved in a variety of activities in the housing sector, such as

- undertaking construction projects,
- imparting training for skill development in construction technologies and related trades to unemployed youths, the general public and technocrats,
- production of cost-effective and environment-friendly building materials,
- selling of building materials at subsidised rates through Kalavara,
- Undertaking human resource development programmes in the field of housing, conducting research and development activities in housing and allied fields, and providing facilities for building material testing for quality assurance in construction works through its testing labs.

KESNIK is a government agency that executes construction projects for both government and private clients.

KESNIK regularly conducts training programmes for skill development to unemployed youth in various construction trades. The Centre conducts large scale training programmes through the Regional Centers across the State creating a reliable cadre of work force. The Training Wing conducts training in Masonry, Carpentry, Plumbing, Painting, Electrification, Land Scaping and horticulture, Prefab construction, terracotta etc.

KESNIK Kalavaras sell building materials to BPL and LIFE Mission beneficiaries subsidised by 15 per cent for the construction and repair of houses in Government housing schemes. KESNIK has set up production centres in various parts of the State to supply superior quality building materials to the public. As per demand and trend, various products are being produced in these production centres.

A carpentry unit has been setup at Vattiyoorkavu utilizing the Plan scheme amounting to Rs. 55 lakhs. This unit is fully equipped for the manufacture of traditional and modern furniture including workstation and also for making doors, windows and ventilators used in construction. Moreover, skill up gradation trainings are conducted in this unit.

KESNIK has Material testing and Quality control labs at 8 Regional Centers which provides Building Material Testing services. Various State/Central Government Departments and Private builders' approach KESNIK for their Material Testing needs.

The Technical Wing of KESNIK has a Housing Guidance Centre attached to every Regional Nirmithi Kendra which provides information on the cost effective and environment friendly (CEEf) construction options to the prospective house builder. All information regarding to construction of houses can be obtained from this Centre.

KESNIK has organized 8 vocational training programmes in construction sector targeting 120 beneficiaries. These training programmes mainly focused on unemployed youths and are organized through the 14 Regional Centers of KESNIK and Head Office. Organized one batch certificate course of duration 4 months at Trivandrum district, who have completed their courses from Engineering Institutions. This course will act as

an occupational refresher training programme for building construction/Alternative sustainable building technologies and good construction practices. The course has been completed successfully.

During the year 2024-25, KESNIK has setup the Housing Guidance Centre with Virtual Reality studio in KESNIK Head Office. VR technologies allow architects and engineers to walk through their designs before a single brick is laid, making it easier to spot potential problems and make changes. In addition, virtual reality may be used for training purposes, helping workers learn new skills without putting themselves in harm's way.

KESNIK has set up a housing guidance cell in its regional offices to guide the public about cost-effective and good quality construction of houses. As an academic initiative, the Government of Kerala established the Laurie Baker International School of Habitat Studies (LaBISHaS) in KESNIK. The institute conducts academic courses, research activities, and short-term training programmes on subjects including cost-effective and environment-friendly (CEEf) construction techniques, and other habitat-related topics.

College of Architecture Thiruvananthapuram (CAT) is one of the largest architecture and design schools in the city. CAT- LaBISHaS Design Lab (CLDL) was established in 2018 as a joint venture to develop detailed architectural designs and to provide guidance for construction.

4. Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation

The Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation Ltd is the apex body for financing primary co-operative housing societies in the State to construct houses at the minimum possible cost on easy repayment terms for its members. The main sources of funds for the Federation are (i) share capital contribution from member societies and the Government of Kerala and (ii) borrowings from LIC, National Housing Bank and other commercial banks.

The Kerala State Co-operative Housing Federation provides home loans to economically weaker sections (EWS) and middle-income groups (MIG) and for repair/maintenance. From 2019-20 to 2025-26 (up to August 31, 2025), the Federation

has sanctioned housing loans to 7156 beneficiaries and an amount of Rs 38777 lakh has been disbursed as loans. Details are given in **Appendix 11.5.1**.

5. Housing Finance

Finance is a crucial instrument in providing affordable housing for a long period. Finance for housing includes loans from banks, subsidies and grants from Centrally Sponsored Schemes, State Schemes and shares of Local Governments.

All the major scheduled banks under the RBI rules provide housing loans through various bank schemes. Banks offer loans through various government housing schemes to economically weaker sections, lower-income, middle-income and high-income groups. The financial institutions which provide loans for house construction along with the government agencies in the State are nationalised banks, Kerala Gramin Bank, private sector commercial banks, Kerala State Co-operative Bank, Kerala State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank Limited (KSCARD), small finance banks like HOUSEFED, HUDCO and HDFC. The interest rates of housing loans change according to the announcements by the GoI and the Reserve Bank of India.

Way forward

Addressing the challenges in the housing sector calls for a holistic and coordinated strategy. Innovative land management approaches such as land pooling, joint development and the reform of urban land use policies can effectively mitigate land scarcity and promote sustainable urban growth. Expanding access to microfinance, strengthening the delivery of subsidy schemes, fostering public-private partnerships and mobilizing alternative financing sources will help bridge financial gaps and enhance project viability. Housing initiatives should be planned in tandem with essential infrastructure components—such as water supply, sanitation, electricity and road connectivity—through close coordination with the respective departments. Additionally, establishing a structured mechanism for departmental convergence among LSGD, Revenue, Health and other key departments is crucial to prevent delays, promote synergy and ensure the smooth and timely implementation of housing projects.

11.6 REBUILD KERALA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Government of Kerala launched the Rebuild Kerala Initiative Programme to restore the State after severe floods in 2018 and 2019, the worst since 1924. Floods and landslides affected one sixth of the State's population. The programme aims to improve lives and livelihoods by adopting higher infrastructure standards and building safeguards to withstand future disasters. The initiative supports Kerala's vision for recovery and the transition towards Nava Keralam. It promotes sustainable infrastructure, improved living standards, and disaster resilient development while addressing climate change impacts.

Goals of the RKDP

The Rebuild Kerala Development Programme works towards the following set of goals:

- It aims to rebuild Kerala in a way that ensures higher standards of infrastructure, assets and livelihoods for resilience against any future disasters.
- To build individual, community and institutional resilience towards natural hazards while fostering equitable, inclusive and participatory reconstruction that builds itself back better.

The thrust sectors of RKDP includes i) Water Resources Management, ii) Water Supply iii) Sanitation, iv) Urban focus, v) Roads and Bridges, vi) Transportation vii) Forestry, viii) Animal Husbandry, ix) Fisheries, x) Livelihoods, and xi) Land. The Cross cutting sectors in the RKDP includes i) Disaster Risk Management and

Resilience, ii) Environment and Climate Change, iii) Strengthening Institutional Efficiency and iv) Resilience and Open Data. Currently the RKI is also involved in implementing projects through Nava Keralam (New Kerala). The four recovery pillars of RKI for implementing the Nava Keralam project includes i) Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) – Creating 'Room for the River' and 'Living with Water', ii) Eco-sensitive and Risk-informed Land Use and Settlements Approach, iii) Inclusive and People-centered Approach — 'Leaving No One Behind', iv) Promoting Knowledge, Innovation, and Technology. In 2021, the government introduced projects of Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi-2 (New Kerala) with RKI based on the 4 development missions namely 1) Aardram for creating people-friendly public healthcare system, 2) LIFE mission to provide housing and sustainable livelihoods for all homeless families in Kerala., 3) Haritha Keralam which intends to promote waste management, water conservation, and promoting eco-friendly agricultural practices. 4) Vidyakiranam (Formerly the Public Education Protection Mission,) aims to transform public schools into centers of excellence through advanced technology and infrastructure. The RKI is the 5th mission of the Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi-2. The idea is to co-ordinate the flood re-construction work with the longer-term social development goals, so that the two programmes reinforce each other.

Financing of Rebuild Kerala Development Programme (RKDP)

The Rebuild Kerala Development Programmes (RKDP) estimated a total requirement of Rs 36,500 crore for period 2019 to 2027. For timely implementation of the RKI projects, Plan fund has earmarked of Rs 1,000 crore each in 2019-20 and 2020-21, Rs 1,830 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1,600 crore in 2022-23, Rs 904.83 crore in 2023-24, Rs 1,000 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 1,000 crore in 2025-26. Funds are being released based on the requirement specified by Departments or Implementing Agencies. Rs1,00,000 lakh was allocated in the State budget in 2025-26, of which Rs 63289.54lakh (63.28 per cent) was recorded as expenditure. The state budget details of outlay and expenditure of projects under RKI for the year 2025-26 are given in **Table 11.6.1**. The scheme-wise details of outlay and expenditure from RKI Department for the period from 2019-20 to 2025-26 are furnished in **Appendix 11.6.1**.

The Government of Kerala finance the Rebuild Kerala Development Programme through the initiatives as under :

- The State Budget comprised of plan and non-plan allocations. This include assistance from multilateral agencies including World Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), and other bilateral agencies such as the German Development Bank (KfW), French Development Agency (AFD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- Deployment of Flexi-Fund under the Central Government Schemes
- Mobilisation of fund through Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF)
- Funding through NABARD Infrastructure

Development Assistance (NIDA).

- HUDCO and other means of loans
- Private and non-traditional sources of institutional and retail financing including Masala bonds, Diaspora bonds and various other private sector financial sources.

Broad Funding Pattern of RKI

The overall budget requirement for Rebuild Kerala Development Programme is Rs 36,500 crores for the period from 2019 to 2027. The priority of RKDP was presented in the 'Development Partners Conclave' organized on 15-7-2019 in Thiruvananthapuram for financial support. The World Bank offered financial assistance through Development Policy Loan (DPL) for Kerala's resilient recovery from the devastating floods implemented through two Development Policy Operations (DPOs). DPO1 was operational, the request for DPL2 was rejected by the GoI due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Program for Results (PforR) is intended to convert the policy actions under the DPO1 into results. This programme is implemented over a period of five years (2021-26). It is financed by IBRD for an amount of US\$125 million, by AIIB for an amount of US\$ 125 million and by AFD for an amount of US\$ 120 million. The total amount is \$ 370 million.

Progress of schemes under RKI

There are 124 projects under RKI implemented from 2019-20 to 2025-26, for which Administrative Sanction was accorded for an amount of Rs 8993.16 crore. The details of these projects are provided in **Appendix 11.6.2**. At present there are 27 projects completed under RKI, 9 projects nearing completion and 2 ongoing projects. The details of completed projects are provided in **Appendix 11.6.3**.

Table 11.6.1. Outlay and Expenditure of projects under RKI, 2025-26, Rs in lakh

Sl. No	Scheme Name	Budget Outlay	Expenditure (as on 01.12.2025)	Expenditure (in percent)
1	Roads of Local Self Government (RKI)	12875.54	2866.81	22.27
2	Livelihood Support (RKI)	2145.92	431.02	20.09
3	PWD Roads and Bridges (RKI)*	51502.15	40668.4	78.96
4	Public Buildings-Major Repairs and Reconstruction (RKI)	8583.69	7038.74	82
5	Water Supply (RKI)	6437.77	4133.56	64.21
6	Water Supply (RKI) - World Bank aided	17167.38	7181.17	41.83
7	Disaster Preparedness (RKI)	1287.55	969.84	75.32
Total		100000	63289.54	63.28

Source: Plan Space, 2025, * Expenditure includes Rs.19872.39 lakh of KfW Aided PWD Roads and Bridges.

Achievements of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) up to 2025-26

Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, a total of 18 works of KSTP/PWD have been successfully completed as on October, 2025. In the LSGD road category, around 460 works were sanctioned, of which 346 have been completed. As part of the Digital Resurvey in the State, 312 villages have been covered with RKI support in Phase I. A comprehensive stream mapping exercise using GIS and GPS technologies was successfully undertaken in 230 Local Self Governments located in Kerala's highland regions, generating positive externalities in eco conservation, watershed management, and disaster risk reduction. As part of the postflood reconstruction of public assets, RKI undertook the rebuilding of 254 village offices and 37 other revenue buildings across the State, of which 239 village offices and 22 revenue buildings have been completed.

Key Policies

RKI has facilitated the policy formulation and policy development for key departments and the following policies have been framed and approved:

- The State Government entrusted the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) with the task of planning and implementing a rebuilding strategy for the State and issued comprehensive guidelines for the operational strategy and institutional framework for RKI.
- To strengthen fiscal sustainability, the Government of Kerala has: (a) issued a Government Order increasing the valuation of land as per the Kerala Stamp Act by a hundred percent (100 per cent); (b) issued a Government Order whereby valuation of buildings will be enhanced; and (c) issued a Government Order designating KIIFB to act as the nodal agency for mobilising private retail finance for resilient recovery efforts through a Diaspora Bond.
- The Government of Kerala has issued a Government Order delegating the Department of Agriculture to develop, plan and budget based on agro ecological zones and agro ecological units in accordance with the State's fourth year program (2020-21) of the 13th Five Year Plan (2017-2022).
- The Government of Kerala has (a) adopted a performance-based management contract model for the core road network, incorporating design and performance standards and disaster-related emergency response module; and (b)

initiated institutional streamlining in the road sector through the liquidation of certain non-essential road sector agencies and the transfer of their mandate and assets to the Public Works Department and developing a new Centre of Excellence in the road sector by restructuring the Kerala Highway Research Institute.

- The Government of Kerala has adopted a State Sanitation and Waste Management Strategy, incorporating cost-effective septage and waste management models. The Government of Kerala has (a) issued Government Orders banning the manufacture, storage, transport, and usage of single-use plastic items to reduce plastic waste; (b) approved an integrated solid waste management strategy for sustainable management of solid waste by local self-governments; and (c) a draft Liquid Waste Management Policy for the State has been prepared and submitted to the Government for approval after stakeholder consultation.
- The Government of Kerala has instituted sustainable risk-informed urban planning and multiyear municipal infrastructure planning through (i) approval of the draft amendment of the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Act by the Council of Ministers and (ii) the issuance of a Government Order on revision of annual planning guidelines to finance priority multiyear municipal infrastructure projects.
- As part of the Resilient Kerala Development Programme For Results (PForR), for which RKI is the Project Management Unit (PMU), the GoK has taken up the below initiatives.

Adoption of a Debt Management Plan: To strengthen the Government of Kerala's ability to deal with contingent liabilities due to natural disasters and disease outbreaks, the Department of Finance has commenced formulating a debt management plan and establishment of a debt management unit to scale down the State's debt-to-GSDP ratio to a sustainable path.

Unified database: As part of developing a comprehensive Disaster Risk Financing (DRF) framework that strengthens the financial resilience of the Government and the communities, Government of Kerala is developing a unified database of vulnerable households and a payment platform which triggers post-disaster safety net payments to the bank account of eligible beneficiaries on time.

Forward Works Program: The Government of Kerala aims to implement a Forward Works

Programme (FWP) for the maintenance of around 6,000 km of road (Core Road Network) in the Pamba Basin using data, such as the condition and evaluation of the road surveyed, which is fed into the Road Maintenance Management System (RMMS). Accordingly, the Government of Kerala plans to allocate a budget for the maintenance of roads as per the Forward Works Programme (FWP).

One Health Approach: An integrated One Health Approach to diagnose, track, and respond to disease outbreaks is being implemented State-wide to reduce adverse population and animal health impacts of zoonotic diseases.

Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance: To improve the disaster risk financing and insurance capacity of the State Government and vulnerable households in Kerala, the Government of Kerala aims to mobilise market-based resources as a disaster risk financing instrument to complement the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF). Additionally, approximately 33,922 farmers from the Pamba basin have also been registered under the State crop insurance scheme

Risk-informed Urban Master Plans: The Department of Country and Town Planning (LSGD-CTP) and Kerala Institute for Local Administration (KILA) in coordination with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) has down-scaled the climatic models and provided the information to all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of the State. Further, the Government of Kerala has developed and notified the guidelines for RIMPs for developing effective Risk Informed Master Plans (RIMPs) and Disaster Climate Action Tracker (DCAT) tool for incentivising the ULBs in the form of performance grants. Training modules have been prepared for the ULBs.

Flood forecasting and integrated reservoir operation systems: The Water Resources Department has developed a Flood Forecasting and Integrated Reservoir Operation Systems for the Pampa basin for giving early flood warnings to the public through the KSDMA.

Shoreline Management Plan : For developing a holistic catchment to coast approach to water resilience, the Water Resources Department is in the process of identifying agencies for formulating Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

Environment Budget Tagging: In order to enhance the state's efforts toward climate transition and disaster resilience, the GoK,

introduced 'Environment Budget' for the year 2022-23 and subsequently, for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

11.7 KERALA INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND BOARD (KIIFB)

The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) is a financial institution established to mobilise funds for major infrastructure projects. Originally constituted in 1999, it was revitalised in 2016 to address funding gaps in large scale infrastructure such as roads, hospitals, and educational institutions. The Board raises funds through innovative financial instruments and works with State and Central public sector agencies as Special Purpose Vehicles to support infrastructure development.

Spectrum of Projects

The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) funds a vast spectrum of critical and large-scale projects in both physical and social infrastructure sectors across Kerala. Major physical infrastructure initiatives include the transformative Coastal and Hill Highways, the Transgrid 2.0 power transmission project, and major industrial parks like the Petrochemical and Pharma Park. On the social front, KIIFB has revolutionised public services by financing the Hi-Tech School Programme (creating smart classrooms) and substantial upgrades to the healthcare system, alongside projects in water resources, inland navigation, and IT like the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON).

KIIFB undertakes various infrastructure development projects as well as projects exclusively for land acquisition. As of March,

2025, it approved 1,149 infrastructure projects and 7 land acquisition projects to the tune of Rs 88,070.26 crore in sectors including healthcare, education, roads and transportation, irrigation and water supply, power, ports, inland navigation, drainage and solid waste management. Under the land acquisition pool, 7 massive land acquisition projects worth Rs 20,000 crore has been approved so far. In 2024-25, KIIFB had approved 46 infrastructure projects worth Rs 1,079.10 crore. Consolidated details of project approved by KIIFB are shown in **Table 11.7.1** and the status of projects approved by KIIFB (department-wise) are given in **Appendix 11.7.1**.

The projects funded through KIIFB are at various stages of development. 513 projects worth Rs 33,460.74 crore are related to Public Works Department (PWD), including the Hill Highway, Coastal Highway projects and the Anakkampoyil - Kalladi-Meppadi (AM) Tunnel Road (which is an 8.735 km long four-lane tunnel including approach roads on both sides for providing connectivity between Anakkampoyil in the Kozhikode District and Meppadi in Wayanad District in Kerala). The AM tunnel would a reliable, safe, all-weather road connectivity alternative to the Thamaraserry Ghat road. KIIFB has approved an amount of Rs 2,134.50 crore for the Project.

Table 11.7.1 Consolidated details of KIIFB Approved Projects, as on March 31, 2025, Rs in crore

Type of Project	FY2022-23		FY2023-24		FY2024-25		Total (FY2016-24)	
	No. of Projects Approved	Project Outlay (Rs. In Crore)	No. of Projects Approved	Project Outlay (Rs. in Crore)	No. of Projects Approved	Project Outlay (Rs. In Crore)	No. of Projects Approved	Project Outlay (Rs. In Crore)
Infrastructure Projects	94	8,392.75	50	2,541.66	46	1,079.10	1149	68,070.26
Projects under Land Acquisition Pool of Rs 20,000 Crore	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	20,000.00
Total	94	8,392.75	50	2,541.66	46	1,079.10	1156	88,070.26

Source: Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, Government of Kerala

The industrial policy released by the Department of Industries includes measures to bring a meaningful change in the industrial climate of the State. The Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) has initiated land acquisition for the Development of Industrial Infrastructure project across the Palakkad and Kannur districts. For this initiative, KIIFB has approved a total project outlay of Rs 12,710.00 crore, with land acquisition works currently in progress. As part of the project, a non-manufacturing cluster called 'Global Industrial Finance Trade (GIFT) City' is proposed to be developed as a business centre in Angamally in the Ernakulam District at a cost of Rs 840.00 crore.

Major share of KIIFB fund has been set aside for the roads and road transport sector, which total Rs 40,830.73 crore as of March 31, 2025. The Board has accorded sanction for Rs. 24,586.63 crore for various road and bridge projects. The details of KIIFB approved projects for the Road and Road Transport Sector is shown in **Table 11.7.2**.

Huge land acquisition costs posed major hurdle to the highway development in the State. This was resolved with the State Government agreeing to bear a part of the land acquisition cost for National Highway 66. Out of the total approved outlay of Rs 6,769.01 crore, Rs 5,580.74 crore has been transferred to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) in this regard. KIIFB has approved a total of Rs 3,538.00 crore for the Hill Highway project and some stretches of Hill Highway in Idukki, Kollam, and Kasaragode Districts have already been completed by the Kerala Road Fund Board (KRFB).

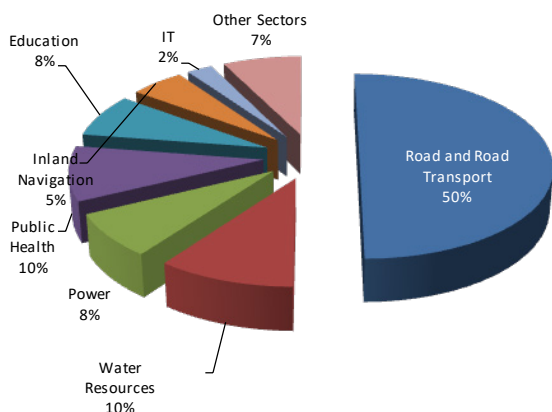
Water resources (Rs 6,911.99 crore) and Health & Family Welfare (Rs 6,503.88 crore) sectors follow the Road and Road Transport sector in terms of the share of allocation of KIIFB funds. Construction of groyne field project at various locations in Alappuzha is one of the important projects undertaken in water resources sector, estimated at Rs 262.48 crore. In addition

Table 11.7.2 KIIFB approved projects in Road and Road Transport Sector, as on March 31, 2025, Rs in crore

Sl.No	Name of Project	Amount
1	Coastal Highway	3,201.61
2	Hill Highway	3,538.00
3	Anakkampoyil Kalladi- Meppadi(AM) Tunnel Road	2,134.50
4	Other Roads and Bridges Projects	24,586.63
5	Road Transport Projects	600.98
6	Land Acquisition for NH Development	6,769.01
Total		40,830.73

Source: Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, Government of Kerala

Figure 11.7.1 Sector-wise KIIFB funding, as on March 31, 2025, in per cent



Source: Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, Government of Kerala

construction of regulator cum bridge and replacement of transmission mains and drinking water projects have been taken up under KIIFB. Details of KIIFB funding for approved projects under various sectors is illustrated in **Figure 11.7.1**.

Kerala State Electricity Board Limited (KSEBL) has started the plan for Transgrid 2.0 with a mission to enhance the reliability and security of electricity transmission system and to reduce system losses with minimum disturbance to the environment and the public and a green vision for better energy management. KIIFB allocated Rs 5,200 crore for the Transgrid 2.0 plan.

KIIFB has approved Rs 6,503.88 crore for health and family welfare, including projects in Ayush. This is 9.5 per cent of the total projects approved by the KIIFB. It includes projects for the development of 55 Hospitals across the State, including Taluk Hospitals, General Hospitals, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Speciality hospitals like Cochin Cancer Centre and Speciality Hospital at Matannur. An amount of Rs 69.06 crore has been approved for the establishment of International Research Institute of Ayush (Phase1). A total of 45 dialysis centres, Isolation wards in 49 locations, 9 cardiac care unit and 9 cath labs have been completed using kiifb fund.

KIIFB approved an amount of Rs 5,152.78 crore to the education sector, of which Rs 3,217.58 crore is earmarked for the General Education

sector and Rs 1,935.20 crore has been set aside for projects in Higher Education sector. An amount of Rs 493.50 crore has been spent for the completion of Hi-Tech Classroom in the education sector. An amount of Rs 299.49 crore has been spent for the completion of 34 college buildings.

In the Higher Education Sector, the project for the renovation of 55 Arts and Science Colleges has been approved by KIIFB. Out of these, 5 colleges will be developed as part of the development of heritage college scheme. Among the 5 colleges taken up for development, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) receive the major share of Rs 241.72 crore for upgrading it as the Centre of Excellence in academics and research. An amount of Rs 93.61 crore has been earmarked for augmentation of infrastructure facilities at heritage colleges in Kerala (Palakkad, Ernakulum, Trissur, Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram).

The K-FON (Kerala Fiber Optic Network) project, approved by KIIFB in 2017-18 with a total outlay of Rs 1061.73 crore, is progressing at a fast pace. The Phase 1 has been completed, resulting in 14,115 connections (up to July 31, 2025) for Economically Weaker Households (EWH). The project is conceived to provide better network connectivity to rural area and will setup a State-wide core optical fibre network capable of efficient service delivery, assured Quality of Service (QoS), reliability, redundancy and security for meeting future bandwidth demands. It provides access to all service providers and will connect more than 30,000 Government institutions and provide free internet to economically backward families and subsidised internet service for others. KIIFB is also funding in the IT sector for the setting up of Digital Science Park under Kerala University of digital science in innovation and technology at a project cost Rs. 212.87 crore.

KIIFB has been funding 41 projects worth Rs 879.50 crore in the Sports sector, including the multipurpose stadiums in 14 districts, Panchayat stadiums, and construction of sports facility centre in G.V. Raja centre of excellence. As of March, 2025, KIIFB has approved tourism projects worth Rs 618.96 crore which includes rejuvenation of Akkulam Lake and its Watershed at a cost of Rs 117.51 crore, Alappuzha heritage Project(Rs.97.47 crore), 20 tourism destination project(Alappuzha

Box 11.7.1 KIIFB @ 25: The Transformative Bridge to Kerala's Future

The Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), initially constituted in 1999 and structurally revitalised in 2016, marks its twenty-fifth anniversary. This innovative financing model has been crucial in accelerating projects across vital social and physical infrastructure sectors, providing a major impetus to growth. KIIFB acts as a transformative bridge to Kerala's goal of becoming a knowledge economy by addressing the State's historical infrastructure deficit. Its completed work showcases significant sector-wise achievements, including the modernisation of the education sector with 524 school buildings and over 56,000 Hi-Tech classrooms and labs, key healthcare infrastructure additions like 3 Taluk Hospitals and 2 General Hospitals, and crucial social infrastructure including 20 Stadiums and 49 Sub Registrar Offices. In terms of funding, Public Works received the highest allocation, reflecting the significant focus on upgrading road networks and public assets, followed by substantial allocations for the Industries and Water Resources sectors. These major funding decisions underscore KIIFB's priority on enhancing core economic enablers like connectivity and industrial capacity. This strategic, integrated development approach is further exemplified by projects fostering multi-modal industrial and logistics corridors, such as the proposed Vizhinjam-Kollam-Punalur Growth Triangle, which aims to drive investment, manufacturing, and exports, laying the essential foundation for Kerala's transition into a high-skill, innovation-driven, and future-ready economy.

Source:

and Kannur) and Thalassery heritage project (Rs.62.91 crore). It also funds projects in the Cultural sector (Rs.499.12 crore) including construction of 9 theatre complexes and 7 cultural complexes and development and the expansion of Chitranjali studio into a film city.

Performance of Project Implementation

KIIFB has completed projects worth Rs 21,881.42 crore as on March 31, 2025. KIIFB has released Rs 6,467.12 crore for funding infrastructure projects and land acquisition. Rs 34,823.61 crore has been disbursed towards various projects including land acquisition, as on March 31, 2025. The details of KIIFB's fund disbursement is provided in **Table 11.7.3**.

Table 11.7.3 Disbursement of KIIFB Approved Projects under Infrastructure Projects and Land Acquisition pool from 2016-17 to 2024-25, Rs in crore

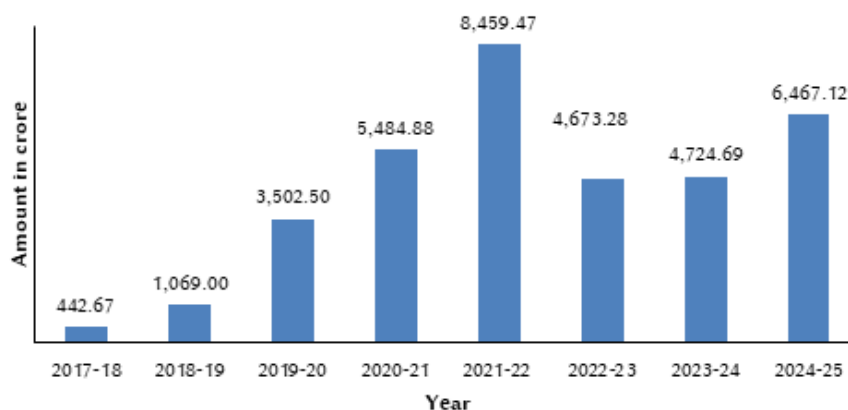
Sl. No	Projects	Amount disbursed*
1	Infrastructure Projects	23,421.24
2	Projects under Land Acquisition Pool	11,402.37
Total		34,823.61*

* as on 31.03.2025

Source: Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, Government of Kerala

KIIFB has disbursed an amount of Rs 11,402.37 crore exclusively on land acquisition projects which

Figure 11.7.2 Annual amount disbursed by KIIFB, as on March, 31, 2025, Rs in crore



Source: Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board, Government of Kerala

constitutes 32.7 per cent of the total disbursement of which, Rs 5,580.74 was for the land acquisition for National Highway 66. Apart from the Rs 1,708.83 crore for the Transgrid 2.0 in 10 locations, KIIFB also funds an amount of Rs 1,479.23 crore for the development of Petro Chemical Park & Industrial Park, and Life Science Park in Thiruvananthapuram and for the development of Global city as part of Kochi Bengaluru Industrial Corridor KBIC(Land acquisition). Total amount disbursed by KIIFB as on March 31, 2025 is given in **Figure 11.1.2**.

KIIFB's has been successful in mobilising substantial extra budgetary resources necessary to boost public capital expenditure and stimulate economic activity in Kerala. By channelling funds into critical infrastructure projects, KIIFB has significantly contributed to both short-term demand generation and the long-term enhancement of the State's productive capacity.

11.8 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PACKAGES

KASARAGOD DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

The Kasaragod Development Package aims to ensure integrated development of the district through a multi sectoral approach. The Government of Kerala constituted the *Dr. P. Prabhakaran Commission* to prepare a long term development plan. The Commission assessed socio-economic conditions, identified backward sectors, and proposed interventions that form the basis of the development package.

Financial Outlay of the project

The package envisaged a total investment of Rs 11,123.07 crore, distributed among different stakeholders as follows:

- Government of Kerala – Rs 2,524.56 crore
- Government of India – Rs 756.19 crore
- External Agencies – Rs 543.00 crore
- Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) – Rs 7,264.16 crore
- Other Sources – Rs 35.16 crore

Formulation, Administration & Implementation of the Package

As per G.O (Rt) No. 373/2014/Plg dated 13.08.2014, the Government has issued detailed guidelines for the implementation of the Kasaragod Development Package. A District Level Committee (DLC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the District Collector to accord Administrative Sanction for projects with an outlay below Rs 5 crore under the Kasaragod Development Package, vide G.O.(Rt) No.337/2019/P&EA dated 25.07.2019.

At the State level, a State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC), chaired by the Chief Secretary and with the State Planning Board as a key member, regularly reviews the progress of implementation and is entrusted with approving projects having an outlay exceeding Rs 5 crore. In both committees (SLEC/DLC), Administrative Sanction shall be issued only after obtaining the remarks and concurrence of the State Planning Board, ensuring alignment with overall State development priorities and policy directions.

The State Planning Board thus plays a pivotal role in scrutinizing, coordinating, and guiding the implementation of all projects under the Kasaragod Development Package, ensuring that each proposal aligns with the broader developmental objectives of the State.

Since its inception in 2013-14, a cumulative allocation of Rs 1,00,195.00 lakh has been made in the State Budget towards the implementation of the package up to 2024-25. During this period, 741 projects with a total outlay of Rs 97,595.01 lakh were sanctioned. Among these, 540 projects have been completed, while 201 projects are in different stages of execution. The year-on-year variation in expenditure and physical targets was primarily attributable to the pace of project completion and the nature of works undertaken.

Sector-wise Achievements

1. Health Sector

- Up gradation of PHCs, FHCs, and CHCs with new building facilities, modern medical

equipment, electrical and electronic accessories, and sewage treatment plants.

- Installation of electrification facilities, construction of compound walls, and provision of essential infrastructure in health institutions.
- These interventions have significantly enhanced healthcare delivery, particularly benefiting rural and remote areas of the district.

2. Education Sector

- Many Government schools lacked modern infrastructure, adversely affecting the quality of education.
- Projects were taken up to provide classrooms, smart classrooms, laboratories, toilets, assembly halls, compound walls, and furniture.
- The initiatives helped in creating a conducive learning environment and improved access to modern educational facilities across the district.

3. Sports Sector

- The district was deficient in quality sports infrastructure.
- Projects were implemented for the creation of synthetic stadiums, multipurpose sports courts, and training facilities.
- Special emphasis was laid on nurturing talent through modern training facilities and qualified coaches, thereby enabling the youth to compete at state and national levels.

3. Agriculture and Water Resources Sector

- Major works included the construction of check dams, VCB's, SWECEBs, ring check dams, sheet check dams, and river rejuvenation projects
- These initiatives contributed towards raising groundwater levels, expanding irrigated areas, promoting water conservation, and increasing agricultural productivity.

4. Other Sectors

- Investments were also directed towards animal husbandry, harbour engineering, industries, social justice and tourism.
- The interventions aimed at strengthening livelihood opportunities, improving infrastructure, and ensuring balanced growth across the district.

Impact

The Kasaragod Development Package has acted as a catalyst for inclusive development by addressing long-standing infrastructural gaps and social sector

deficiencies. By focusing on physical infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings, health facilities) and social infrastructure (schools, healthcare, sports, social justice), the package has substantially improved the quality of life for the people of Kasaragod.

Financial Progress (as on 31.08.2025) (in lakh)

Financial Year	Budgeted Outlay	A.S. Amount	Expenditure
2013-14	2500.00	2790.67	2390.81
2014-15	7500.00	9332.94	6210.80
2015-16	8500.00	9751.49	5711.93
2016-17	8798.00	14299.84	8243.30
2017-18	9000.00	7629.72	3307.33
2018-19	9500.00	7882.22	275.27
2019-20	9065.00	9048.73	2102.91
2020-21	7500.00	7500.00	4932.17
2021-22	7832.00	7892.57	6480.64
2022-23	7500.00	7477.77	5305.78
2023-24	7500.00	6315.74	7172.12
2024-25	7500.00	6999.44	6958.97
2025-26	7500.00	673.88	1374.64
Total	100195.00	97595.01	60466.67

Source: District Administration, Kasaragod

Financial Year	Projects Sanctioned	Projects Completed	On-going Projects
2013-14	28	28	0
2014-15	24	23	1
2015-16	76	75	1
2016-17	81	80	1
2017-18	62	58	4
2018-19	78	74	4
2019-20	54	49	5
2020-21	69	58	11
2021-22	62	41	21
2022-23	60	32	28
2023-24	61	12	49
2024-25	84	10	74
2025-26	2	0	2
Total	741	540	201

Source: District Administration, Kasaragod

FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

Kasaragod Medical College

The foundation stone of Kasaragod Medical College was laid in the year 2014. Till date, seven projects amounting to Rs 71.38 crore have been sanctioned for the institution. It is noteworthy that the functioning of the Medical College, established with financial support from the Kasaragod Development Package, is scheduled to commence during the current year. This may be considered as a significant achievement under the Package.

Mission Anganwadi

Out of a total of 1378 Anganwadis functioning in the district, 145 centres are without own buildings. With the objective of providing modern facilities to these centres, a scheme titled *Mission Anganwadi* was formulated and implemented under the Package. Through the successful implementation of this initiative, the district has been conferred with the State Government Award for excellence in the functioning of the Department of Women and Child Development.

Munnottu Project

The district of Kasaragod faces administrative constraints on account of shortage of officials in Government service, primarily due to inadequate representation of local candidates in the recruitments conducted by the Public Service Commission. To address this deficiency, a scheme titled *Munnottu* has been designed and implemented with the support of the District Employment Office. The scheme envisaged imparting special training to candidates from the district to enhance their competence for PSC examinations. Considerable progress has been achieved in this regard through the implementation of the project.

WAYANAD DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

The Wayanad Package is a special development package formulated for the comprehensive advancement of Wayanad district. In order to address the persistent backwardness of the region, the Government has resolved to allocate an additional amount of Rs 75 crore annually as the Wayanad Development Package, commencing

SECTOR WISE PROJECTS UNDER WAYANAD DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE SINCE 2022

Sl. No	Sector	Total		Completed		On going	
		No. of projects	AS Amount (in lakh)	No. of projects	AS Amount (in lakh)	No. of projects	AS Amount (in lakh)
01	Agriculture	3	710.00	0	0	3	710.00
02	Irrigation	1	373.00	0	0	1	373.00
03	Animal Husbandry & Dairy Development	3	1000.50	0	0	3	1000.50
04	Enhancing Public service delivery	4	1984.77	0	0	4	1984.77
05	Health	5	1582.31	1	250.00	4	1332.31
06	School Education	8	1878.70	0	0	8	1878.70
07	Higher Education	3	2272.70	0	0	3	2272.70
08	Technical Education	2	515.47	0	0	2	515.47
09	SC/ST Development	4	673.50	0	0	4	673.50
10	Tourism	2	232.50	2	232.50	0	0
11	Forest & Wildlife	4	594.23	0	0	4	594.23
12	Women & Child Development	5	125.00	0	0	5	125.00
13	Resettlement	1	500.00	0	0	1	500.00
Total		45	12442.68	3	482.5	42	11960.20

Source: District Administration, Wayanad

Physical Progress

Wayanad Development Package – Physical progress as on 31.08.2025			
Financial year	No. of Project sanctioned	No. of Project completed	No. of On-going Projects in progress
2022-23	11	2	9
2023-24	4	0	4
2024-25	29	1	28
2025-26	1	0	1
Total	45	3	42

Source: District Administration, Wayanad

Financial Progress

Wayanad Development Package – Financial progress as on 31.08.2025			
Financial year	Budget Outlay (in lakh)	AS amount (in lakh)	Expenditure (in lakh)
2022-23	7500.00	2109.00	0.00
2023-24	7500.00	3536.48	0.00
2024-25	7500.00	6297.20	706.65
2025-26	8500.00	500.00	653.14
Total	31000.00	12442.68	1359.79

Source: District Administration, Wayanad

from 2022-23. In this context, particular emphasis is being placed on key and priority sectors. An integrated approach is adopted to ensure forward and backward linkages, address critical gaps, enhance price realization, and market access for the farming community, improve income and livelihood opportunities, strengthen quality service delivery, promote ecological restoration, and support research and development. The District Collector is the Coordinator and the District Development Commissioner is the Special Officer of the projects ensuring implementation of the projects.

Government have constituted a District Level Committee (DLC) under the Chairmanship of the District Collector to accord administrative sanction for projects with an outlay below Rs 5 crore under the Wayanad Package. At the State level, a State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary with the Member Secretary, State Planning Board and the Chief, Agriculture Division, State Planning Board as members, regularly reviews the progress of implementation and is entrusted with approving projects with an outlay exceeding Rs 5 crore. Further, a District Level Technical Committee

under the Chairmanship of the District Collector is authorised to grant technical sanction for works under the Package, without any financial limit.

As such, during the years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, administrative sanction was accorded to 45 proposals for a total amount of Rs 124.43 crore. Out of these, 3 projects have been completed, while the remaining projects are at various stages of implementation.

Flagship Projects

- Under this Package, a CT-Simulator has been installed at the Nalloorad Tribal Speciality Hospital, the sole cancer care centre in the district, at a cost of Rs 6.86 crore. This constitutes a significant advancement in the health sector, ensuring that patients are no longer required to travel outside the district for availing this facility.
- An amount of Rs 1.20 crore has been sanctioned under this Package for establishing an Online Examination Centre at Government Engineering College, Mananthavady. The work has reached its final stage and the facility is

expected to become operational shortly. Once commissioned, it will serve as a major support to candidates appearing for various online examinations by providing state-of-the-art infrastructure within the district itself, thereby strengthening the educational ecosystem of Wayanad.

- A G-Gaiter Robotic Gait Trainer has been installed at the Noolpuzha Family Health Centre at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore under this Package. This advanced facility is a valuable asset to the health sector, particularly for paralyzed and differently-abled patients with mobility impairments. The availability of such a device in a backward district like Wayanad will provide significant relief to patients by enabling improved rehabilitation and reducing the need to seek such specialized care outside the district.
- Man-animal conflict continues to be a critical challenge in Wayanad district. To address this issue effectively, solar-powered hanging fences have been provided as a sustainable preventive measure. An amount of Rs 5.94 crore has been sanctioned under this Package, representing a significant intervention to safeguard human lives, protect agricultural resources, and promote coexistence with wildlife. This initiative is expected to strengthen the district's resilience against human-wildlife conflicts and contribute to long-term, ecological and socio-economic stability.
- Tourism constitutes a significant source of revenue for the district. An allocation of Rs 2.35 crore has been made under this package for the development and promotion of the tourism sector. This investment is expected to substantially benefit the district's tourism industry.
- A special allocation of Rs 5 crore has been earmarked for the Marianad Resettlement Project in Wayanad district for the financial year 2025-26. Administrative sanction has been accorded, and all subsequent actions are being executed expeditiously to ensure timely and effective implementation.

IDUKKI DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

The State Government has sanctioned a Special Development Package for the sustainable development of Idukki District, with the objective of addressing the unique developmental challenges faced by the district. This initiative aims to ensure balanced and inclusive growth by focusing on social, economic, and environmental sustainability. An amount of Rs 7,500 lakh has been earmarked annually since 2022-23 for the implementation of projects under this package.

The Government of Kerala vide G.O. (Rt) No. 08/2023/P&EA dated 23.03.2023, has issued detailed guidelines for the effective implementation and monitoring of projects under the Idukki Development Package. Further, as per G.O.(Rt) No. 09/2023/P&EA dated 25.03.2023, a District Level Committee (DLC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the District Collector to accord Administrative Sanction for projects with an outlay below Rs 5 crore under the Package.

At the State level, a State Level Empowered Committee (SLEC) under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary with the Member Secretary, State Planning Board and the Chief, Agriculture Division, State Planning Board as members, regularly reviews the progress of implementation and is entrusted with approving projects having an outlay exceeding Rs 5 crore.

In addition, a District Level Technical Committee (DLTC) has been constituted vide G.O. (Ms) No. 11/2024/P&EA dated 20.07.2024 under the Chairmanship of the District Collector, which is authorized to accord Technical Sanction for works under the Package, without any financial limit.

Since the commencement of the Package, 27 projects amounting to Rs 108.88 crore have been sanctioned, and all projects are currently at various stages of implementation. An expenditure of Rs 2.916 crore has been incurred so far on the ongoing projects.

The Idukki Development Package encompasses a range of major infrastructure and social sector projects aimed at improving the district's overall socio-economic conditions. Notable among these are the Vandiperiyar Canal Rejuvenation and Flood Protection Works, which seek to mitigate recurring flood risks and ensure sustainable water

management; and the infrastructure development of Government Schools and the Engineering College, aimed at enhancing the quality of education through improved facilities.

The development of the Government Ayurveda Medical College focuses on strengthening the traditional healthcare sector by upgrading academic and clinical infrastructure. The construction of Working Women's and Men's Hostels at Painavu provides much-needed accommodation facilities for employees and students in the district headquarters area.

Further, the installation of solar fencing in human-animal conflict areas is intended to safeguard rural communities and farmlands from wildlife intrusion, promoting coexistence and livelihood security. Other significant initiatives include the construction of bridges to improve connectivity in remote regions; the establishment of modern laboratories in Government College, Kattappana, to support advanced learning and research; the construction of Model Anganwadis to strengthen early childhood care and education; and the construction of staff quarters for Government Polytechnic College, Nedumkandam, to address staff accommodation needs and improve institutional functioning.

Collectively, these projects reflect a holistic approach towards the sustainable and inclusive development of Idukki District, addressing critical gaps in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and community welfare.

SABARIMALA MASTER PLAN

The Sabarimala Master Plan approved in 2007, envisages the comprehensive development of the Sabarimala temple and its surrounding region located mostly in the Periyar forest reserve. The objective of the Sabarimala Master Plan is to provide sustainable basic infrastructure facilities to the pilgrims and to protect livelihood security of the people while safeguarding the environment. The pilgrim's comfort, sanitation and safety are the three major concerns. A High Power Committee has been constituted by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala to co-ordinate, implement and monitor the various projects of the Master Plan. Pampa, Sannidhanam, and Nilakkal are the key areas that need to be developed.

The Sabarimala Master Plan has completed key projects including *Darshan* Complex, Godown for Storage of *Prasadam* Articles, a Sewage treatment plant, *Annadanam* Block, Q complex, and water storage tanks. The ongoing projects include the development of police infrastructure, establishment of ropeway for conveyance of materials from Pampa to Sannidhanam and installation of a bio-gas plant. Upcoming plans focus on development of Core Area at Nilakkal and a rescue bridge. The Government has approved the lay out plan for the development of Sannidhanam, Pampa, and Trekk Route with a total outlay of Rs.1,033.62 crore. For conducting various infrastructure activities, Rs 2760.00 lakh was allocated for 2024-25.

CHAPTER

12

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND DECENTRALISED
PLANNING

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND DECENTRALISED PLANNING

Kerala has been a pioneer in ensuring and strengthening the role of democratic decentralisation in social and economic development since its formation. Administrative reforms have strengthened local governments by increasing authority and resources. The People's Plan Programme introduced in 1996 marked a major shift by placing local self government institutions at the centre of development planning. Devolution of functions, funds, and staff has supported participatory and need based planning.

Fiscal constraints during 2024–25 arose due to reduced and delayed central transfers. Despite these challenges, the State promoted growth through capital investment, sectoral revival, entrepreneurship support, and social security measures. Local self government institutions played a critical role in sustaining development at the grassroots level. Effective use of devolved funds, implementation of welfare and livelihood programmes, and convergence with State and Central initiatives contributed to employment generation, poverty reduction, and infrastructure development.

This chapter examines key initiatives undertaken by local self government institutions during the 14th Five Year Plan, with particular focus on 2024–25, including achievements and overall Plan performance.

Major initiatives in the 14th plan

In line with the priorities of the 14th FYP, the government has initiated the following programmes to enable the LSGIs to formulate and implement projects in key focus areas. Detailed guidelines were issued to facilitate this process at the local level, specifying mandatory allocations, suggesting probable resource integration, and providing specific guidelines to achieve the desired targets.

Local Economic Development-LED plan:

Regarding local economic development, Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs) had earlier focused mainly on a paradigm of providing subsidies, revolving funds, training, and basic infrastructure for employment-generating enterprises. Recognising the need for a comprehensive entrepreneurship-promoting ecosystem to enhance employment generation, LSGIs have now expanded their role to include financial assistance and advisory support for entrepreneurs. A range of support mechanisms—such as interest subsidies, technology transfer and upgradation funds, innovation and incubation funds, crisis management funds, and seed support schemes—have been introduced to strengthen enterprise development at the local level. New institutional arrangements, including entrepreneurship and employment facilitation centres, technical committees at the district

levels to validate projects, and help desks, have been established to facilitate the formation of enterprises. With these initiatives, LSGIs are expected to function as single-window facilitation centres, integrating entrepreneurship development, skilling, self-employment, and employment generation. This marks a significant advancement in local governance in Kerala.

The Government of Kerala had declared 2022-23 as the year of entrepreneurship to start one lakh micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state. This campaign garnered significant attention, and within 245 days, the target was achieved, with 119,839 new MSMEs established in the state, resulting in the generation of 300,049 jobs. In 2023-24, another 1 lakh enterprises were started (103,596 enterprises), generating employment for 2.18 lakh people. The 'Year of Enterprises 3.0' is the third edition of the flagship initiative by the Department of Industries, Government of Kerala. This ambitious programme aimed to establish at least 1,00,000 enterprises in the state during the financial year 2024-2025. Building on the successful systems established over the past two years, this initiative aimed to further strengthen enterprise facilitation and introduce various attractive support measures to foster a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in the State. As of January 12, 2026, there were 3,82,011 MSMEs established in the state, generating employment for 8,14,627 individuals..

In addition, professionally qualified interns were recruited and deployed in local bodies—one in each Grama Panchayat and one for every 20 wards in Municipalities and Corporations. They are supposed to support entrepreneurs in obtaining licenses, subsidies, and loans, preparing bankable projects, and accessing technology with the help of relevant agencies. They will be coordinated by Industrial Extension Officers of the District and Taluk Industries Centres. Help desks have also been established across LSGIs to support the public and entrepreneurs.

The Industries Department has also established MSME Clinics, supported by 168 empanelled subject-matter experts, to provide guidance on marketing, finance, GST, exports, banking, licensing, legal, and technical matters. To further strengthen local-level facilitation, all 59 Taluk Industries Centres have been upgraded to Enterprise Facilitation Centres, equipped

with professionally qualified resource persons. It is essential to note that all these initiatives by the Department of Industries can now be complemented and strengthened by the new institutional mechanisms for entrepreneurship development established at the LSGIs, thereby enhancing local economic development more systematically.

Sustaining Waste-Free Kerala Initiatives:

Waste management has been the prime focus of the LSGIs during the last decade. The Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi, launched in 2017, envisioned sustainable and scientific waste management, led by the Haritha Keralam Mission. The Navakeralam Vrithiyulla Keralam State Action Plan (2022) had set a goal to make Kerala garbage- and litter-free by 2025, through annual pre-monsoon cleaning drives and related measures. However, following the unexpected Brahmapuram garbage blaze and the subsequent directives of the Hon'ble High Court, efforts were significantly accelerated through the Malinyamuktham Navakeralam (Garbage-Free New Kerala) campaign, implemented in three phases. Phase I of the campaign (March 15 -June 5, 2023) focused on ensuring 100% segregation of all waste at source, complete door-to-door collection of non-biodegradable waste, scientific processing of all biodegradable waste, cleanliness and hygiene of all public spaces and removal of garbage heaps, and the cleaning up of all water bodies and restoration of their ecological flow. Phase II of the campaign which drew to a close on November 30, 2023 primarily aimed at ensuring the essential infrastructure and systems to handle the increased incoming waste resulting from Phase I activities and at institutionalizing the improvements. Phase III till March 31, 2024 laid emphasis on sustaining the progress attained thus far, while also establishing a robust system for processing domestic hazardous waste, sanitary waste, construction and demolition waste, etc. The campaign focused on source segregation, infrastructure strengthening, and the sustainable management of all waste streams, including hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste, and legacy dumpsites. as on June 2025, there are 5 local bodies with sanitary waste treatment plants and 33 LBs are undertaking sanitary waste collection and transport to treatment plants.

In short, it devised extensive mechanisms to streamline waste management systems. Extensive

infrastructure has been created across the state, including mini-MCFs, MCFs, and RRFs, with further expansion underway. As of August 31st 2025, a total of 1350 MCFs and 20051 Mini MCFs and 205 RRFs have been operational across the state. As on June 2025, around 50,042 bins and 26967 bottle booths have been installed in public spaces. State-and district-level technical committees have been constituted to fast-track project approvals in this sector. Haritha Karma Senas, supported by Kudumbasree, lead door-to-door collection and segregation of non-biodegradable waste, with plastic waste being recycled, co-processed, or used in road construction. A total of 37765 Haritha Karma Senas have been deployed in 1034 LSGIs. Mandatory user fee collection has significantly expanded coverage, with many local bodies achieving high levels of household and institutional participation.

Source-level biodegradable waste management has been strengthened through the widespread adoption of household composting and the establishment of community-level facilities, such as biogas plants, composting units, and poultry waste rendering plants. 1574 community level biodegradable systems have been established. Garbage Vulnerable Points in the local body region have been identified, geo-tagged, and cleared, with strong enforcement mechanisms and citizen participation ensuring sustained cleanliness. Social audits, Haritha Sabhas, Children's Haritha Sabhas, NSS involvement, and deployment of young professionals have further strengthened transparency and community engagement.

The government has introduced policies and legal reforms to support waste management, including construction and demolition waste management, plastic waste management bylaws, and amendments to the Panchayat and Municipality Acts, which empower local bodies with stricter enforcement provisions. 90438 enforcement inspections have been conducted during January to June 2025 to detect waste management violations and an amount of Rs 8.55 crore has been imposed as fines for violations. Around 5410 locations have been brought under camera surveillance. New initiatives focus on public-private partnerships, green enterprises, extended producer responsibility, and improved management of specialized waste streams. Special emphasis has also been given to maintaining cleanliness in tourist destinations

and promoting public responsibility through the campaign slogan, "My Waste is My Responsibility."

As part of the campaign, LSGIs were given instructions to set up facilities in the area of liquid waste management, sanitary waste etc and expand the systems already established under solid waste management. As part of liquid waste management, as on June 2025, 32 STPs, 7 FSTPs and 11 Mobile Treatment units have been set up. More details are given on the section on Harithakeralam Mission in section 3.7

Kerala has witnessed unprecedented progress in waste management, the results of which are seen across the state. LSGIs have shown remarkable commitment to maintain their streets and public places clean by clearing dumping sites and preventing citizens from littering by means of surveillance and regulatory fines. There have also been earnest efforts to create awareness among the people, including children, on the importance of waste management focusing on habit changes, reward systems and peer influence. Household waste collection has also improved significantly. Waste management was also considered to be an opportunity for entrepreneurship and employment generation, which has been duly acknowledged by exclusive policy directives by the government. As a result of all these state-wide efforts, Kerala achieved a historic breakthrough in the Swachh Survekshan, with eight cities making it to the top 100 nationally for the first time, led by Kochi (Rank 50), a massive jump from its previous ranking, alongside Mattannur, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Alappuzha, Guruvayur, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kollam and 82 of 93 ULBs entering the top 1,000.

Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme:

As part of the government's resolve to eradicate extreme poverty in the state, the task of identifying the extremely poor was completed with people's participation. A total of 64,006 families were identified as extremely poor in the state. Concerted efforts of the various development departments and LSGIs through specific micro plans to provide food, shelter, livelihood, entitlement, and medical assistance were formulated based on the status of impoverishment and other key information collected from each identified household. The micro plans were zealously implemented by development departments under the leadership of LSGIs and on November 1st 2025, the

Honourable Chief Minister officially declared Kerala as a state free from Extreme Poverty. Details of the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme is given in Chapter 2.

Climate-Responsive and Disaster-Resilient Planning:

Local governments are crucial in disaster management as the first responders, responsible for implementing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery at the community level. Over the last few years, frequent natural disasters such as flood, coastal erosion, droughts, landslides have been affecting the state, posing serious challenges to livelihood security of common people and overall economic development. To mitigate the impact of such disasters and to improve disaster preparedness, it has been insisted that LSGIs mainstream climate resilience and disaster risk reduction into their annual planning processes. They include risk informed projects that reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity in sectors such as water resources, infrastructure, and agriculture, prioritise nature based solutions (such as watershed restoration, soil conservation, and greening) to strengthen ecological resilience, incorporate early warning systems, community preparedness measures, and evacuation planning into local development projects. To a considerable extent, Kerala has successfully created general awareness of the need to address climate-related issues.

As part of the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, the Government of Kerala has signed an agreement with the World Bank for the period 2021-2026. Based on this, the Programme for Results (PforR) funding programme supported by the World Bank in coordination with various international agencies focuses on LSGIs of Kerala. KILA also developed the DCAT (Disaster risk reduction and Climate Action Tracker) tool for steering and capacitating the LSGs towards achieving the goals and targets and to monitor the progress. An amount of Rs 49.10 cr have been awarded to 247 GPs and 18 Municipalities as performance incentive grant based on their score in DCAT in 2025-26.

Tourism

The 14th Five Year Plan places strong emphasis on tourism as a key driver for post-pandemic economic recovery. Accordingly, Local Self-Government Institutions (LSGIs), in collaboration with the Tourism Department, are implementing

programmes such as Destination Challenge, Responsible Tourism, and Sustainable, Tangible, Responsible Experiential Ethnic Tourism Hubs (STREET). These initiatives promote responsible and sustainable tourism to minimise environmental impacts while ensuring livelihood opportunities for local communities, especially in rural and remote areas. The programmes also aim to integrate tourism with other local development projects and boost domestic tourism, which has gained momentum since the pandemic. In 2024, Kerala's Responsible Tourism (RT) initiatives have once again placed the state in the national spotlight, receiving two prestigious awards on World Tourism Day for the Best RT Village and the Best Agri-tourism Village for the initiatives at Kadalundi and Kumarakom, respectively. This is the second consecutive year that Kerala has achieved top honours in the Tourism Village Awards, following Kanthalloor in Idukki district, which won the Gold Award in 2023.

Employment generation

Kerala has initiated several programmes to provide the youth with opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship, which would be implemented through the LSGIs. One such initiative is the Thozhil Sabha, a micro-level platform that identifies job seekers on a ward basis, following the Gram Sabha model, for job planning at the local government level. Thozhil Sabha has been conceived as a platform to help job seekers easily find jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities offered by various employment and entrepreneurship schemes of departments and government agencies, as well as private firms. The programme would help job seekers find jobs both within and outside the state, by imparting training as part of the Knowledge Economy Mission under Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC). This platform will also showcase Kudumbashree's new entrepreneurial movement, called She-Starts, which enables women to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The thozhil sabha programme was enhanced in the Vijnana Keralam initiative, a programme aimed at transforming the state into a knowledge-based economy by improving the skills of the youth and creating large-scale employment opportunities. This initiative is also implemented in collaboration with local governments. This programme, implemented under the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) and

coordinated by the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), focuses on providing internships, job-oriented training, and skill development of students and job seekers across the state. The local government have the responsibility of mobilising the unemployed youth, facilitating their registration, and helping organise skilling programmes as well.

Health Sector:

Since all institutions delivering primary care have been transferred to Grama Panchayats and Block Panchayats, the LSG plays a crucial leadership role in managing and coordinating primary care services within its jurisdiction. LSGs address direct health issues and other social determinants of health, such as environmental sanitation, access to drinking water, provision of essential nutrients, and housing. The population's health status report (HSR) is prepared by LSGs with the technical support of the Family Health Centre (FHC) team. The government has made earnest efforts to strengthen the healthcare system and bring it to the grassroots level by establishing public health and wellness centres, in addition to upgrading existing public health facilities, such as Primary Health Centres, Taluk Hospitals, and District Hospitals. In addition, the prevention of lifestyle diseases, setting up screening clinics, care for the elderly, and palliative care were given prime importance.

The involvement of local governments in improving primary healthcare has witnessed commendable improvement following the launch of the Ardrum Mission. Local governments in Kerala are now responsible for improving and maintaining the buildings of PHCs and sub-centres, purchasing drugs and medical equipment, employing doctors, nurses, and paramedical staff on contract, and supplementing the honorarium of ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers. They also serve as a bridge between the health department and civil society organisations, such as palliative care organisations, voluntary food programmes, and Kudumbashree health volunteers. They also play an important role in geriatric care, support individuals with disabilities, and finance special schools for children with cognitive disabilities. They are responsible for preventing vector-borne and waterborne infectious diseases. Given the local government's high level of involvement in health and related sectors, it was only natural that they played an important role in the fight against COVID-19.

Medical camps were started across local governments to contain the spread of communicable diseases. Currently, the Kerala TB Elimination Mission is implemented through the LSGs with a theme "My TB-free [name of LSG]". TB Elimination task forces, chaired by the head of the LSG, have been formed in all the Local Governments.

The comprehensive health schemes implemented by local self-government bodies, in cooperation with the Health Department, have had a significant impact on the health sector. Aardra Keralam awards were initiated, aimed at encouraging the LSGs to take up more health sector programmes and also to encourage all allied sectors, as well as people's representatives, to come together for implementing health projects. The local self-governments are evaluated based on the health budget, palliative care initiatives, Kayakalp score (which reflects a public health facility's performance in cleanliness, hygiene, and infection control) utilisation of health grants, immunisation coverage, ward-level activities, social determinants such as water, sanitation, waste management, vector control measures, and provision of physical infrastructure to promote healthy lifestyles. At the state level, Vellinezhi Grama Panchayat of Palakkad, Palluruthi Block Panchayat of Ernakulam, Idukki District Panchayat, Guruvayur Municipality and Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation won first place. in 2023-24

Kerala is one of India's better-performing states based on malnutrition indicators. According to the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) data, in Kerala, 23.4 per cent of children under five are stunted, 15.8 per cent experience wasting, and 19.7 per cent are underweight, compared to national averages of 35.5 per cent, 19.3 per cent, and 32.1 per cent, respectively. The state also experienced an overall improvement in the underlying and immediate determinants of nutrition during the 15 years covered by the NFHS-3, 4 and 5. The LSGs play a crucial role in implementing and coordinating nutrition interventions in Kerala. The plan guidelines to the local bodies suggest strengthening the supplementary nutrition programme, providing therapeutic diet for severely malnourished children, infrastructure development of Anganwadi Centres, parental and premarital counselling, development of smart Anganwadi Centres, transportation, development of special Anganwadi

Centres for differently abled children, preparation of 'nutrigarden' to ensure the availability of vegetables, the commencement of baby gym and yoga training courses, anaemia screening camps, etc. These guidelines serve as a pointer to innovative interventions required in different sectors.

Elderly care: LSGIs must mandatorily earmark five per cent of the total share of general sector funds, SCP, and TSP for the implementation of aged and palliative care projects. Although palliative care projects are not intended solely for the elderly, the majority of beneficiaries are elderly. LSGIs usually expend the plan funds for conducting medical camps for senior citizens, construction and maintenance of day homes (Pakal Veedu), distribution of food kits and medicines, construction of waiting room for senior citizens in PHC, distribution of ayurvedic medicine, establishment of specialty clinic for senior citizens, providing wheelchair, cots and such other requirements, renovation of old age home and dementia care centre, dementia screening camp are some of the projects in the sector. The funds are also utilised for the establishment and maintenance of Pakalveedu, Sayamprabha Homes, and other old-age homes, which accommodate the elderly and promote their emotional and social well-being, such as Second Innings Home

Pain and palliative care

Palliative care is being implemented under all local bodies, with the involvement of local health institutions, voluntary organisations, and individuals. Palliative care is meant to not only provide support to those suffering from terminal and long-term illness, such as cancer, heart-lung-kidney disease, paralysis, and those in need of assistance from others (including the elderly and the disabled), but also to their family members who are their caregivers. Palliative care focuses on managing pain and providing emotional support to both the patient and their family. Each LSGI has a primary care unit for palliative care. The state was the first in the country to declare its Policy on Palliative care in 2008. It was decided to implement palliative care under all local bodies, with the involvement of local health institutions, health workers, palliative care nurse voluntary organisations, and individuals. The Kerala state Palliative care Policy was revised in 2019 by including advanced palliative care services. Currently in all the grama panchayaths,

municipalities and Corporations in the state, palliative care services are provided in a systematic manner. In addition, CHC/Block FHC/Taluk, District and general hospital centred advanced palliative care services is being implemented with the help of LSGs. Currently the policy of 2019 has been revised to incorporate and expand primary and secondary palliative care facilities.

In 2025, Kerala launched the Universal Palliative Care project and the Kerala Palliative Care Grid -a tech-enabled initiative that aims to unify healthcare efforts across the state and respond to the rising needs of an ageing population. It's a new model of compassionate governance that brings together volunteers, NGOs, healthcare workers and hospitals under one digital and administrative framework. The projects have been jointly rolled out by the departments of health and local self-government. The new grid will generate real-time data on both patients and caregivers, enabling timely support and interventions. There were 1,142 primary palliative care units operating under local self-governments, along with over 500 home-care units run by voluntary organisations and more than 1,000 run by charitable and social-service groups. These units offered not only medical assistance but also psychological and financial support to patients and their families. The government's objective was to integrate all these services under one umbrella using the Palliative Care Grid. The grid is designed to systematically register patients, schedule home visits, track treatments and support caregivers. Currently, over 1.50 lakh bed-bound people, 4 lakh people with serious health suffering and 2000 plus home care units, 1 lakh volunteers are registered on the platform.

Programmes for women and children

To address the issues faced by women and initiate development specifically for them, as well as to promote gender equity, the LSGIs implement a women's component plan. All LSGIs are mandatorily required to earmark 10 per cent of their plan funds for projects exclusively for women. It was specifically communicated to the LSGIs that the projects under the Women's Component Plan should address the specific requirements of women, rather than being general projects. As part of this, the Gender Resource Centre coordinates activities at the district panchayat level, as well as at the Block and gram panchayat levels. Additionally, other platforms, such as the Gender Desk and Jagratha

Samiti, are also established by the LSGIs. More emphasis has been placed on projects aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of women, particularly entrepreneurship development.

Similarly, 5 per cent of the plan funds should be mandatorily earmarked for the welfare and development of children, the differently-abled, and transgender individuals. To ensure the comprehensive development of children, various initiatives have been taken up. District early intervention centres have been initiated to detect any sort of disability among children at an early stage. In addition, support for the differently abled and transgender people was also given special emphasis in the 14th plan. The plan guidelines provide provisions for formulating projects in these categories. LSGIs have taken special care to ensure that the disabled are supported through financial assistance, treatment assistance, and the distribution of assistive devices, etc. Local governments are to take projects to provide assisted devices like surgical shoes, orthopaedic equipments, artificial limbs etc for the physically impaired. For those with hearing disability, hearing aids and other devices required after cochlear implanataion are given. In addition an amount of Rs 50000 per yaer is given for the repairing of the devices. The visually impaired are also given assisted devices like white cane, brailey machines etc. With regard to transgender individuals, LSGIs have started formulating projects, mainly for their livelihood security.

Digital Literacy:

Kerala has made history by becoming the first fully digitally literate state in India. The achievement was realised through the 'Digi-Keralam' campaign of the Local Self Government Department, which identified digitally illiterate citizens and trained them to use smartphones and access government services. Inspired by the pioneering Digi-Pullampara model, conducted in Pullampara Grama Panchayat, the campaign was rolled out state-wide in 2023 to ensure that every citizen above 14 years of age attained basic digital literacy.

Plan Performance of Local Governments – 2024-25 - Budget Provision To Local Governments For Development Expenditure For the Year 2024-25 (Development Fund)

As per the recommendations of the 6th State Finance Commission, an amount of Rs 8352.00 crore (27.5 per cent of the state plan outlay) was earmarked as Plan Grant (Development Fund) to Local Governments in the budget estimate for the year 2024-25. This has been included in the plan allocation for local-level development, and local governments have full autonomy in deciding their priorities, formulating projects, and implementing them subject to plan guidelines issued by the State Government. The Development Fund consisted of Rs 4171.87 crore under the General Sector (normal share), Rs 2637.28 crore under the 15th Union Finance Commission Grant, Rs 1341.30 crore under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), and Rs 201.55 crore under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP), totalling Rs 8352.00 crore for LSGIs. This is 27.5 per cent of the State Plan outlay. Additionally, Rs 180 crore was made available for the implementation of the externally aided Kerala Solid Waste Management Project in Urban Local Bodies.

In 2024-25, the total amount released was Rs 7,746.29 crore, and the expenditure was Rs 6,792.60 crore, which was 87.69 per cent of the release. The overall expenditure performance of Grama Panchayats was 91.98 per cent, while for Block Panchayats and District Panchayats, it was 90.40 per cent and 80.71 per cent, respectively. Municipalities have expended 86.72 per cent, while corporations have expended 74.93 per cent. The tier-wise expenditure details are given in

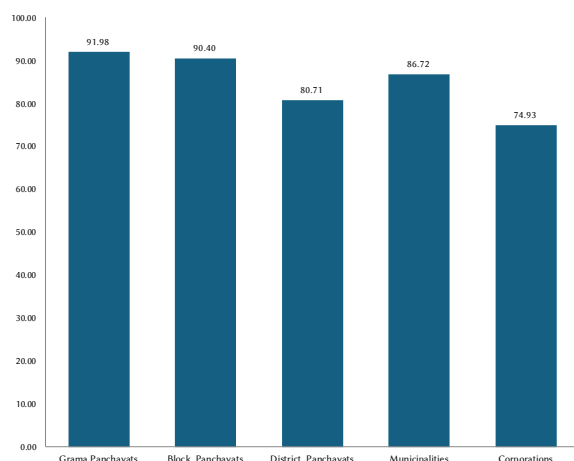
Figure 12.1.1

A detailed and segregated report on the utilisation of funds by the LSGIs is given below:

Category-wise expenditure

The allocation of development funds to LSGIs falls into three categories: the General Sector, the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP), and the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). Of the total expenditure of Rs 6,792.60 crore, Rs 5,479.74 crore was under the General sector (Normal Share plus Finance commission grant), Rs 1,141.25 crore under SCP, and Rs 171.60 crore under TSP.

Figure 12.1.1 Development Fund-Tier-wise expenditure against release in 2024-25 (per cent)



Source: Information Kerala Mission 2025

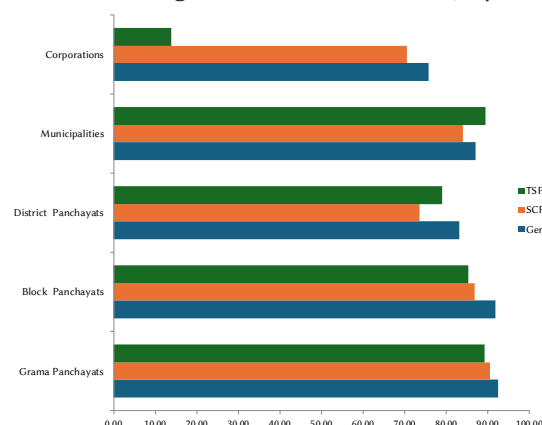
Grama Panchayaths, Block Panchayaths, and Municipalities performed well in utilising all three types of funds, spending more than 80 per cent. District Panchayaths spent more than 80 per cent of their general sector funds and around 60 to 80 per cent of their SCP and TSP funds. On the other hand, while Corporations expended 70 to 80 per cent of both General and SCP funds, they showed poor performance in spending TSP funds (less than 20 per cent). The details are given in **Figure 12.1.2** and **Appendix 12.1.1**

Sectoral analysis of expenditure

The Annual Plan guidelines for LSGIs stipulate that funds be allocated into three categories: production, service, and infrastructure, based on specific sectoral norms. Accordingly, Grama Panchayats, Block Panchayats, and District Panchayats should allocate at least 30 per cent of the normal share under the General Sector Fund to the production sector. However, urban LSGIs need to allocate only 10 per cent to the production sector from the normal share of general sector funds. All the LSGIs should earmark at least 10 per cent of the total development funds (other than the Fifteenth Finance Commission Grant) for the women component plan, 5 per cent for the welfare and development of children, differently-abled and transgender, and at least 5 per cent for the welfare of the elderly and palliative care. Gram Panchayats should not allocate more than 30 per cent of the normal share in the general sector funds to the infrastructure sector. The ceiling of allocation in the infrastructure sector is 25 per cent

and 45 per cent for Block and District Panchayats, respectively. In urban LSGIs, it is 50 per cent.

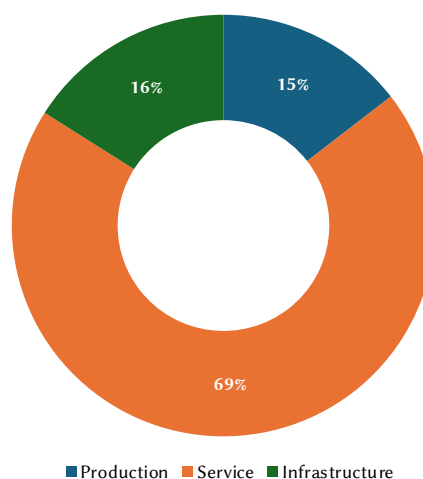
Figure 12.1.2 Category-wise expenditure of Local Governments against release in 2024-25 (in per cent)



Source: Information Kerala Mission 2025

The sector-wise performance is given in **Figure 12.1.3**. Of the total expenditure of Rs 6792.60 crore, Rs 986.31 crore was in the production sector (15 per cent), Rs 4718.33 crore in the service sector (69 per cent) and Rs 1087.95 crore in the infrastructure sector (16 per cent). Details are given in **Appendix 12.1.2**.

Fig 12.1.3 Sectoral share of total expenditure incurred by the Local Governments in 2024-25



Source: Information Kerala Mission 2025

Production Sector

Out of the total expenditure incurred in production, the largest share was allocated to agriculture (39.25 per cent), followed by soil and water conservation (16.22 per cent), animal husbandry (14.66 per cent), and dairy development (14.76 per cent). It is worth noting that for other

productive sectors, such as industry, small-scale industries, and fisheries, the expenditure was less than 6 per cent, indicating that more attention needs to be given to utilising the resources allocated to these sectors. (Figure 12.1.4 shows the subsector-wise expenditure of LSGIs in the production sector). Details are given in Appendix 12.1.3.

Service Sector

Various sectors within the service sector include housing, education, social welfare, sanitation and waste processing, health, and others. Out of the total expenditure in the service sector, 38.24 per cent of the expenditure was incurred in housing and house electrification, 10.68 per cent for social welfare and social security, 8.83 per cent in education, and 7.36 per cent in the drinking water sector. The mandatory allocation towards housing by all Local Governments explains the high expenditure in housing. Local governments must mandatorily earmark 20 per cent of the total funds under the Normal share of the general sector, SCP, and TSP for housing. In addition to this, housing includes expenses incurred for enhancing the unit cost of houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). Expenditure figures show that LSGIs have given more importance to providing nutrition, housing and electrification, health, and education. Expenditure on drinking

water and sanitation reflects the mandatory expenditure in these sectors, as mandated by the Central Finance Commission. The distribution of sub-sector expenditure in the service sector across different areas is shown in Figure 12.1.5. Details are given in Figure 12.1.5 and Appendix 12.1.4.

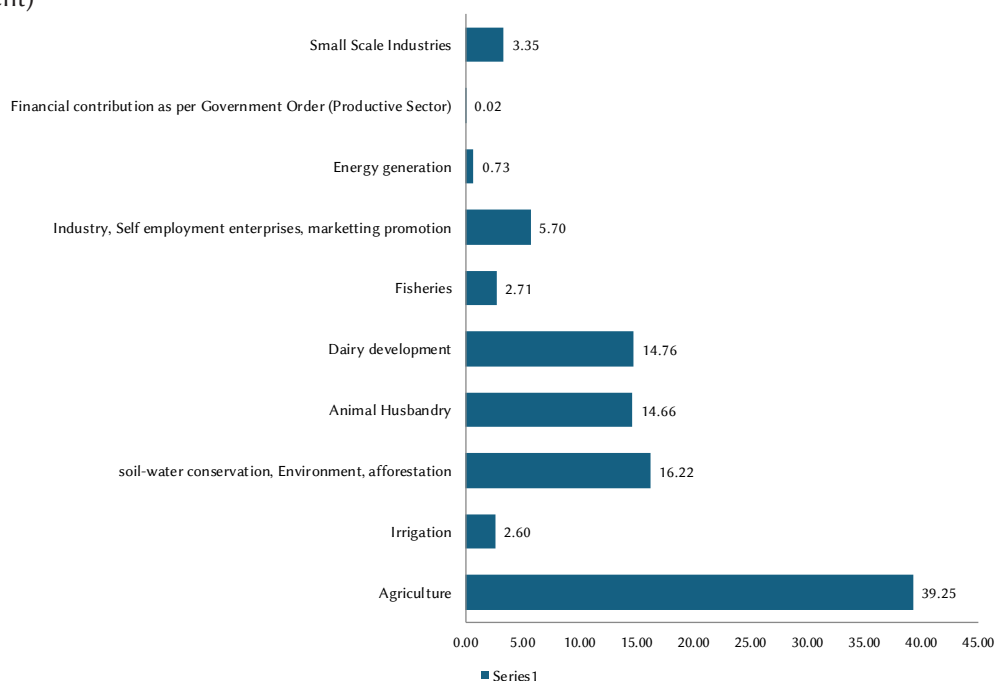
Infrastructure

There are 7 sub-sectors in the infrastructure sector, including transport, public buildings, street lights etc. In 2024-25, of the total expenditure in the infrastructure sector, a significant portion (70 per cent) has been utilized for transport, including roads and bridges. Public buildings, with 15 per cent, and street lights and electrification, with 12 per cent, are the next highest. Sub-sector-wise expenditure details under the infrastructure sector in 2024-25 are given in Figure 12.1.6 and Appendix 12.1.5.

Performance under Special Sector Plans

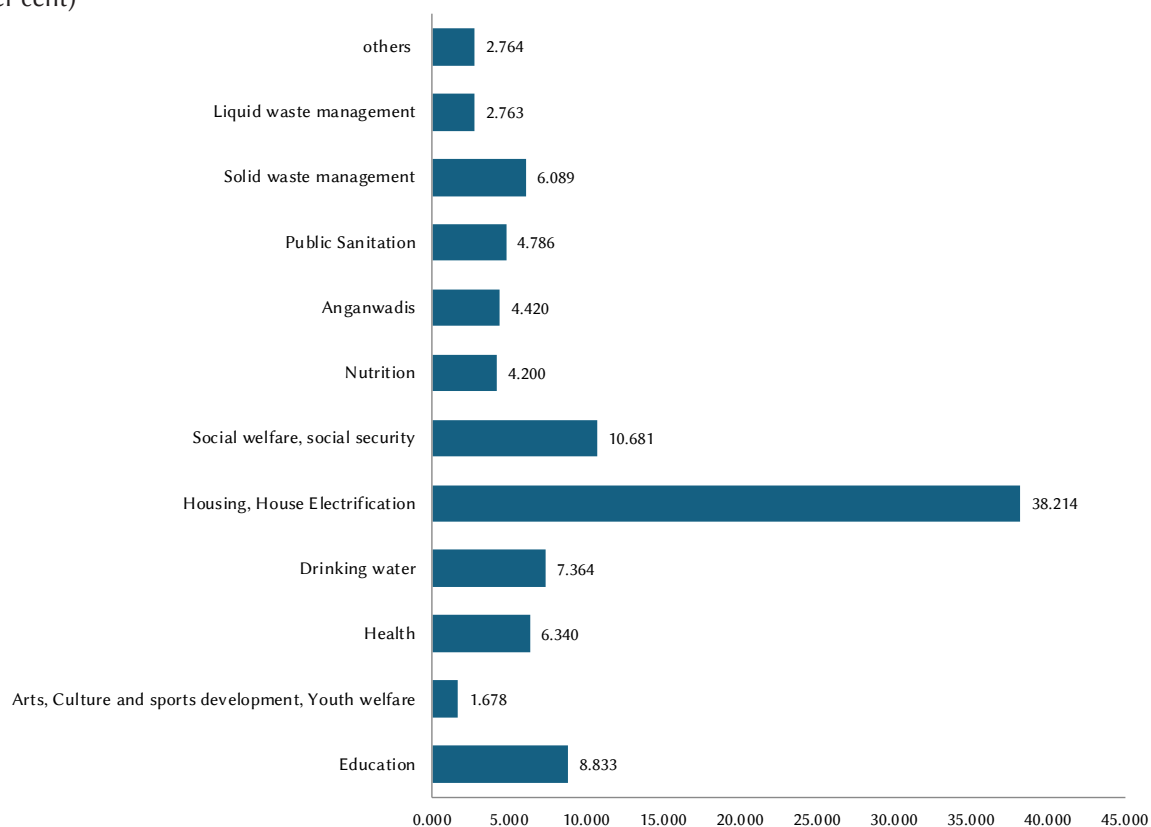
As stated earlier, the Women Component Plan (WCP) and the plans for disadvantaged groups (aged, children, differently abled, palliative care, and transgender) by LSGIs are noteworthy features of Kerala's decentralised planning. According to the guidelines, LSGIs must earmark 10 per cent of the total normal share of General Sector funds, SCP, and TSP towards the Women's Component Plan (WCP), 5 per cent for children, persons

Fig 12.1.4 Sub-sector-wise productive sector expenditure incurred by the Local Governments in 2024-25 (in per cent)



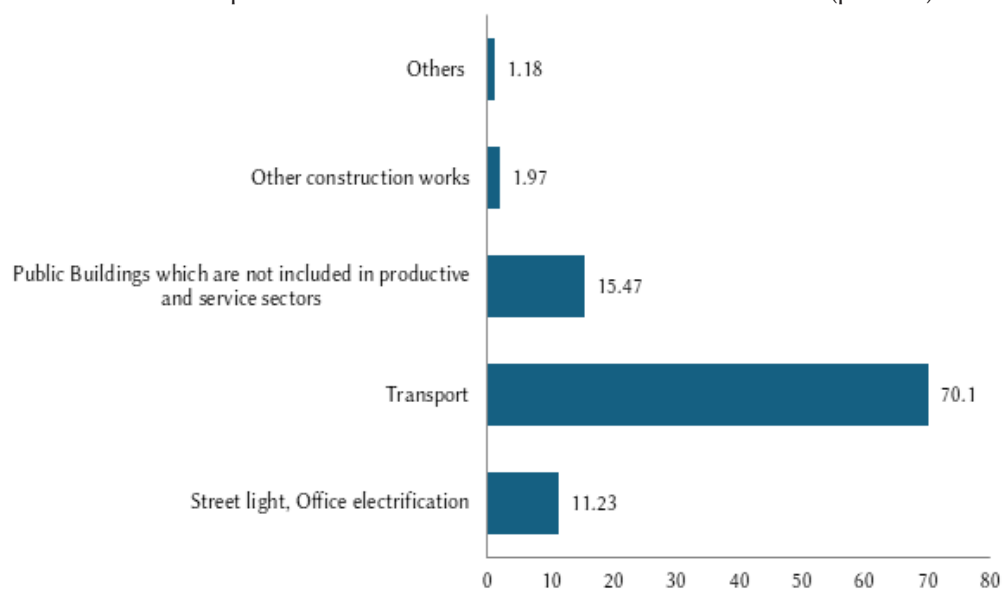
Source: Information Kerala Mission 2025

Fig 12.1.5 Sub-sector-wise productive sector expenditure incurred by the Local Governments in 2024-25 (in per cent)



Source: Information Kerala Mission 2025

Fig 12.1.6 Sub-sector-wise expenditure share of the infrastructure sector in 2024-25 (per cent)



Source: Information Kerala Mission 2025

with disabilities, and transgender individuals, and another 5 per cent for the development of elderly and palliative care projects. The expenditure on WCP in 2024-25 was Rs 258.46 crore. For the special programme for children and for persons with disabilities, Rs 204.56 crore and Rs 90.77 crore, respectively, were spent. Expenditure on projects for the elderly was Rs 132.80 crore, and Rs 110.35 crore for palliative care. On projects for transgender individuals, the expenditure was Rs 0.41 crore. Details of expenditure for special sector Plans in 2024-25 are given in **Table 12.1.1** and **Appendix 12.1.6**.

Table: 12.1.1 Expenditure for Special Sector Plan 2024-25 (Rs in lakhs)

SI No	Special Sectors	Expenditure
1	Women Component Plan	25846.22
2	Special plan for children	20456.03
3	Special plan for the aged	13280.45
4	Special plan for the differently abled	9077.32
5	Palliative care projects	11035.59
6	Special Plan for the Transgender	41.12

Source: Information Kerala Mission 2024

The analysis of development fund allocation and utilisation by LSGIs during 2024–25 reveals consistency and a continued focus on major development sectors. This has helped build synergy and enhance the effectiveness of development interventions, particularly during a phase of fiscal constraints for the state. With a substantial share of the State Plan outlay devolved to LSGIs and a high overall expenditure rate of nearly 88 per cent, LSGIs demonstrated remarkable capacity in planning and implementation across tiers. The emphasis on service sector spending reflects the State’s sustained commitment to human development components such as housing, social welfare, health, and education, while the steady allocation to infrastructure underlines the importance accorded to local connectivity and public assets. However, the share of expenditure in certain productive sectors and the low utilisation of the TSP fund, particularly in urban local governments, need to be further enhanced. The targeted allotment under Special Sector Plans further reaffirms Kerala’s inclusive approach to development by addressing the needs of women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and

other vulnerable groups. The overall performance of LSGIs reiterates the critical role of LSGIs in advancing equitable and people-centric development.

Review of Central and State Programmes Implemented by Local Governments

Local self-governance institutions (LSGIs) have emerged as the key agencies driving Kerala’s development, implementing development projects that address local needs. Utilising the development funds devolved to them by the state government, they formulate and implement development projects in all the sectors transferred to them. Apart from these sectors, they are also involved in implementing various state and centrally sponsored programmes across different sectors.

The 14th Five-Year Plan aimed to sustain the state’s development accomplishments across various sectors and further enhance the people’s standard of living through accelerated economic growth, equitable resource distribution, efficient social security networks, and robust service delivery systems. In pursuit of these objectives, the State has focused on revitalising its productive capacities, attracting investments across various development sectors, and building up systems for better management of institutions. The state has declared its intention to transition into a more inclusive welfare state and a knowledge-based economy, where various sectors will be bolstered by innovations in academia, research, and development. This has necessitated effectively mobilising as many resources as possible, including development schemes of the central government.

Kerala’s decentralised planning framework provides substantial scope for integrating LSGI-formulated projects with state and central schemes, thereby creating synergy in development interventions. The plan formulation guidelines for LSGIs specify that, wherever possible, similar provisions for schemes and projects should be integrated to maximise the utilisation of financial and human resources.

The major centrally sponsored programmes implemented through LSGIs focus on establishing urban amenities, enhancing rural connectivity, creating sanitation and waste management infrastructure, constructing homes in both rural and urban areas, and generating employment and livelihood opportunities. As mentioned

above, State and local governments also formulate schemes and projects annually, based on the specific requirements of each respective government. The outlay of the state share of centrally sponsored schemes invariably contains a mandatory contribution from the state. The central share of centrally sponsored scheme is allotted in pre-determined tranches only when the due state share is earmarked beforehand. Stringent conditions for releasing the central share pose serious practical issues in implementing such programmes, particularly when states face resource constraints. Although many centrally sponsored programmes do not precisely address the specific requirements of the state, the state government is keen to utilise centrally sponsored programmes to supplement the local government's efforts across various sectors. The details of centrally-sponsored and state-sponsored programmes executed by local self-governments across various development sectors are discussed below.

A. Infrastructure Development

The decentralised planning approach adopted by the state has significantly enhanced public investment in rural and urban infrastructure, citizen services, social security, and the service sector. This approach has enabled local self-governments to make considerable progress in key areas, including housing, road connectivity, access to clean drinking water, sanitation, and drainage systems. These improvements are crucial in enhancing the quality of life and promoting decent living standards and have undoubtedly contributed significantly to the state's ability to have numerous human development indicators comparable to those of developed countries.

Housing

Over the decades, Kerala has achieved significant milestones in housing, driven by progressive and inclusive policies and government interventions. The state's housing initiatives have addressed basic shelter and the quality of living environments, promoting equity among diverse social groups. In Kerala, a house is considered an essential physical asset and a foundation for enhancing economic stability, health, and overall well-being, especially for marginalised communities. Kerala's success in providing housing support to people reflects an unwavering commitment to inclusive growth.

The Government of Kerala is earnestly addressing homelessness among the economically

disadvantaged through its flagship programme, LIFE Mission. This initiative aims to integrate various housing schemes from the state and central governments, with support from local self-governments. The mission aims to consolidate available financial resources from the housing schemes of both the state and central governments, and to fill the funding gaps with assistance from LSGs. This step became necessary because the support from central government housing programmes is grossly inadequate to meet the housing requirements of the economically disadvantaged population in Kerala. Furthermore, the initiative acknowledges that homeless individuals require housing and support to sustain their livelihoods and overcome poverty-related barriers. Driven by this understanding, the state government developed LIFE Mission as a comprehensive strategy to ensure the Livelihoods, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment of the state's homeless populations.

Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (PMAY)-Gramin

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) has been implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) since April 1, 2016. This scheme aims to assist eligible rural households in building pucca houses with basic amenities. The scheme employs a multi-layered prioritisation framework for eligible beneficiaries, focusing on housing deprivation among different social categories. The identification of beneficiaries under PMAY-G is based on the housing deprivation parameters and exclusion criteria prescribed in the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) of 2011. This is followed by due verification by the respective Gram Sabhas and the completion of an appellate process.

The minimum size of the house prescribed by the PMAY-G scheme is 25 sq mt with a hygienic cooking space. The unit assistance for a home under PMAY-G, as fixed by MoRD, is only Rs 1.2 lakh, shared between the central and state governments in a 60:40 ratio (Rs 72,000 + Rs 48,000).

However, the state government has decided to integrate this programme with the LIFE Mission, with the per-unit assistance enhanced to Rs 4 lakh. The balance amount of Rs 2.8 lakhs is shared among Grama, Block, and District Panchayats in the ratio of 25:40:35. The cost of construction will

be disbursed to beneficiaries in three instalments directly into their Aadhaar-linked bank/post office accounts registered in the Awaas Soft MIS.

As part of the Rural Mason Training (RMT) initiative, the shortage of trained masons in rural areas is addressed under PMAY-G. It provides training via Short-Term Training (STT) and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The STT mode consists of a 45-day programme, and the RPL mode is a 10-day programme for workers from the informal sector. The beneficiary is entitled to 90 person days of unskilled labour from MGNREGS. The assistance for the construction of a toilet shall be leveraged through convergence with SBM-G, MGNREGS or any other dedicated source of funding. Convergence for piped drinking water, electricity connections, LPG gas connections, etc., is also envisioned in the scheme.

Under the scheme, a total of 35,136 houses were sanctioned from the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 and Awaas Plus lists, out of which 34,195 were completed by March 31, 2025. MoRD has extended PMAY-G from the financial year 2024-25 to 2028-29, retaining the current unit assistance of Rs 1.2 lakh per house. Beneficiary selection will be based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011, and the Awaas Plus lists compiled at the Grama Panchayat level since 2021. To ensure housing support for all remaining beneficiaries on the Awaas Plus list, the central government has sanctioned a target of 1,94,697 houses for 2024-25, including 1,59,925 for the general category and 34,772 for SC/ST categories. The Awaas Plus 2024 Survey identified 1,154 additional beneficiaries. As of 17 September 2025, 71,000 eligible beneficiaries had been identified against the target, of whom 61,397 were registered in the MIS, and 40,909 had been sanctioned houses.

In 2024-25, Rs 110.03 crore was allocated for PMAY-Gramin, with Central and State shares of Rs 66.02 crore and Rs 44.01 crore, respectively. In 2025-26, Rs 160.50 crore was allocated, with Central and State shares of Rs 96.30 crore and Rs 64.20 crore, respectively. The financial and physical progress for the scheme in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) is provided in **Appendices 12.1.7** and **12.1.8**, in the same order.

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PMAY-JANMAN)

PMAY-JANMAN is a programme proposed

to address the critical gap in the well-being of 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups' (PVTGs). MoRD surveyed PVTGs residing in the identified districts of Kerala. The Government of India has approved six districts in Kerala under the scheme, namely, Thrissur, Palakkad, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kasaragod, and Kozhikode, and the scheme is being implemented in these districts.

As part of this, 3,337 households were surveyed through the Awas Plus app, and 1,637 eligible households were registered for the scheme, with 766 houses being sanctioned. The first tranche of PMAY-JANMAN funds, amounting to Rs 3.516 crore, has been released, comprising a central share of Rs 2.1 crore and a state share of Rs 1.4 crore, and has reported expenditure of Rs 3.515 crore (99.79%). The beneficiaries will receive unit assistance of Rs 2 lakh, additional support for unskilled labour wages estimated at Rs 33,210 under the MGNREGS, and a toilet provision estimated at Rs 12,000 under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Under LIFE Mission, the Government of Kerala has raised the unit cost for Scheduled Tribe families living in distant habitats to Rs 6 lakh, with funding source from various tiers, including Rs 75,000 from the Grama Panchayats, Rs 1,20,000 from the Block Panchayats, Rs 1,05,000 from District Panchayats, and Rs 1,00,000 as the share of the ST Department.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), PMAY (U), initiated in June 2015, is a housing programme to provide all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in urban areas by 2022. The Mission has been extended up to December 31, 2025. This programme operates through four distinct components:

1. Slum rehabilitation of slum dwellers with the participation of private developers using land as a resource.
2. Promotion of affordable housing for weaker sections through credit-linked subsidies.
3. Affordable housing in partnership with the public and private sectors
4. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction.

Since the provision for financial assistance to construct houses in this programme is inadequate, the Kerala Government integrated this scheme with the LIFE Mission, with an enhanced per-unit

assistance. The assistance under the LIFE Mission for houseless people with land is Rs 6.00 lakhs for ST beneficiaries in remote ST hamlets and Rs 4.00 lakhs for all other beneficiaries. The details are discussed in Chapter 11.5 (Housing) of this Economic Review.

Over the years, the Government has expended Rs 4,767.06 crore for the implementation of the LIFE Mission across sectors including urban and rural development, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and for KURDFC. Analysis of beneficiary composition reveals that 19 percent of total beneficiaries were selected from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY-U) list, while 7.3 percent were identified from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Rural (PMAY-G) list.

Kudumbasree serves as the nodal agency at the state level for implementing PMAY Urban programme.

As per the norms of the Government of India (GoI), the cost of a unit under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component is Rs. 2.5 lakh. Of this, Rs. 1.5 lakh is contributed by the Government of India, with the fund released in three instalments (40 per cent, 40 per cent, 20 per cent). The remaining cost is to be met by the state and local self-governments.

Under the affordable housing project (AHP), the average cost per dwelling unit is RS 10.50 lakhs, the central share of the component being Rs 1.5 lakhs, Rs 6.50 lakhs as the state share, and Rs 2.50 lakhs is the share of the urban local government. It is worth noting that the state provides the majority of assistance to beneficiaries across all these programme components.

In the financial year 2024-25, PMAY (U) was allocated Rs 532.00 crore, of which Rs 399.00 crore was the central share and Rs 133.00 crore was the State share. For the financial year 2025-26, the allocation was Rs 120.00 crore, with the Central share at Rs 90.00 crore and the State share at Rs 30.00 crore. From the financial year 2022-23 to August 31, 2025, an amount of Rs 563.14 crore was released as the central share, and Rs 149.04 crore was released as the state share for all components under the scheme. The financial progress of PMAY (Urban) from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (as of August 31st, 2025) is given in **Appendix 12.1.9**. As stated previously, it is to be noted that

despite the state share of the central assistance, the additional requirement for the construction of houses for the rural and urban poor is met from the state funds.

Under the Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) component, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India, has sanctioned 1,27,048 housing units for beneficiaries who own land. Construction of 1,13,279 houses under Beneficiary Led Construction (New) has started, and 95,359 houses have been completed. As of November 30, 2025, a total of 9,819 houses were allocated to Scheduled Caste (SC) beneficiaries, and 343 houses were allocated to Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries. District-wise and category-wise houses sanctioned and completed under PMAY Urban as of 30 November, 2025 are provided in **Table 12.1.2** below.

Under the AHP component, 970 dwelling units have received approval. In this specific category, construction of 936 units has commenced, and 530 units have been completed.

Under the ‘Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme’ (CLSS) component, interest subvention was provided to eligible urban poor to acquire or construct a house. As of 31st October 2025, loans have been sanctioned to 32,651 beneficiaries, and all the houses have been completed. The central government discontinued this component, which had aimed to expand institutional credit to meet the housing needs of the urban poor as of March 31, 2021.

Urban local government-wise progress of beneficiary-led construction component of PMAY (Urban) as of 30th November 2025 is given in **Appendix 12.1.10**, and year-wise sanctioned and completed houses of beneficiary-led construction component of PMAY Urban from 2022-23 to 2025-26 up to 30th November 2025 are provided in **Appendix 12.1.11**. The physical progress of the affordable housing component up to August 31, 2025, is provided in **Appendix 12.1.12**, respectively.

The State Government has integrated various programmes so that the beneficiaries of housing programmes are also provided with a means of livelihood. For instance, livelihood support is offered to beneficiaries of housing programmes

Table 12.1.2 District-wise houses approved and completed under PMAY Urban as on 30.11.2025 (in Nos)

Sl. No	District Name	Houses approved					Houses completed				
		GEN	OBC	SC	ST	TOTAL	GEN	OBC	SC	ST	TOTAL
1	Thiruvananthapuram	3991	12217	3902	20	20130	3160	9359	1911	13	14443
2	Kollam	1888	6888	2198	16	10990	1387	4949	928	3	7267
3	Pathanamthitta	977	1236	785	5	3003	710	801	334	3	1848
4	Alappuzha	1162	5566	539	5	7272	928	4414	232	3	5577
5	Kottayam	1144	2689	399	20	4252	815	1715	181	7	2718
6	Idukki	821	1324	217	24	2386	685	1126	125	9	1945
7	Ernakulam	3589	11086	1423	38	16136	2892	9119	901	24	12936
8	Thrissur	2709	6385	2358	0	11452	2398	5291	1499	0	9188
9	Palakkad	1147	6758	1676	3	9584	899	5232	900	2	7033
10	Kozhikode	451	13473	2466	27	16417	376	10787	1487	11	12661
11	Malappuram	803	8382	1315	19	10519	723	7286	721	16	8746
12	Wayanad	1353	2493	480	1028	5354	1013	1796	238	212	3259
13	Kannur	1334	4622	528	55	6539	1236	4163	339	30	5768
14	Kasargod	281	2616	93	24	3014	205	1732	23	10	1970
Total		21650	85735	18379	1284	127048	17427	67770	9819	343	95359

Source: Kudumbashree

through convergence with the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS). Provisions of NULM could be used to enhance the quality of life of urban homeless by skill upgradation and setting up self-employment ventures. Through convergence with the Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS) of the State Government, 90 person-days of employment were provided to PMAY (Urban) beneficiaries.

Sanitation and Waste Management

The Government of Kerala has prioritised waste management as a critical development agenda in the past decade, initiating strategic interventions at both the State and local government levels. LSGIs serve as the primary implementing agencies for waste management initiatives, utilising Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), externally aided schemes, and state-funded programmes. The Suchitwa Mission, serving as the technical arm, plays a pivotal role in policy formulation, capacity building and technical support for solid and liquid waste management across Kerala.

Apart from state-wide campaigns and initiatives, waste management has been integrated into LSGIs' plans. Central and State-sponsored programmes, schemes funded through external aid, are implemented by local self-governments. Suchitwa Mission plays a crucial role in developing implementation strategies and providing technical support to the State Government and local authorities for the formulation and execution of solid and liquid waste management policies and projects.

It has been estimated that Kerala generates 10,129 tonnes of solid waste per day. The State has adopted a decentralised approach to manage biodegradable waste, implementing various composting devices and bio-waste treatment systems at household, institutional, and community levels, ranging from small to large-scale. Segregation at the source has emerged as a critical component of Kerala's waste management system. A key advantage is the growing commitment among LSGIs and communities to classify waste into organic and inorganic categories at the point of generation.

Further, inorganic waste is increasingly being separated into specific streams such as plastic, leather, glass, electronic, electrical, and biomedical waste, which are collected on designated calendar days and transported to authorised treatment facilities. A striking improvement is observed in source-level segregation, which increased from 47 per cent in 2023 to 94 per cent by 2025, indicating widespread behavioural change and effective enforcement mechanisms. Enforcement inspections increased from 1,138 in March 2023-24 to 90,438 in June 2025, with fines increasing from Rs 2.9 lakh to Rs 8.55 crore, during the same period, indicating a decisive shift towards compliance-driven governance. Approximately 5,410 surveillance cameras have been installed, further strengthening monitoring capabilities.

The policy for biodegradable waste management prioritises source-level treatment, guided by the principle of “My waste, My responsibility.” In Kerala, most bio-degradable waste is treated at households, institutions and community-level centres. This approach encourages the use of composting devices and biogas plants to manage organic waste at its source, reducing reliance on centralised waste systems. Where household-level capacity is insufficient, community-based facilities manage surplus waste, fostering a sustainable system that minimises transportation needs, reduces landfill waste, and supports the production of renewable resources like compost and biogas. This strategy enhances community engagement and encourages the development of locally tailored solutions to address waste management challenges. The number of houses equipped with source-wise waste treatment systems increased consistently from 25.8 lakh in 2016-17 to 28.86 lakh in 2025-26 (**Table 12.1.3**), reflecting sustained efforts to promote decentralised waste management practices. It is complemented by 1,574 community-level treatment units, underscoring the State’s emphasis on decentralised waste processing.

From 2016-17 to 2025-26, total solid waste generation increased gradually from 9,666 TPD to 10,129 TPD, reflecting the impact of population growth and urban expansion. Even though total solid waste generation rose rapidly, the volume of solid waste processed increased faster than generation—from 7,350 TPD in 2016-17 to 10,072 TPD in 2025-26—resulting in a significant improvement in processing coverage and demonstrating enhanced infrastructural and

operational capacities. Plastic waste recycling also showed a positive trajectory, with the quantity recovered increasing from 740 tonnes to 1,072 tonnes, indicating strengthened collection systems and improved connections with recycling industries.

In 2017, as part of the Harithakeralam Mission Project implemented by the Government of Kerala, Haritha Karmasenas were constituted. The door-to-door collection of inorganic waste, and in some instances, organic waste, from households and institutions is done by members of Haritha Karma Sena. Haritha Karma Senas have expanded from 5,000 in 2017 to 37,765 by 2025, and are engaged in 1034 local self-governments. Households pay a user fee of Rs. 50 in rural areas and Rs. 100 in urban areas, while commercial establishments are charged based on the volume of waste they generate. Harithamitram, a mobile app, was created to streamline the operations of Haritha Karma Sena. The new version, Harithamitram 2.0, launched on August 17, 2025, has introduced an important feature—digital payments—enabling households and institutions to pay monthly service charges via UPI. The Chief Minister’s e-Governance Award was conferred for the Harithamitra 2.0 application. It is noteworthy that the number of households utilising the Harithamitra application increased significantly, from 11.24 lakh in 2023-24 to 90 lakh in June 2025. During the 2024-25 financial year alone, the Harithakarma Sena collected over 1.5 crore tonnes of inorganic waste. Without this system, much of the waste might have been burned or dumped indiscriminately.

The non-biodegradable waste collected from households and other sources is temporarily stored in Material Collection Facilities (MCFs) and Mini MCFs operated across the state, providing an environmentally sustainable disposal method. The state has made significant infrastructure investments over the past few years to store dry waste. It was insisted that there would be at least one MCF in each ward of a local self-government institution and at least one Resource Recovery Facilities (RRF) in each block of a Panchayat and Municipality. As of October 31st, 2025, there are 1,350 MCFs and 20,051 Mini MCFs and 205 RRFs. As of June 2025, 50,042 bins and 26,967 bottle booths have been installed across public spaces, enhancing accessibility for waste disposal. District-wise details of Haritha Karma Sena,

Table:12.1.3 Physical Achievements in Waste management, 2016-17 to 2025-26 (in number)

S/No	Particulars	2016-17	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
1	Homes equipped with Source-wise waste treatment (in lakh)	25.8	28.1	28.7	28.79	28.86
2	Amount of Solid waste generated (TPD)	9666.86	9971.23	10023.5	10076.17	10129.31
3	Amount of Solid waste processed (TPD)	7350	9893	9853	9868.8	10072
4	Collected plastic waste handed over for recycling (in tonnes)	740	1060	1069	1071	1072

Source: Suchitwa Mission, Government of Kerala

MCFs, Mini MCFs, and RRFs as of August 31st, 2025, are given in **Appendix 12.1.13** and **12.1.14**, respectively.

Recyclable waste is sent to recycling facilities, while non-recyclable waste is directed to co-processing facilities, such as cement plants, for energy recovery. After separating biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste from the total waste generated, the remaining portion, known as inert waste, is utilised to fill low-lying areas, offering. The management of non-biodegradable waste has seen significant scaling. Clean Kerala Company more than doubled its handling capacity-from 30,217 tonnes in 2022-23 to 61,682 tonnes in 2024-25-while private agencies managed 90,922 tonnes by February 2025.

Non-recyclable plastic waste is shredded and mixed with tar for roads. During 2016-2025, Clean Kerala Company Limited (CKCL) supplied 3864.42 MT of shredded plastics to various agencies, viz, National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), PWD, and LSGs. According to CKCL, the total length of the polymerised road constructed during this period using shredded plastic was 6663.88 km. (**Table 12.1.4**)

Though a significant waste stream, there are no precise estimates on the amount of e-waste generated in the State. The Government of Kerala has appointed CKCL to collect e-waste generated in Government offices, institutions, public sector undertakings, and other relevant entities, and dispose of it by handing it over to authorised e-waste collectors/recyclers. The quantity of

Table 12.1.4 Details of usage of plastic waste in the construction of roads during 2016-2025

Year	NHAI/others	PWD	LSGI	Total	Length of road Constructed Total
	(MT)	(MT)	(MT)	(MT)	(km)
2016-2017	0.00	5.11	18.71	23.82	51.89
2017-2018	0.00	52.40	122.38	174.78	358.35
2018-2019	0.00	136.09	143.86	279.95	495.74
2019-2020	5.03	303.92	305.92	614.87	1073.75
2020-2021	6.15	379.80	529.80	915.75	1710.45
2021-2022	2.53	370.66	361.58	734.77	1277.13
2022-2023	0.23	273.70	96.17	370.09	514.35
2023-2024	0.00	107.94	92.64	200.58	339.54
2024-2025	0.00	222.32	172.18	394.50	652.77
2025-2026 (Till August)	1.18	131.06	23.07	155.31	189.91
Total	15.12	1983.00	1866.31	3864.42	6663.88

Source: Clean Kerala Company Ltd (CKCL)

e-waste collected in the State from 2019-20 to 2023-24, as per the annual reports of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board, is shown in **Table 12.1.5**

Suchitwa Keralam (Rural and Urban)

The Suchitwa Keralam (Rural and Urban) programmes, run by the Suchitwa Mission with state government funding, are primarily responsible for waste management in urban and rural areas. This provides partial funding for waste management programmes and pre-monsoon cleaning efforts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. These are run by LSGIs and coordinated with the National Health Mission, Haritha Keralam Mission, and the Directorate of Health Services.

Suchitwa Keralam Rural and Urban schemes involve awareness campaigns to promote scientific waste management practices through audio-visual and print media. This scheme also includes installing mini, medium and significant bio-waste treatment systems at the household, institutional and community levels to serve the waste management needs of families and institutions in the State.

Under the Suchitwa Keralam (Urban) scheme, a total expenditure of Rs 728.09 lakh was incurred during 2024-25 across various components, including liquid waste management; information, education, and communication (IEC) activities; ‘Take a Break’ toilets; pre-monsoon cleaning; public toilets; septic tanks; sanitary napkin destroyers; and source-level waste treatment. Under the Suchitwa Keralam (Rural) scheme, Rs 1227.07 lakh was expended during the same period. A series of innovative initiatives was launched over

the last five years. A construction and demolition waste processing plant was started in PPP model in Ernakulam-Idayar, reflecting the expansion of Kerala’s waste governance beyond conventional streams. The Green Protocol, which was introduced at the 2015 National Games, is now followed in all major government functions, as well as numerous private events, festivals, sports fairs, and weddings. The basic principle of the Green Protocol is to avoid the use of disposable items altogether, promote the use of washable utensils, and convert organic waste generated into fertiliser through composting at the respective locations to reduce waste. The swap shop concept, adopted and implemented by the Suchitwa Mission, has helped promote recycling opportunities. Through this concept, individuals exchange used items for someone else’s use, rather than throwing them away after their own needs are met.

A key development in liquid waste management is the modernisation of the Muttathara Sewage Treatment Plant in Thiruvananthapuram. The new treatment facility established in the treatment plant enables the reuse of treated water for construction, industrial use, and other purposes, supporting water conservation and reducing pollution. In Cherthala, Alappuzha district, a state-of-the-art faecal sludge treatment plant was built as part of the Rebuild Kerala initiative.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II aims to improve sanitation and hygiene in rural India. Launched in 2020-21, it builds upon the achievements of Phase I, focusing on sustaining Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing solid and liquid waste management. The

Table 12.1.5 Quantity of e-waste collected in the State, 2019-20 to 2023-24

Year	Category-wise quantity of e-waste collected			Total amount of e-waste collected (tonne)
	Information Technology and Telecommunication equipment (tonne)	Consumer Electrical and Electronic items (tonne)	Other items (tonne)	
2019-20	108.4	82.2	1098.6	1289.2
2020-21	27.7	88.3	1378.1	1494.0
2021-22	55.6	18.0	1175.9	1249.6
2022-23	1465.3			1465.3
2023-24	6023.54			6023.54

Source: Annual Reports, Kerala State Pollution Control Board

Box 12.1.1 The Vruthi 2025 – Clean Kerala Conclave

Vruthi Conclave, a programme conducted to disseminate state-of-the-art technologies and practices of waste management adopted across the state as a result of the massive campaign “Malinya Muktha Nava Keralam” showcased major milestones in the pursuit of the state towards comprehensive and complete waste management. The five-day conclave showcased technological innovations, including smart bins, AI-driven waste solutions, and decentralised biogas systems, while also facilitating youth participation through hackathons and outreach programmes. Initiatives by the LSGIs were also showcased to understand the magnitude of their efforts in this direction. The business sessions mobilised more than Rs 3,000 crore in confirmed investments for waste management infrastructure. The conclave also emphasised the circular economy, highlighting the role of green entrepreneurship and extended producer responsibility in sustaining reforms.

Source: SMMU

state has constructed a total of 2,72,315 individual household latrines (IHHL) as of November 23rd, 2025, according to the SBM (G) dashboard.

Under the SBM (G), financial incentives are provided to BPL (Below Poverty Line) and identified APL (Above Poverty Line) households, amounting to a maximum of Rs 12,000 for the construction of a single IHHL unit, with 70 per cent of the amount funded by SBM (G) and 30 per cent from the CFC grant. The Central share of this incentive for IHHLs from SBM (G) is Rs 7,200 (60 per cent), and the State share is Rs 4,800 (40 per cent). With a local body contribution of Rs 3,400, a total of Rs 15,400 can be granted per unit.

Grama Panchayats are now endeavouring to achieve ODF Plus status by meeting all the criteria set by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, GoI. The conditions for ODF Plus include the following: all residents should have access to toilets, proper usage of toilets, scientific management of solid and liquid waste, and public sanitation facilities. Grama Panchayats can achieve ODF Plus status only if liquid waste is managed effectively. As of December 1, 2025, 1,381 SBM villages have solid waste management arrangements, and 1,377 villages have liquid waste management arrangements. Out of 1,435 SBM villages, 1,381 are in ODF+ status, and 1,372 fall under the model category. Details of the ODF Plus status in the State are depicted in **Table 12.1.6**.

It is envisaged under SBM (G) that each village must have at least one community sanitary complex to enhance sanitation standards. The unit cost of a community sanitary complex is Rs 3.00 lakh. According to data from the SBM Grameen dashboard, the state has constructed 2,079 Community Sanitary Complexes as of December 1, 2025.

GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) Scheme

GOBARdhan is a vital component of Solid Waste Management (SWM) under Phase II of SBM (G), promoting cleanliness in villages by converting cattle dung, kitchen waste, and other organic waste into biogas and bio-slurry. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Phase II, financial assistance of up to Rs 50.00 lakhs per district is available for establishing community and cluster biogas plants in villages, blocks, and districts for the entire program period from 2020-21 to 2025-26. In 2025-26, 35 GOBARdhan community biogas plants are operational in the state.

Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)

The Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) (SBM-U) aims to ensure hygiene, effective waste management, and improved sanitation. It has five components: individual household latrines, public toilets, solid waste management, capacity building, and information, education, and communication activities. Details of SBM-U allocation/expenditure across components for 2023-24 and 2025-26 up to 31st August 2025 are provided in **Appendix 12.1.15**. SBM (U) 2.0 was launched on 1st October 2021 to ensure 100% source-level segregation, door-to-door collection, scientific waste management, legacy dumpsite remediation, and disposal of used water, as well as effective management of used water. The SBM (U) Phase 2 components are city solid waste management, city sanitation, used water management, IEC activities and capacity building.

As of 1st December 2025, under SBM (U), 9 lakh tonnes of legacy waste out of 13 lakh tonnes have been remediated, and 78.01 acres of land have been reclaimed in the state. The state has initiated 6 bio-methanation plants and 49 waste-to-compost plants. As part of SBM (U), 1169 community and public toilets have been constructed.

Table 12.1.6 ODF Plus Declaration of villages and Solid and Liquid Waste Management as of 1st December 2025

Sl. No	District	Block			SWM Arrangement		LWM Arrangement		ODF plus Villages
		Total	Covered	Total SBM Villages	Marked	% of Village Covered	Marked	% of Village Covered	
1	Alappuzha	12	12	83	77	92.77	77	92.77	77
2	Ernakulam	14	14	103	93	90.29	93	90.29	93
3	Idukki	8	8	68	66	97.06	65	95.59	66
4	Kannur	11	11	105	102	97.14	102	97.14	102
5	Kasaragod	6	6	119	116	97.48	116	97.48	116
6	Kollam	11	11	91	91	100	91	100	91
7	Kottayam	11	11	91	87	95.6	87	95.6	87
8	Kozhikode	12	12	92	84	91.3	84	91.3	84
9	Malappuram	15	15	116	112	96.55	109	93.97	112
10	Palakkad	13	13	148	144	97.3	144	97.3	144
11	Pathanamthitta	8	8	65	63	96.92	63	96.92	63
12	Thiruvananthapuram	11	11	94	93	98.94	93	98.94	93
13	Thrissur	16	16	214	208	97.2	208	97.2	208
14	Wayanad	4	4	46	45	97.83	45	97.83	45
TOTAL		152	152	1435	1381	96.24	1377	95.96	1381

Source : SBM Gramin Dashboard

Under SBM (U) Phase II, an action plan was prepared for the components to be undertaken in Phase II. An expenditure of Rs 47.44 crore has been incurred in SBM Phase (II) for the financial year 2024-25. In 2025-26, up to 31st August 2025, the expenditure is Rs 5.60 crore. Financial achievement of SBM (U) 2.0 during 2022-23 to 2025-26 (as of 31st August 2025) is provided in **Appendix 12.1.16**.

Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP)

Further strengthening this solid waste management efforts, the Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP), jointly funded by the World Bank (IBRD), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the Government of Kerala, began operations in January 2022. With a project cost of USD 300 million (approximately Rs 2,400 crore), KSWMP aims to enhance the entire solid waste management value chain through technical assistance and capacity-building interventions. These efforts are targeted at urban LSGs and

regional levels using an integrated service delivery value chain approach. The financial achievements of KSWMP projects over the years are presented in **Table 12.1.7**.

Achievements of Kerala in the National Swachh Survekshan rankings in 2024-25

As a result of sustained efforts in sanitation and solid waste management, Kerala has attained a remarkable milestone in the National Swachh Survekshan rankings in 2024-25. For the first time, the Municipalities of the State have been listed among the 100 cleanest cities in India. This marks a substantial improvement over the previous year, when no municipality from Kerala ranked within the top 1,000. Kerala has made historic progress in the field of waste management, with 82 out of 93 municipalities in Kerala securing positions within the top 1000.

The Mattannur Municipality received a Ministerial Award in the Special Category, highlighting its exemplary performance. Thiruvananthapuram

Table 12.1.7 Financial progress of KSWMP project (Rs in lakh)

Component-1 and 3: Institutional development, capacity building and project management and development of regional SWM facilities							
Year	Budgeted Outlay			Expenditure			Expenditure (%)
	State share	EAP	Total	State share	EAP	Total	
2022-23	780.00	1,820.00	2,600.00	361.07	842.50	1,203.57	46.291
2023-24	3,956.33	9,231.43	13,188	1,351.88	3,154.39	4,506.27	34.170
2024-25	3,600.15	8,399.85	12,000.00	1,391.17	3,246.06	4,637.23	38.644
2025-26 (till Sept 2025)	5,550.00	12,950.00	18,500.00	618.21	2,472.84	3,091.05	16.708
Component-2 Support to ULBs for SWM							
Year	Budgeted Outlay			Expenditure			Expenditure (%)
	State share	EAP	Total	State share	EAP	Total	
2022-23	2,220.00	5,180.00	7,400.00	0	0	-	0.000
2023-24	6,321.61	14,678.75	21,000.36	79.03	205.79	284.82	1.356
2024-25	5,400.00	12,600.00	18,000.00	99.31	231.71	331.02	1.839
2025-26 (till Sept 2025)	3,450.00	8,050.00	11,500.00	3.91	15.64	19.55	0.170

Source: KSWMP

Municipality has earned the prestigious Water Plus certification, the highest grade under the Open Defecation Free (ODF) protocol, making it the first city in Kerala to receive this recognition. Additionally, 13 municipalities attained ODF status, 77 were certified as ODF Plus, and 3 achieved ODF Plus Plus ratings, indicating sustained sanitation infrastructure and behavioural outcomes.

In terms of the Garbage-Free City (GFC) ratings, three urban local bodies (ULBs) achieved the three-star status, while 20 received the one-star rating—a noteworthy development, considering that no ULB in Kerala had previously received star recognition under this. These advancements underscore the effectiveness of the Malinya Mukta campaign, which was initiated by the government.

Table 12.1.8 presents a summary of select ULBs from Kerala that ranked among the top 100 cities nationally, along with key performance indicators such as door-to-door waste collection, source segregation, processing efficiency, GFC status, and ODF certification.

Urban Infrastructure

As the State undergoes rapid urbanisation, its

economic development would rely primarily on its ability to enhance urban infrastructure. Better urban infrastructure can only be built by harnessing diverse sources and partners who can enter new partnership models. This may include local governments, as well as various public, private, social, and community stakeholders.

Urban infrastructure encompasses a wide range of initiatives that can make city spaces more liveable and attractive. It should address the growing needs of the urban population for improved livelihoods and better citizen services. Any initiative to improve urban infrastructure would include improving water supply systems, waste management systems and city sanitation planning; establishment and improvement of public amenities; establishing and maintaining sewerage and stormwater drainage systems; adoption of effective parking policies along with modern mechanised parking solutions; city beautification; creation of environmentally friendly urban spaces, and the promotion of non-motorised urban transportation.

Keeping this in mind, the State Government has launched and executed several programs through urban local governments, utilising local

Table 12.1.8: Performance of Selected Urban Local Bodies from Kerala in Swachh Survekshan 2024-25

ULB Name	Population	% Door to Door	% Source Segregation	% Pro-processing	GFC (Garbage Free Cities) Status	ODF Status	National Rank
Kochi	Big Cities (3L - 10L Population)	100%	48%	56%	1 Star	ODF++	50
Mattannur	Small Cities (20000 - 50000 Population)	31%	51%	95%	1 Star	ODF+	53
Thrissur	Big Cities (3L - 10L Population)	56%	55%	58%	1 Star	ODF+	58
Kozhikode	Big Cities (3L - 10L Population)	33%	24%	93%	No Star	ODF+	70
Alappuzha	Medium Cities (50000 - 3L Population)	97%	77%	94%	3 Star	ODF+	80
Guruvayoor	Medium Cities (50000 - 3L Population)	26%	46%	50%	1 Star	ODF++	82
Thiruvananthapuram	Big Cities (3L - 10L Population)	23%	28%	30%	No Star	Water+	89
Kollam	Big Cities (3L - 10L Population)	66%	4%	0%	No Star	ODF	93

Source: <https://ss2024.sbmurban.org/#/statedetails>

government development funds, State schemes and Central government programmes. These initiatives have been strategically integrated to combine horizontal and vertical complementary activities. The following section discusses the key infrastructure development programmes underway in the State.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 1.0 (AMRUT 1.0)

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 1.0), launched by the Government of India in June 2015 and extended to December 2025, has been implemented in six Municipal Corporations and three Municipalities in Kerala (Alappuzha, Palakkad, and Guruvayoor) across five sectors: water supply, sewerage and septage management, stormwater drainage, urban transport, and green spaces. The funding is shared in a 50:30:20 ratio among the Centre, State, and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Under AMRUT 1.0, 1,108 projects costing Rs 2,357.00 crore were sanctioned, of which Rs 2,229.00 crore was expended, and 1,055 projects have been completed; the remaining 53 projects are ongoing and are expected to be completed by December 2025.

The Atal Mission has made significant strides in improving water supply and sewerage management. It has developed six water treatment plants with a total treatment capacity of 265 MLD and five WTPs with a total capacity of 165 MLD. 88,004 new household tap connections have been provided out of 89,508 targeted connections (98.31%), and 2036.9 km of water supply pipelines have been completed. All 20 planned water storage tanks, including 19 overhead service reservoirs and one ground level service reservoir, have been completed, with a combined capacity of 365.5 lakh litres. The mission has also completed the installation of 21 water kiosks. In the sewerage sector, it has completed seven Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a capacity of 28.2 MLD, two Mobile Septage Treatment Plants with a total treatment capacity of 20 KLD, and 79.5 km of sewer networks. One FSTP at Palakkad with a capacity of 100 KLD has been completed. Moreover, it has established 1,725 new sewer connections and integrated 1,19,325 households into the septage management system.

Under the water supply component, sanction was accorded for 217 projects costing Rs 1,082.98 crore. As of August 31, 2025, 200 projects have been completed, and Rs 1360.71 crores have

been spent. Administrative sanctions worth Rs 628.87 crores have been accorded for 152 projects under the sewerage component, and 131 projects have been completed. Under this component, Rs 334.87 crores (53.24 per cent) were spent as of August 31, 2025.

The mission has also made significant contributions to improving stormwater management and enhancing green infrastructure. A total of 330.8 km of stormwater drains have been laid, and 1387 waterlogging points have been eliminated. Stormwater drainage comprised 535 projects, costing Rs 385.21 crore, out of which 527 projects have been completed, with an expenditure of Rs 320.63 crore incurred.

Urban mobility improvements include the construction of 7 multi-level car parking facilities, 78 km of footpaths, 6.5 km of dedicated cycle tracks, 25 foot-over-bridges, and two walkways (a skywalk and a subway).

Under the urban transport sector, there are 126 projects costing Rs 212.04 crores, of which 119 projects have been completed, and Rs 171.05 crores has been spent as of August 31, 2025.

Under the green space and parks sector, 78 projects costing Rs 48.59 crore have been sanctioned to develop green spaces and parks with special provisions for child-friendly components. Of these, 78 projects have been completed, with an expenditure of Rs 41.74 crores. The financial progress of AMRUT 1.0 projects up to 31st August 2025 is given in **Appendix 12.1.17**. The progress of the AMRUT 1.0 project in nine cities is shown in **Appendix 12.1.18**, and the sector-wise status of AMRUT 1.0 is shown in **Appendix 12.1.19**.

Furthermore, the mission has promoted energy efficiency by replacing two lakh streetlights with LEDs. Through the capacity-building component, 2,493 functionaries have been trained, including officials from various departments and elected representatives of Urban Local Bodies. Beyond physical progress, Kerala has demonstrated strong performance in urban governance reforms. The State has received reform incentives continuously for the last four years, amounting to Rs 59.82 crore. With an average score of 82.49%, Kerala ranks 7th in Urban Reform Implementation, according to the MoHUA ranking, highlighting the effective management of urban development initiatives.

Best practice under the Urban Transport sector of AMRUT 1.0- Skywalk at Shakthan Nagar- Thrissur Corporation

The skywalk at Shakthan Nagar in Thrissur is a unique urban pedestrian crossover and has been recognised as a best practice by HUDCO. The structure is the longest skywalk in Kerala, with a circular design having a circumference of 279 meters. Built under the Urban Transport content of AMRUT 1.0, it was opened to the public in August 2023. The steel skywalk accommodates approximately 50,000 pedestrians daily, allowing them to easily avoid vehicular traffic at Shakthan Nagar. The skywalk connects key locations, including the Shakthan Bus Stand, the vegetable market, the fish market, and the municipal exhibition ground. It is roofed and air-conditioned, which makes it suitable for all seasons. The facility is equipped with four lifts at the connecting points, ensuring easy accessibility. Moreover, the structure is classified as a 'Net Zero Energy' facility, with its solar energy system generating 160 kW, equivalent to its installed power requirements.

AMRUT 2.0

AMRUT 2.0, launched on October 1, 2021, is an extension of AMRUT 1.0, which aims to address water scarcity, enhance water distribution in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and promote sustainable access to clean water. The programme is being implemented across all 93 ULBs in Kerala, with a five-year project timeline (2021–2026). Key objectives include providing household water tap connections, improving sewerage/septage management in AMRUT cities (six Corporations and the municipalities of Alappuzha, Guruvayoor, and Palakkad), rejuvenating water bodies, and developing green spaces.

Central assistance under AMRUT 2.0 is provided based on population. For cities with a population of less than one lakh, the central government contributes 50 per cent of the project cost. For towns with a population between one lakh and ten lakhs, the central share is 33.3 per cent, while for cities with a population exceeding ten lakhs, it is 25 per cent.

Under AMRUT 2.0, a total of 737 projects have been initiated, with 132 having been completed. The cumulative expenditure under AMRUT stands at Rs 572 crore. The projects span four major sectors—water supply, sewerage & septage, water body rejuvenation, and parks. Notable achievements include laying 1127.68 km of

water supply network, providing 87,046 new tap connections, and rehabilitating over 1.15 lakh existing tap connections. In the sewerage and septage projects, 12.5 km of new sewer lines were laid, along with 39 new sewer connections, and the rehabilitation of 31 old connections was completed. Under the waterbody rejuvenation component, 98 of 371 projects have been completed, covering 3.38 square kilometres, while 0.36 square kilometres of park area have been developed, contributing to urban ecological improvement.

Under the water supply component, 248 projects worth Rs 2412.79 crore have been approved, with 13 projects completed as of August 31, 2025. In the sewerage and septage management component, 45 projects worth Rs 1147.34 crore are underway, and six projects have already been completed. In water body rejuvenation, 371 projects worth Rs 146.64 crore have been sanctioned, resulting in an expenditure of Rs 26.40 crore. **Table 12.1.9** provides a detailed account of physical progress under each component of AMRUT 2.0. This progress underscores the state's commitment to achieving the mission's objectives of sustainable urban water management and ecosystem rejuvenation.

Achievements of Kerala in implementing AMRUT 2.0

Under AMRUT 2.0, several progressive initiatives have been launched. Kerala received Rs 22 crore as reform incentives. The Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation received Rs 10 crore for attaining over 85 per cent household tap connections, and Rs 12 crore for successful urban planning reforms. Under the Special Assistance for Capital Investment, Kerala received Rs 466.56 crore, with Rs 60 crore in 2022-23, Rs 282.5 crore in 2023-24, and Rs 124 crore in 2024-25 for town-planning reforms. AMRUT 2.0 also initiated GIS-based master planning in 49 urban local bodies, onboarded eight technology startups and operationalised the AMRUT Mitra initiative, involving trained SHG women in water-related services. Another innovative intervention was the deployment of Mobile Septage Treatment Units at Sabarimala.

The mission also earned several national recognitions. AMRUT-supported urban reforms received national awards, including the 2025 Silver National e-Governance Award for the

Project Monitoring and Water Quality Monitoring Information System, the Platinum EEF Award for the Jalam Jeevan IEC campaign, and the Gold WET (Water Efficient Thrissur) initiative, at the ET Global Smart Cities Forum 2020. The Skywalk project won a special mention at the 18th Urban Mobility India Conference 2025. Guruvayur Municipality received the Platinum State Pollution Control Board Award 2025 for its environmental management, waterbody rejuvenation, and transformation of waste dumps into green spaces. The sector-wise status of AMRUT 2.0 is provided in **Appendix 12.1.20**

Smart Cities Mission

Smart Cities Mission is a major infrastructure development programme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2015 to promote cities to provide core infrastructure facilities and a decent quality of life to its citizens, build a clean and sustainable environment, and encourage the application of smart solutions to accomplish better quality standards in urban governance. Kochi corporation was selected under the Mission in the first phase, and Thiruvananthapuram corporation in the third phase.

Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML)

CSML has identified 98 individual projects (including five terminated projects) with an estimated cost of Rs 1032.04 crore. As of March 31, 2025, 65 of these projects, worth Rs 610.82 crore, have been completed, while 27 projects, with an allocation of Rs 404.12 crore, are ongoing. The completed projects include Integrated Command Control and Communication Centre, smart roads in Ernakulam, implementation of Integrated Traffic Management System, installation of solar panels in Government buildings, distribution of household bins and street bins, redevelopment of Ernakulam Market, innovative solid waste systems, e-governance platforms, upgradation of Dutch Palace entry area, establishment of open-air theatre at Fort Kochi, beachfront upgradation at Vasco square, e-health solution at General Hospital, Health ATM, police kiosks, and open space corridor linking Durbar Hall ground to Mangalavanam.

Multilevel automated parking, canal rejuvenation, and LED lighting solutions are at advanced stages, marking significant strides toward transforming Kochi into a sustainable, technologically enabled urban centre.

Table 12.1.9 Physical progress under AMRUT 2.0

Sl.No	Sector	Unit	Completed
1	Water Supply		
	Water tap connections (new)	nos	87046
	Water tap connections (replacement)	nos	115438
	Water Supply Network Laid	km	1127.68
2	Sewerage and Septage		
	Sewerage Network	km	12.5
	Sewer Connections (new)	nos	39
3	Sewerage Connection(replacement)	nos	31
	Waterbody rejuvenation		
	Waterbody rejuvenation	sq.km	3.38

Source: AMRUT Mission

Smart City, Thiruvananthapuram Limited

Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited (SCTL) has 79 sanctioned projects with a total cost of Rs 1,242.48 crores. Of these, SCTL has a total of 69 individual projects (including all sub-projects under 27 major project heads) with an outlay of Rs. 938.03 crore. Out of these 65 projects, worth Rs. 847.83 Cr have been completed, and 4 projects of Rs. 90.2Cr is in progress.

Major completed projects include the procurement of e-buses for KSRTC (Phases I and II), construction of multi-level car parks at Thampanoor and Palayam, rooftop solar installations (ANERT Phases I to VI), smart roads, sewer line realignment and brick manhole reconstruction, open-air theatre and park at Putharikandam Maidanam, grid-connected roof-mounted solar PV power plants at five sites, traffic signal development, drinking water kiosks at 25 locations, the Charithra Veethi (History Street) urban street market including Sree Chitra Park, redevelopment of children's park, green activities linked to KWA, cultural streets like Manaveeyam Veethi (Manaveeyam Street), upgrades to Rajaji public health centre, landscaping of Ponnara Sreedhar Park, improvement of temple tanks at Puthenchantha Sreekandeshwaram, public toilet renovations at six sites, procurement of 15 e-autos, last-mile connectivity initiatives, construction of interactive kiosks with IT equipment procurement, phased upgrades of Anganwadis, installation of outdoor gyms and children's play equipment at three sites, installation of statues at five locations and procurement of smart EV chargers.

B. Rural Connectivity

Rural road connectivity is a key component of rural development, as it enhances access to economic and social services, thereby increasing agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities. An integrated road network would also facilitate farm mechanisation, better labour mobilisation, more effective resource utilisation, and increased use of rural infrastructure. Three decades of decentralised planning in Kerala have facilitated better rural connectivity even in remote locations. The centrally sponsored programmes for rural connectivity were primarily used to support the existing connectivity in the state. The major programmes that ensure road connectivity in Kerala are as follows:

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), launched on December 25, 2000, under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), is a flagship programme to enhance rural connectivity to foster socio-economic development. In Kerala, PMGSY has complemented the efforts of LSGIs to improve connectivity by helping them build all-weather roads (complete with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures) to link eligible, unconnected habitations in rural regions. The programme targets habitations with populations of 500 or more in the plains, while in hilly, desert, and tribal areas, the threshold is reduced to 250 persons. Initially, the PMGSY was fully funded by the Central Government; however, since November 2015, it has been jointly funded by the Centre (60 per cent) and the States (40 per cent),

as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.

The Local Self Government Department is the nodal authority for implementing PMGSY in Kerala, with the Kerala State Rural Roads Development Agency (KSRRDA) acting as the State-level nodal agency.

The funds provided by the GoI under PMGSY can be used only to meet the estimated cost of the work. The scheme does not have provisions to cover the costs of tender excess, utility relocation, and road maintenance. To meet these additional expenses, necessary for the successful implementation of such projects, the State Government sets aside adequate funds in addition to the stipulated share of 40 per cent through the 'State support scheme for PMGSY'.

The PMGSY programme has progressed through three phases: PMGSY-I focused on providing all-weather road access to unconnected rural habitations, sanctioning 3,308.4 km and completing 3,241.09 km of roads. PMGSY-II aimed at upgrading key rural roads identified through the District Rural Roads Plan, completing 562.41 km out of 582.9 km sanctioned and constructing three bridges. PMGSY-III focuses on strengthening major rural links to markets, schools, and hospitals, with 1,421.1 km sanctioned, 760.34 km completed, and 189.1 km currently under construction.

The district-wise details of road laying under the PMGSY scheme for 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) are provided in **Appendix 12.1.21**.

PMGSY-IV aims to provide single all-weather road connectivity to 25,000 newly eligible rural habitations, as per the 2011 Census. Only habitations that have never been connected by an all-weather road are eligible under PMGSY-IV. Using the updated PMGSY Gram Sadak Survey (GSS) App, PIUs identify and map road alignments, which must first be approved by the State and subsequently by the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) before being entered into the Online Management, Monitoring, and Accounting System. A comprehensive new connectivity priority list can be generated only after the habitation is verified as unconnected through an approved GSS survey, SC/ST population details are updated, candidate roads are finalised, and each eligible habitation has

at least one approved road alignment identified. Under PMGSY-IV, a total of 2,367 habitations were surveyed through the Mobile Tracking System and accorded state-level approval. Of these, 2,004 habitations subsequently received approval from NRIDA.

The implementation of PMGSY in Kerala faces challenges due to geographical constraints, including GoI norms on gradient and road length requirements, compounded by the State's unique topography and dense population. Issues such as the non-availability of machinery for surface dressing, delays in Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) works, and cost restrictions on DPR provisions for retaining walls and drains further impede progress. Advanced technologies, such as full-depth reclamation, coir subgrade improvement, and plastic waste utilisation, are being adopted under the PMGSY. The PMGSY roads are designed to last for a period of 10 years and have an inbuilt 5-year maintenance defect liability period after construction. The funds required for maintenance, which account for approximately 9 per cent of the construction cost, are to be provided by the State Government. The concerned District Panchayat must carry out the post-five-year maintenance of the PMGSY roads.

C. Natural Resource Management

The emphasis on natural resource management has significantly increased, as evidenced by the number of schemes in this sector. The Government of India merged the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16. It is implemented as a Watershed Development Component (WDC) of PMKSY.

Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY)

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), launched in 2015-16, focuses on preventing soil erosion, regenerating natural vegetation, harvesting rainwater, recharging groundwater, afforestation, and reclaiming cultivable wasteland. Activities under the scheme include the construction of check dams, percolation tanks, farm ponds and drainage line treatment activities. The Rural Development Department is the nodal department responsible for implementing the watershed development component of PMKSY. Project implementation is managed at the State-level by the State Level Nodal

Agency (SLNA), at the district-level by Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC) constituted at the Poverty Alleviation Unit, at the block-level by the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) of Block Panchayats, and at the Grama Panchayat-level or watershed-level by Watershed Committees (WC) specially constituted for the purpose. The funding pattern of the scheme between the Central and State Governments is 60:40.

These interventions are expected to enable multi-cropping and the introduction of diverse agro-based activities, which would help provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in the watershed area.

PMKSY 2.0 was launched in 2021-22 as a new-generation watershed development programme. As part of this, 37 micro watersheds with a project area of 26,163 hectares were sanctioned at a project cost of Rs73.3 lakhs. The work components of the scheme are grouped under three major categories: a) natural resource management, b) production system improvement, and c) livelihood support and micro enterprises. In 2024-25, the scheme had a project outlay of Rs 25 crore, comprising Rs 15 crore from the Centre and Rs 10 crore from the State. During the year, the Centre released Rs 4.17 crore, and the State released Rs 2.78 crore, resulting in a total of Rs 7.30 crore in available funds, including the opening balance. Expenditure during the year amounted to Rs 6.44 crore, reflecting a utilisation rate of 88.2 per cent. In 2024-25, the project led to the construction of 18 new water harvesting structures and the renovation of 284 existing ones. The project has provided irrigation facilities, which are also benefiting indigenous agriculture. As a result, 5,283 farmers have directly benefited from the scheme. The project also generated 18,227 man-days, and 87.67 ha were brought under plantation, including horticulture.

PMKSY is primarily implemented in the Idukki, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram, and Wayanad districts. Financially, up to 30.09.2025, a total of Rs 56.02 crore has been released (Rs 33.62 crore from the Centre and Rs 22.42 crore from the State), with an expenditure of Rs 47.68 crore, reflecting 85.1 per cent utilisation.

D. Employment Generation and Livelihood Support

Implementing a demand-driven employment guarantee programme in the country has tremendously impacted the livelihood security of the rural masses. Below are the details of implementing the employment guarantee programme and other livelihood support programmes implemented in the state.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), launched under the MGNREGA Act of 2005, aims to provide 100 days of wage employment annually to adult members of rural households who are willing to undertake unskilled manual labour, thereby enhancing their livelihood security. The scheme promotes the active participation of women in the workforce. This contributes to women's empowerment and addresses gender disparities in rural employment. Kerala has utilised the provisions of the MGNREGS constructively to complement the diverse development projects implemented by the LSGIs. It is noteworthy that the decentralised framework of local governance has facilitated the effective implementation of the scheme. According to the guidelines, the list of works under MGNREGS is categorised as follows.

Category A: Public works relating to natural resources management.

Category B: Individual assets for vulnerable sections (only for households that are SC, ST, families below the poverty line, women-headed households, physically handicapped households, beneficiaries of land reforms, etc).

Category C: Includes common infrastructure for NRLM-compliant self-help groups, and

Category D: Rural Infrastructure.

At the national level, 286.19 crore person days were generated in the financial year 2024-25. Out of the total person-days generated, the percentages of person-days for women, SC, and ST were 58.08 per cent, 18.63 per cent, and 18.09 per cent, respectively. A total of 5.78 crore households were employed, averaging 50.24 days per household. A total of 40.70 lakh households completed 100 days of employment. The **Table 12.1.10** compares Kerala's status with nation.

Table 12.1.10 MGNREGS- Status of Kerala compared to National Level 2024-25

Indicator	National Average	Kerala Value	Position of Kerala among States
Average Person days	50.23	66.17	5
Average Person days (SC)	48.06	66.89	1
Average Person days (ST)	55.03	92.25	2
Women Person days	58.08	89.06	1
% of families provided with 100 days of wage employment	7.4	37.88	2
% of SC families provided 100 person days	6.01	36.81	1
% of ST families provided 100 person days	10.76	46.96	2

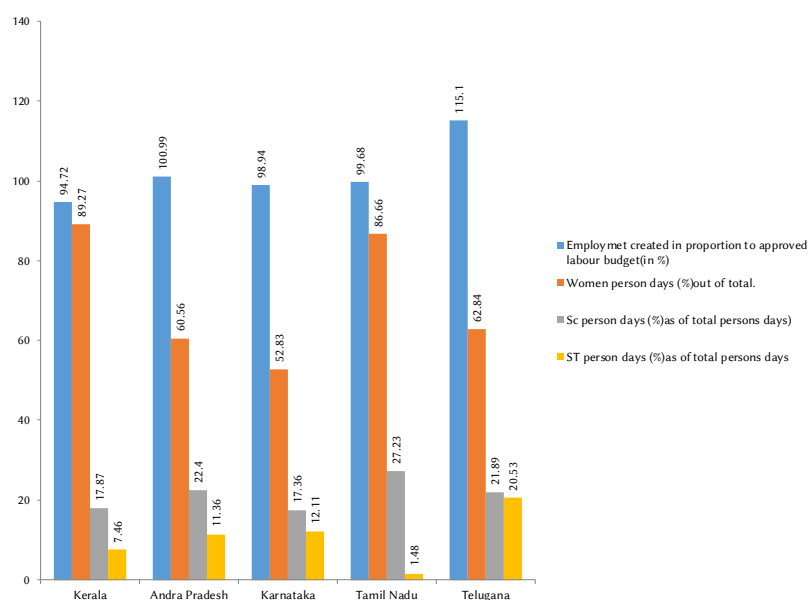
Source: LSGD

Kerala had the highest percentage of work in natural resource management, agriculture, and the allied sectors. It is reported that 26.56 lakh of the expenditure was on developing rural infrastructure, while 47.71 lakh was directed toward activities related to natural resource management.

Kerala has always regarded MGNREGS as an effective programme to revive the rural economy and ensure livelihood security for the rural poor. In 2024-25, the State generated 8.95 crore person days of employment, of which 17.54 per cent was generated by Scheduled Caste beneficiaries and 7.53 per cent by Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. Women constitute a significant majority of beneficiaries in Kerala, accounting for 89.06 per cent of total person-days (compared to the national figure of 58.08 per cent), the highest in the country.

In 2024-25, Rs 4,011.53 crore was expended, of which Rs 3,107.91 crore (77.47 per cent) was spent as unskilled wages and Rs 713.05 crore (18.66 per cent) as material component, semi-skilled and skilled wages. The financial and physical progress of MGNREGS in 2024-25 and 2025-26 (as of August 31, 2025) is given in **Appendix 12.1.22, 12.1.23, 12.1.24, and 12.1.25**, respectively. **Table 12.1.11** depicts the employment generation and performance of MGNREGS in Kerala during the previous years.

A comparison of South Indian States based on their performance in implementing MGNREGS in 2024-25 is shown in (**Fig 12.1.7**).

Fig 12.1.7 Performance of MGNREGS-Comparison of States in South India (2024-25)

Source: MGNREGS website

Table 12.1.11 Review of employment generation and performance

Indicator	2025-26 30th Nov 2025	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21
Approved person days in Labour Budget (in lakh)	500	600	1050	950	1000	1000
Person-days of Central Liability (So far) [in lakhs]	552.67	895.15	979.60	955.01	1059.66	1011.08
% of Achievement against Total Labour Budget	110.73	151.26	94.7	101.7	106	102.3
% of women person days generated	88.41	89.06	89.3	89.8	89.4	90.5
% of person days generated by SC families	17.3	17.54	17.9	18.2	18.3	18.4
% of person days generated by ST families	6.85	7.53	7.5	7	6.3	6.5
Average Person days/Household	46.64	66.17	67.7	62.3	64.3	63.2
Families provided 100 days	51,722	5,19,619	5,69,108	4,49,638	5,12,823	4,70,410

Source: MGNREGS website.

In 2024-25, a gradual reduction is noticed in the approval of labour budget person days when compared to the previous years, which indicates a significant reduction in the employment generation.

In the financial year 2024-25, an outlay of Rs 4,459.71crores was allocated by GoI. The Centre released Rs 3,130.77crores. The expenditure for the year 2024-25 was Rs 4,029.69 crore. Of the total available funds, 116.26 per cent was utilised (Table 12.1.12).

Convergence of MGNREGS with major initiatives of the state

MGNREGS has been of great help to the State as it has been instrumental in creating assets in rural areas, particularly in the productive sector, through

the unique decentralised planning framework. Convergence involves various stakeholders from multiple departments, including agriculture, social justice, dairy development, forest and wildlife, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe development, as well as various Missions and LSGIs. These programmes combine resources, local knowledge, and new strategies to create stronger, lasting results for various state and local-level development projects by working together towards common goals.

Subhiksha Keralam

The State Government had launched Subhiksha Keralam to increase agricultural production and that of allied sectors. This programme has also been integrated with MGNREGS. As part of the

Table 12.1.12 Financial achievement of MGNREGA in Kerala in 2024-25 and 2025-26(as on 31st August 2025)

F.Y	Outlay (Rs in crore)			OB+Mis (Rs in crore)	Release (Rs in crore)			Total Avail- able fund (Rs in crore)	Exp. (Rs in crore)	Per cent
	Centre	State	Total		Centre	State	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9=5+8	10	11= (10/9* 100)
2024-25	4459.71	230.10	4689.81	181.82	3130.77	153.61	3284.39	3466.21	4029.69	116.26
2025-26 (31.08.25)	4838.97	230.10	5069.07	15.67	1727.03	41.58	1768.61	1784.28	1716.32	96.19

Source: LSGD

programme, livelihood assets were created in rural areas, which help the rural population generate a steady income to meet their day-to-day expenses. In 2024-25, 3,270 cattle sheds, 2,473 goat sheds, 3,713 poultry sheds, 1,171 farm ponds, 766 Azola tank and 86 SHG work sheds were constructed.

Suchitwa Keralam

The Suchitwa Keralam programme has been initiated by the State government to construct waste management infrastructure in rural areas. The programme, integrated with MGNREGS, focuses on improving rural waste management by constructing facilities such as compost pits, soak pits, and Mini MCFs. Under this initiative, 1,117 compost pits and 766 soak pits were constructed, strengthening sanitation and promoting sustainable waste management in rural areas.

Plantation of Tree saplings

Under the afforestation initiatives jointly carried out by the Social Forestry and MGNREGS, with support from the Forest Department, nurseries were established, and tree saplings were produced. During the 2024–25 financial year, a total of 14.36 lakh saplings were planted across the state.

Neeruravu project

Under the Neeruravu project, in convergence with the Haritha Keralam Mission, GIS-based watershed planning is being implemented to improve resource management and water conservation. Comprehensive GIS-based watershed plans have already been completed in 941 Grama Panchayats, ensuring systematic and sustainable implementation of works for the next 4–5 years.

Construction of Anganwadis

Under MGNREGS, construction of 720 Anganwadis was undertaken in collaboration with the Women and Child Development Department, with funding of Rs. 8 lakh from MGNREGS, Rs. 2 lakh from ICDS, and additional support from LSIs. Of this, 535 had been completed, while the remaining are in various stages of construction.

Kerala Tribal Plus

The Government of Kerala has been keen to bridge the gaps in implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes by incorporating new complementary components and schemes. Kerala introduced the Kerala Tribal Plus scheme in 2017-18 to provide 100 days of unskilled manual work for Scheduled Tribe families. Funded entirely

by the State Tribal Development Department, this scheme generated 12,41,429 person-days of employment in 2024-25. Furthermore, 34,843 families completed 100 days of work during the same period. This review discusses the above details in Chapter 8.2 (Addressing Social Economic Vulnerabilities).

During 2024–25, the MGNREGS played a crucial role in Meppadi Grama Panchayat's recovery after the devastating landslide and flash floods of July 30, 2024. The Panchayat, covering 128 square kilometres and comprising 22 wards, saw severe damage in Wards 10, 11, and 12 of the Mundakkai–Punchirimattam area. Under the action plan, Rs 28.68 crore was allocated for material works and Rs 6.46 crore for asset creation, resulting in 352 projects. Of these, 158 were completed by March 31, 2025, with a total expenditure of Rs 12.11 crore reported for the 2024–25 fiscal year, resulting from extensive post-flood reconstruction efforts. These initiatives demonstrated effective implementation of MGNREGS in restoring infrastructure and livelihoods in Meppadi.

Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS)

Kerala is the only state that pioneered an exclusive programme to employ the urban poor, following the spirit and principles of the MGNREGS. The programme, Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS), funded by the state government, intends to enhance livelihood security in urban areas by guaranteeing at least 100 days of wage employment to every household whose adult members are willing to engage in unskilled manual labour. The State Government launched the AUEGS in 2009-10. The funds are utilised to create durable assets in urban LSIs.

The AUEGS was conceived as a rights-based programme to address urban unemployment in Kerala. The operational guidelines outline a comprehensive list of permissible works primarily semi-skilled and unskilled activities including natural resource management, the creation of personal assets for SCs, STs, and persons with disabilities, construction and upkeep of public assets, development of public spaces, production of raw materials for construction, etc.

The budget provision for the AUEGS for the first year, 2010-11, was Rs 20.00 crore, but only 17 per

cent was utilised. Over the subsequent five years, the budget allocation for the scheme fluctuated, and the total expenditure gradually increased. However, the fund utilisation was below 50 per cent. However, with the change of government in 2016-17, there has been a steady increase in budget allocations, utilisation, and employment creation. Since the financial year 2016-17, significant progress has been made in implementing AUEGS.

In the financial year 2023-24, AUEGS generated 26,89,283 person days of employment across various Municipalities and Corporations. During this period, 68,864 households received employment, which includes 54,384 general category families, 13,650 Scheduled Caste families and 830 Scheduled Tribe families.

In 2024-25, Rs 165.00 crore was allocated to the scheme, and Rs 159.77 crore was expended. The programme created 27,26,184 person-days across various Municipalities and Corporations, indicating a nominal increase from 2023-24. During this period, 62,227 families received employment, including 13,631 SC families, 828 ST families, and 47,768 Others. Of the 23,25,589 women provided employment, 6,05,238 workers were from the Scheduled Castes, and 27,224 were from the Scheduled Tribes. In 2024-25, 5,225 families completed 100 days of employment.

In 2025-26, the budget allocation was increased to Rs 180.00 crore, and the scheme's expenditure up to August 2025 was Rs 28.18 crore. During 2025-26, as of 31st August 2025, 42,826 households were provided employment in various Municipalities and Corporations.

The age-wise distribution of AUEGS workers in 2024-25 shows that the majority of the workforce who availed of the scheme were middle-aged. Labourers in the 51-60 age group make up the largest share (21,789 workers), followed by those aged 41-50 (14,508) and 61-65 (11,208). Workers aged 65 and above also constitute a significant proportion (6,349), underscoring the importance of the scheme in providing wage employment to the elderly population for livelihood security (**Table 12.1.13**). The overall pattern indicates that AUEGS serves as a vital safety-net programme for older and economically vulnerable populations.

Table 12.1.13 Age-wise breakup of AUEGS workers in the financial year 2024-25

Age between	Number of labourers
18-30	1647
31-40	6122
41-50	14508
51-60	21789
61-65	11208
Above 65	6349

Source: LSGD

The significant activities taken under AUEGS include waste management, pre-monsoon cleaning, water conservation, afforestation, and house construction under PMAY. From the financial year 2019-20, dairy farmers have also been included as beneficiaries of AUEGS. House construction materials for PMAY beneficiaries are provided under the AUEGS.

The local government-wise distribution of funds under AUEGS for 2024-25 and 2025-26, as of August 31, 2025, is provided in **Appendix 12.1.26**. Details of the physical achievements of the scheme are given in **Appendix 12.1.27**.

Development of livelihoods of the poor

As seen earlier, the state has given due emphasis to livelihood development schemes such as MGNREGS and AUEGS that guarantee wage employment. The significant initiatives through Centre-State partnership to provide livelihood options are the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) for rural areas and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) for urban areas, with a funding pattern of 60:40 between Centre and State, respectively.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) is a demand-driven programme encouraging self-employment among the rural poor. The Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU GKY), Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), and Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) are sub-components of DAY-NRLM.

DDUGKY was earlier known as Aajeevika Skills. The State Government has assigned Kudumbashree as the Nodal Agency to implement the programme. The DDUGKY has been re-launched as DDUGKY 2.0 for 2025-2028, focusing on equipping individuals with advanced skills aligned with industry needs. It emphasises training in emerging fields such as artificial intelligence, digital skills, and green technologies to improve employability in modern sectors. Moreover, the scheme has expanded its scope to provide more substantial support for marginalised groups, thereby enhancing their access to opportunities. Under DDUGKY 2.0 (2025–26), 3,272 targets have been approved, and the agency selection process is underway, with 12 projects from 6 agencies cleared for qualitative appraisal. The new phase was expected to commence before November 10, 2025.

MKSP focuses on reducing the gender gap in agriculture by promoting systems that reduce drudgery and sustainable agricultural practices for women farmers. In Kerala, MKSP is implemented through the Kudumbashree Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) network. As of November 1, 2025, there are 98,455 Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) with 4,49,323 women farmers engaged in agriculture, cultivating 44,470.60 acres.

Since the financial year 2023-24, DAY-NRLM has restructured its non-farm livelihood initiatives under the SVEP Umbrella Schemes. This unified framework has now consolidated various programs, including the Micro Enterprise Development (MED) program, the Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), the One Stop Facility (OSF), Clusters, Incubators (IIMK-LIVE), and the Aajeevika Gramin Express Yojana (AGEY). As part of the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) at the block level up to October 31, 2025, 49,091 enterprises are supported with the help of 549 active MECs.

Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

DAY-NULM aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor. The scheme is being implemented by all the local urban governments in the state. Kerala has efficiently implemented this programme over several years.

Under the Social Mobilisation and Institution Development (SM&ID) component of the DAY-

NULM, opportunities are provided to establish neighbourhood groups. As of August 31, 2025, 27,575 Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs) had been formed, and 36,351 SHGs had been assisted with a revolving fund of Rs 10,000 each. Additionally, 3,360 ADSs have been supported with a Revolving Fund at a rate of Rs 50,000, and 11 City Livelihood Centres have been made functional to provide marketing support for the goods and services of the urban poor. In 2024-25, 836 new NHGs were formed, and 948 NHGs were supported with a revolving fund of Rs 10,000 for each unit. In 2025-26, as of August 31st 2025, 158 new NHGs were formed.

Under the Self-Employment Programme (SEP) of DAY-NULM, 620 individual micro-enterprises and 322 group enterprises were established in 2024-25.

The financial and physical achievements of the DAY-NULM scheme for the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, as of 31st August 2025, are presented in **Appendices 12.1.28** and **12.1.29**, respectively. A list of district-wise micro-enterprises and details of bank linkage loans of NHGs are provided in **Appendix 12.1.30** and **12.1.31**, respectively.

Kudumbashree

Kudumbashree, the State Poverty Eradication Mission launched by the Government of Kerala in 1998, is a globally acclaimed initiative for poverty eradication and women empowerment. This women-centric, participatory mission now includes over 48 lakh women organised into 3.2 lakh Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), contributing significantly to the elimination of absolute poverty across the State. The details of NHGs under Kudumbashree (as of 31st May, 2025) are given in **Appendix 12.1.32**. To achieve this, Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) were formed under LSGIs, and Kudumbashree has since evolved by expanding its reach and diversifying its activities across multiple sectors. The organisation functions through a three-tier structure comprising NHGs at the grassroots level, Area Development Societies (ADS) at the ward level, and Community Development Societies (CDS) at the LSG level, making it one of the most prominent women's community networks.

During the financial year 2024-25, 1,599 new NHGs were formed, and 20,857 women were newly federated into NHGs. To support the socio-cultural, educational, and livelihood development

of young women between 18 and 40 years, auxiliary groups were formed at the ward level; 19,472 groups have been created, enrolling around 3 lakh members. Strengthening initiatives such as Meet the New, Oxo Meet, and Oxillo Campaign were conducted during 2024-25 to further empower these auxiliary groups. Additionally, Kudumbashree has been working to transform 319 out of 941 rural CDSs in Kerala into model CDSs, focusing on strengthening good governance and ensuring financial sustainability. These collective efforts demonstrate Kudumbashree's continuous commitment to empowering women and fostering grassroots development.

Kudumbashree is the nodal agency implementing several Centrally Sponsored Schemes, including DAY-NRLM, DAY-NULM, and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). In addition to these, Kudumbashree actively collaborates with various developmental initiatives within the State. The key activities undertaken by Kudumbashree are given below.

Livelihood Initiatives of Kudumbashree

Kudumbashree has significantly advanced sustainable livelihoods for women, especially in rural and marginalised communities. Through micro-enterprises, agriculture, livestock rearing, and skill training, it has created diverse opportunities—from food processing units and SHGs to tribal and agriculture-based enterprises. By combining social and economic development with community-driven action, Kudumbashree has helped to lift millions out of poverty and fostered entrepreneurship and self-reliance among women across Kerala.

Agricultural activities: Kudumbashree's agriculture initiatives in Kerala focus on women-led, season-oriented, and technology-driven farming to enhance income, food security, and rural livelihoods. Programs like Onakkani, Nirapolima, Haritha Samruthi, and Venal Madhuram support JLGs in cultivating vegetables, fruits, and flowers, generating significant sales revenue. The Kudumbashree Technology Advancement Programme equips SHGs, PGs, and FPCs with modern tools, promoting value addition, smart farming, and market access. Collective farming through JLGs is supported by training, incentives, interest subsidies, and marketing assistance, provided via Nattuchanda and Nature's Fresh Kiosks, and strengthened by

state and national policies, including MKSP-IFC funding and NABARD subsidies. As of November 2025, there are 98,455 active JLGs with 4,49,323 women farmers cultivating 17,997 hectares. Financial support through Area Incentives and Interest Subsidy schemes has benefited thousands of JLGs. Complementary initiatives, such as the Agri Nutri Garden Campaign, have established 144,127 gardens across 150,566 households, improving nutrition and food security.

Women-led agri-enterprises under Kudumbashree have shown significant growth through the development of value-added products, nurseries, and herbal products. Jaivika Plant Nursery operates 801 units, while medium and small value-added programmes cover 256 and 1,090 units, respectively. Overall, by June 2025, Kudumbashree has established 2,647 agri-enterprise units, boosting women's empowerment, agricultural productivity, and rural livelihoods across Kerala.

Livestock Livelihood: Kudumbashree enhances livelihoods by promoting livestock activities, including dairy, goat, and poultry farming, offering training, organising farmer groups, and enabling women to secure stable incomes. The Animal Husbandry programme for 2024–25 strengthened livestock-based livelihoods with an allocation of Rs 5.87 crore. A total of 48 beneficiaries received Rs 18.09 lakh for IEC and capacity-building, and 415 beneficiaries were supported with Rs 3.29 crore under CDS initiatives. Through the Community Enterprise Fund, an amount of Rs 3.29 crore was allocated to 1,467 farmers for the establishment of dairy, goat, poultry, and other livestock units. The ALIVE campaign conducted evaluations of 161,246 NHGs, thereby enhancing awareness of opportunities related to livestock. Fisheries clusters were established in three districts to promote sustainable practices. Under the poultry scheme, 800 beneficiaries were supplied with ready-to-lay birds along with comprehensive support services. Additionally, 350 new producer groups were formed to strengthen aggregation and improve market linkages. On the occasion of World Egg Day, a total of 32,960 eggs were distributed across 426 CDS units.

Financial and enterprise support through the Community Entrepreneurship Fund (CEF) has benefited 18,909 rural and 1,822 urban beneficiaries, with Rs 35.5 crore and Rs 5.14 crore provided by 863 rural and 112 urban

CDSs, respectively. Livestock-based income has increased through 47 value-added units, benefiting 123 members. Capacity building and collective organisation encompass 598 clusters with 30,083 members, supported by 4,321 Livestock CRPs. Furthermore, 550 Producer Groups, involving 3,082 beneficiaries, actively participate in production, marketing, and enterprise activities. These initiatives strengthen women-led livestock livelihoods, promote sustainable practices, and increase income generation opportunities.

Kerala Chicken: The Kudumbashree Kerala Chicken Project, launched in 2019, is a women-led initiative transforming Kerala's poultry sector through community-driven, small-scale and retail broiler production under the Kudumbashree Mission. Operating across 13 districts, with 498 poultry farmers and 140 outlets. It ensures the supply of high-quality, hygienic chicken at affordable prices, while also empowering women through farming, processing, and retail, thereby providing sustainable livelihoods and fostering entrepreneurship.

Farmers earn up to Rs 2.6 lakh per 45-day cycle, and outlet operators earn around Rs 1 lakh per month, supported by infrastructure subsidies and processing facilities, such as the Kadinamkulam plant and the Anayara mini plant. Producing about 58 metric tons of broiler meat daily, the initiative bridges the supply-demand gap, stabilises prices, and promotes socio-economic development. In FY 2024-25, Kudumbashree Broiler Farmers' Producer Company Limited recorded a total sales turnover of Rs 410 crore, with an annual average of Rs 105 crore, reaching Rs 53 crore in the current financial year, which highlights its growth, sustainability, and significant impact on food security and rural livelihoods.

Financial Inclusion and Micro Finance: Kudumbashree's financial inclusion and micro finance initiatives, working together, created a strong, transparent, and inclusive financial ecosystem that significantly strengthened NHG operations across the State. Through key interventions such as the Pareeksha grading campaign, Star NHG recognition, FI Clinics, and the Sustainable Thrift and Credit (STC) Campaign, the mission improved organisational efficiency, resolved financial irregularities, revived non-functioning NHGs, and enhanced internal lending. Large-scale Financial Literacy Campaigns-including

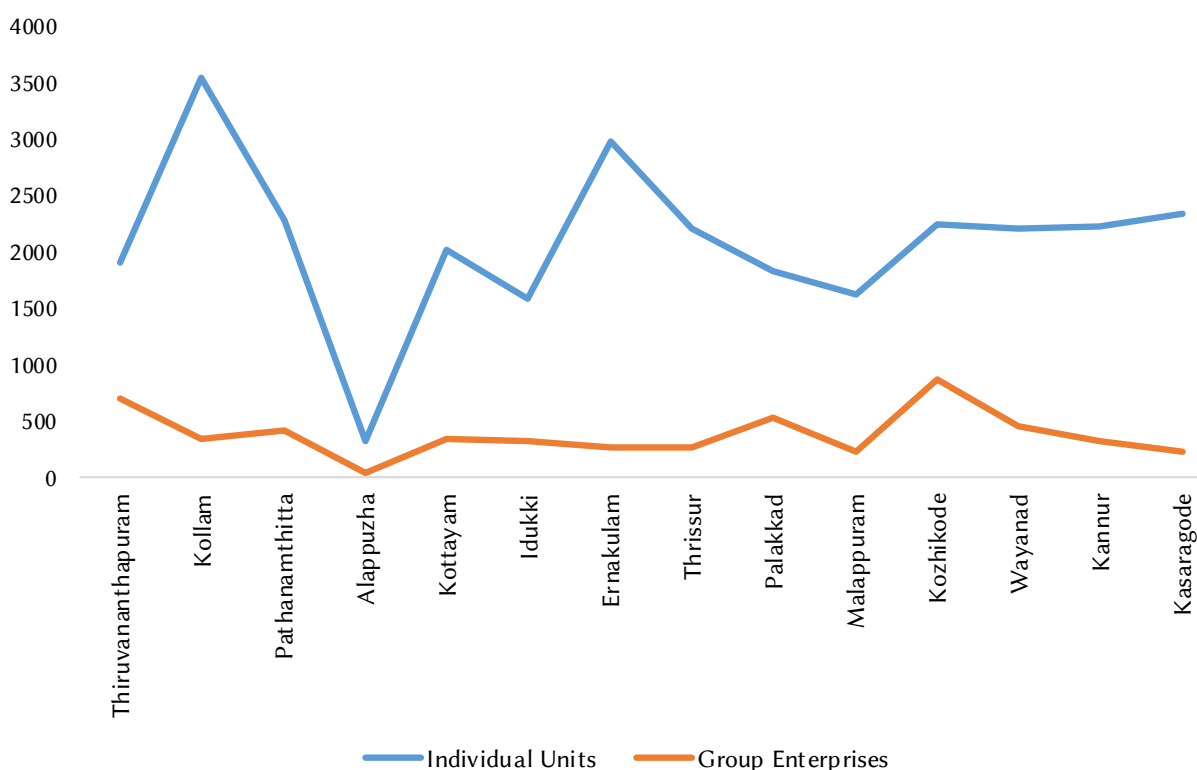
tribal-focused programmes-empowered over 15 lakh members with crucial skills in financial planning, savings, credit management, and access to insurance and social security schemes.

The microfinance programme further demonstrated robust performance, with NHGs mobilising Rs 9,870.77 crore in thrift and disbursing Rs 29,278.01 crore through internal loans. Meanwhile, 87,245 live linkage NHGs accessed Rs 9,157.78 crore in active bank credit, contributing to a cumulative linkage of 3,06,970 NHGs and Rs 46,754.83 crore in total bank loans. Strengthened by 760 BC Sakhis, 426 KAASS members, extensive audits, and enhanced digital systems, Kudumbashree improved repayment discipline, financial transparency, and service delivery across all levels. Additional support through RF, VRF, CIF, and bulk loans boosted livelihoods and reduced dependency on informal lenders, while 13.66 lakh members gained social security through the Jeevan Deepam Oruma insurance scheme. Collectively, these achievements deepened financial inclusion, expanded access to credit, strengthened grassroots empowerment, and positioned Kudumbashree as a leading model of community-driven financial development.

Micro enterprises: Kudumbashree strengthens livelihood security through comprehensive enterprise development, offering counselling, skill training, marketing support, and continuous mentoring. Micro Enterprises are functioning, with 342,802 members. Among these, 124,909 are individual enterprises, and 53,955 are group enterprises, spanning production (78,324 units), service (54,339 units), and trade sectors (46,741 units). The district-wise details of Micro enterprises (MEs) under Kudumbashree for the year 2016-17 to 2025-26 (31st August) are given in **Appendix 12.1.33**. In 2024-25, 34,421 new enterprises were established, employing 46,405 entrepreneurs across various sectors, including food processing, garments, handicrafts, services, and agro-based production. In 2025-26 (up to Q2), 15,406 new micro-enterprises involving 18,927 entrepreneurs were supported. **Figure 12.1.8** shows the district-wise details of MEs formed during the year 2024-25 are given below

Kudumbashree advances women's empowerment and public welfare through key initiatives. Take a Break (TAB) centres and Haritha Karma Sena (HKS) improve traveller amenities and

Fig.12.1.8 District details of Micro Enterprises (MEs) formed during the year 2024-25



Source: Kudumbashree

decentralized waste management, with 206 TAB centres and over 36,000 HKS members statewide. In the hospitality sector, 723 Janakeeya Hotels offer affordable meals, while 12 Premium Cafes provide professionally run, women-led dining. Economic empowerment is further strengthened through One CDS One MEC, Micro Enterprise Insurance, and 31 MERCs that offer business support and capacity building. The PEARL Project also supports NRI returnees with interest-free loans and mentoring to help them rebuild sustainable livelihoods.

Amrutham Nutrimix Fortification Project: The Amrutham Nutrimix Fortification Project, implemented by Kudumbashree in collaboration with the Social Justice Department and UNWFP, produces fortified weaning food for children (6 months–3 years) through Anganwadis, addressing micronutrient deficiencies. 242 women-led units were upgraded, and 1,680 entrepreneurs trained in fortification, hygiene, and quality standards. The project enhances child nutrition while empowering women through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Prathyasha Scheme: The Prathyasha Scheme, implemented by Kudumbashree, empowers women from marginalised communities through financial support, skill training, and enterprise guidance. In 2024–25, 2,046 enterprises were established, and in 2025–26, 308 new enterprises involving 374 entrepreneurs were initiated, promoting women-led sustainable livelihoods and social inclusion.

Coastal Micro Enterprises: The Coastal Micro Enterprises (CoME) Project, supported by Kudumbashree, provides women in coastal areas with financial assistance, skill development, and market access. In 2024-25, 1,283 enterprises were established, and by August 31, 2025-26, 482 new enterprises involving 661 entrepreneurs were launched, fostering sustainable livelihoods in fisheries, handicrafts, trading, and services.

She-Starts - Auxiliary Group Enterprises: The She-Starts initiative, promoted by Kudumbashree, fosters women-led entrepreneurship through training, financial assistance, and mentoring. In 2024-25, 578 enterprises were established, and by August 31, 2025-26, 161 new units involving 239

women were established across various sectors, including food processing, handicrafts, retail, and services, fostering sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth.

PMFME (Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises): The PMFME scheme, implemented in Kerala by Kudumbashree, supports the formalisation and upgradation of micro food processing units through seed capital, subsidies, training, and technical assistance. So far, 1,533 enterprises have received Rs 10.68 crore in seed capital, and a total of 3,109 enterprises involving 6,592 entrepreneurs have been supported, thereby strengthening women-led rural businesses.

K4Care - Building a Robust Care Economy in Kerala: The K4Care initiative, launched by Kudumbashree, creates employment opportunities in the care sector, offering services such as geriatric care, babysitting, and health support. 891 executives have been trained, with 650 employed, linking skill development to market demand, empowering women, and strengthening community care infrastructure in Kerala.

Incubation Centres: Districts were provided with guidelines to convert well-performing Kudumbashree units into incubation centres, offering training, mentoring, and support to new entrepreneurs. In 2024-25, five such centres were established and have begun operations, offering structured capacity-building for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Kudumbashree Maa Care Centres: Maa Care Centres, launched in 2025-26 by Kudumbashree and the General Education Department, are school-based kiosks operated by women entrepreneurs, providing nutritious snacks, beverages, stationery, and sanitary products. Starting in Kasaragod and Kannur, the initiative has expanded statewide, with 368 centres established as of August 31, 2025-26. The centres promote student welfare and women's livelihood while ensuring access to healthy, hygienic products within school premises.

Marketing Activities: Kudumbashree continued to strengthen the market reach of its micro-enterprise products through active participation in trade fairs and large-scale markets across various levels. In 2024-25, Kudumbashree participated in

189 trade fairs, conducted 2,455 monthly markets, organised major Vishu, Onam, and Christmas fairs, and hosted SARAS fairs, achieving sales of Rs 34.52 crore from festival markets and Rs 17.25 crore from SARAS. In the year 2025-26 (August 31st), the Mission organised 34 trade fairs, 213 monthly markets, and over 2,900 festival markets, in addition to distributing 1.22 lakh Onam sadhyas and 93,510 gift hampers. The SARAS Fair at Kozhikode generated Rs 11 crore, reflecting sustained growth in market outreach and sales performance. Kudumbashree strengthened its regular and decentralised sales channels by expanding permanent marketing outlets across the state. Nano Markets increased from 380 to 431 units, generating over Rs 2 crore annually. Kudumbashree Bazaars operated in eight districts, ensuring a stable sales ecosystem. Marketing kiosks grew from 136 to 147 outlets, with annual sales exceeding Rs 3 crore. Additionally, the number of marketing outlets increased from 75 to 79, alongside the continued operation of 11 Pink Cafés, which enhanced visibility and livelihood opportunities.

The Home Shop door-to-door marketing system now operates across all 14 districts, employing 7,021 Home Shoppers and a 51-member management team. It generated Rs 19.64 crore in 2024-25 and Rs 6.5 crore by 31 August 2025-26, enhancing the last-mile delivery of Kudumbashree products. Kudumbashree also enhanced its digital marketing efforts through Pocketmart, the official e-commerce platform, which onboarded 1,459 entrepreneur groups and over 1,500 products, recording Rs 49 lakh in sales during Onam 2025. Products were additionally listed on Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho, and ONDC, improving online visibility and market reach. Furthermore, the Mission expanded its digital and national market presence through initiatives that supported branding and digital access across the food, handloom, handicrafts, and natural product sectors. Meanwhile, the Kudumbashree Food Kiosk at India Gate, New Delhi, showcased Kerala's cuisine and women's entrepreneurship on a prominent national platform.

Social Development

Kudumbashree's social development programmes support the holistic upliftment of marginalised groups, including children, tribal communities, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Key initiatives include Ujjeevanam, which helped 4,341

extremely poor families achieve self-sufficiency; Suchithwolsavam, where Balasabha children promoted waste management awareness; Sajjam, which strengthened disaster preparedness among tribal children; and Mind Blowers, which built creative and entrepreneurial skills among over 50,000 children. Together, all these programmes provide social inclusion, empowerment, and sustainable community development across Kerala.

Destitute-Free Kerala: The Destitute-Free Kerala Project focuses on the comprehensive rehabilitation of identified individuals in need through local-level needs assessments and project-based support. Kudumbashree provides a Challenge Fund-40% of project cost (up to Rs 40 lakh for general projects and Rs 50 lakh for ST projects)-released in three instalments based on utilisation. So far, funds have been released for all 1,034 general and 170 tribal projects. In 2024-25, Kudumbashree disbursed Rs 5.09 crore as a Challenge Fund to support essential services, including food, medicine, and education. This project plays a crucial role in alleviating poverty in the state.

BUDS Institution: BUDS institutions for children with disabilities, functioning under LSGs, are monitored through the Kudumbashree machinery. The State Government has taken several measures to accomplish the vision of universalising education and rehabilitating persons with intellectual disabilities. Kerala has a total of 405 BUDS institutions, comprising 187 BUDS Schools and 218 BRCs, collectively supporting 15,718 children. To ensure quality care and skill development for children with special needs, Kudumbashree provided specialised training in 2024-25 for both teachers and Aayah in BUDS institutions. Kudumbashree conducts the BUDS Fest to showcase and nurture the artistic talents of children with intellectual challenges. In 2024-25, Kudumbashree also launched BUDS Olympia to promote their abilities in sports.

Since most BUDS beneficiaries are adolescents, Kudumbashree has planned specialised capacity-building training to improve their social and life skills. Financial assistance was given to 131 elderly individuals across the state. Kudumbashree promotes livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities through special enterprise support and training. In 2024-25, financial assistance was provided to 97 beneficiaries across the state.

Activities in tribal areas: Kudumbashree's tribal interventions have achieved a 96.8 per cent inclusion rate for tribal members in NHGs, facilitated by community resource persons or animators, who ensure the program reaches into tribal unnathies. The primary objective of these interventions is to establish a stable foundation for tribal development activities. A bridge course provides educational support to help students overcome academic challenges and promote consistent school attendance. During 2024-25, 111 self-reliant NHGs were identified, and revolving funds were given to 64 NHGs. These NHGs started 316 goat-rearing units and 167 backyard poultry units. In a significant accomplishment, 122 new tribal JLGs were formed for farming activities. Similarly, 28 group micro-enterprises and 80 individual micro-enterprise units were established by the tribal families, and their products are marketed through the Kudumbashree bazaar. Additionally, 94 tribal JLGs are supported through the distribution of Rs 4,000 per JLG. In 2024-25, 20 NHGs were supported for their start-up activities, and 17 Tribal Youth Clubs were established.

Gender Interventions: Building on Kerala's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment, as highlighted in the state's development plans, Kudumbashree's gender interventions focused on promoting gender equality through awareness creation, community sensitisation, violence prevention, and strong convergence with various departments. Major efforts in 2024 included extensive capacity building, training Gender Point Persons through 17 modules, reinforcing Internal Complaints Committees, and raising awareness via Rangashree theatre groups and 19,284 Vigilant Groups. Key initiatives, such as the Nayi Chetna campaign, the Dheeram self-defence programme, the establishment of the proposed State Gender Resource Centre, crime mapping in 84 CDSs, and the rollout of the Gender Self-Learning Programme, helped build a strong, community-driven gender ecosystem across the state.

During 2024-25, Snehittha Gender Help Desks operated round the clock across Kerala, providing temporary shelter to 1,692 women and children and handling 6,605 cases through counselling, legal aid, and rehabilitation. By August 2025, the Help Desks and 84 new Police Extension Centres managed 2,673 cases, offering immediate

psychological support. The state maintained 888 active Gender Resource Centres, supported by 19,370 Vigilant Groups and 476 community counsellors, while proposals for a State Gender Resource Centre and crime mapping in 28 panchayats progressed. In the FNHW sector, resource pools were strengthened, and extensive capacity-building activities were conducted, including SBCC sessions, medical camps, food festivals, yoga events, and nutrition-focused initiatives. The Happy Keralam programme expanded to 154 rural and 14 urban Model CDSs, forming 154 Idams, completing family microplans, and conducting a Happiness Index survey to enhance family well-being.

Convergence with Other Organisations:

Kudumbashree has partnered with various government departments and organisations, including the SC Welfare Department, Local Self-Governments, Kerala Institute for Local Administration, Kerala Academy for Skill Excellence, Motor Vehicle Department, Social Justice Department, Haritha Kerala Mission, Suchitwa Mission, Water Authority, Supply Co and Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd to maximise benefits for its members.

Emergency Response: Kudumbashree implemented several important initiatives to support the disaster-affected communities in Wayanad. Through the Njangalum Koodeyndu (We Are with You) campaign, NHGs and Auxiliary Groups raised Rs. 20.5 crores for the CMDRF in just two days. Under the Athijeevanthinu Oru Kaithangu (Support for Survival) programme, help desks were established in relief camps to provide mental health support, activities for children, and referrals for individuals requiring psychiatric care. The Community Mentoring Program deployed 20 trained mentors to offer personalised rehabilitation support to affected families. Around 100 Kudumbashree workers also contributed to food preparation and distribution in relief camps. Additionally, micro plans were prepared for each affected family to guide their recovery and livelihood restoration. Together, these interventions reflect Kudumbashree's comprehensive approach to both immediate relief and long-term rehabilitation.

Rebuild Kerala Initiative - Entrepreneurship Development Programme (RKI-EDP):

The Kerala Government approved the SVEP model project, called “Rebuild Kerala Initiative-Entrepreneurship Development Programme,” which was submitted by Kudumbashree as part of the Rebuild Kerala Development Programme. The programme's design would help develop and sustain farm, off-farm and non-farm livelihood options for the poor. The program targeted 14 blocks across eight districts, intending to establish 16,800 enterprises. Over 200 microenterprise consultants were trained to provide ecosystem support and mentorship to budding entrepreneurs. By the project's completion date of June 30, 2025, 21,549 enterprises had been established, exceeding the initial target.

The review shows that state-sponsored programmes in Kerala are diverse and address multiple development priorities. The State's decentralised system of local governance enables effective convergence of centrally sponsored schemes at the grassroots level, generating significant synergistic outcomes.

GLOSSARY

Basic Price

Basic price is the amount receivable by the producer from the purchaser for a unit of a good or service produced as output minus any tax payable, and plus any subsidy receivable, by the producer as a consequence of its production or sale. It excludes any transport charges invoiced separately by the producer.

Casual Labour

A person who casually engages in others farm or nonfarm enterprises (both household and non-household and, in return, receives wages according to the terms of the daily or periodic work contract, is considered as a casual labour.

CDS

The current daily activity status for a person is determined on the basis of his/ her activity status on each day of the reference week using a priority-cummajor time criterion.

Consumer Price Index (CPI)

CPI is designed to measure the changes overtime in the level of retail prices of a fixed set of goods and services (consumption basket) consumed by an average family of a defined population group at a particular place.

CWS

The current weekly activity status of a person is the activity status obtained for a person during a reference period of 7 days preceding the date of survey. It is decided on the basis of a certain priority cum major time criterion. According to the priority criterion, the status of 'working' gets priority over the status of 'not working but seeking or available for work', which in turn gets priority over the status of 'neither working nor available for work'.

Density of Population

Density of population is one of the important indices of population concentrations. It is defined as the number of persons per sq. kilometre. The geographical unit is ward, town, district and state.

Gross National Income (GNI)

It is GDP less net taxes on production and imports, less compensation of employees less property income payable to the rest of the world plus the corresponding items receivable from the rest of the world (in other words, GDP less primary incomes payable to nonresident units plus primary incomes receivable from non-resident units); an alternative approach to measuring GNI at market prices is as the aggregate value of the balances of gross primary incomes for all sectors; (note that gross national income is identical to gross national product (GNP) as previously used in national accounts generally).

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate is an estimate of the number of infant deaths (death before the first birthday of an infant) for every 1,000 live births.

Old Age Dependency Ratio

The number of persons in age group 60 years and more divided by the number of persons in age group 15-59 years.

Parity Index

Parity Index is a relative measure of the gains or loss to farmers as a consequence of the price fluctuations in the economy. The index is a function of cost of farm cultivation, domestic expenditure, and market rate of farm products.

Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012

An Act to protect children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography and provide for establishment of Special Courts for trial of such offences and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Labour Force

Persons who were either 'working' (or employed) or 'seeking or available for work' (or unemployed) constituted the labour force.

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

Labour force participation rate is the ratio between the labour force and the overall size of population

Literacy Rate

Literacy rate is defined as the percentage of population aged 6 years and over who can both read and write with understanding a short simple statement on his/her every-day life.

Retail Price

Retail Price of a commodity is defined as the price which the ultimate consumer pays for relatively small transactions of the commodity.

Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Wholesale Price Index measures the average changes in the prices of commodities for bulk sale at the level of early stage of transaction.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population

ABBREVIATIONS

AAV	Ananthodaya Anna Yojana	C-DAC	Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
ADB	Asian Development Bank	CHC	Community Health Centre
AHIDF	Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Infrastructure Development Fund	CHIS	Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme
AI	Artificial Insemination	COTPA	Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act
AIIB	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	CPC	Centralized Processing Centre
AKC	Agricultural Knowledge Centres	CPC	Coconut Producer Company
AMUL	Anand Milk Union Limited	CPF	Coconut Producers Federations
ANERT	Agency for Non-conventional Energy and Rural Technology	CPI	Consumer Price Index
ANP	Annapoorna Scheme	CSO	Central Statistics Office
APCOS	Anand Pattern Co-operative Societies	CWRDM	Centre for Water Resources Development and Management
APEDA	Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority	CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plan
APL	Above Poverty Line	DCS	Dairy Co-operative Society
ARD	Authorised Retail Distributors	DES	Directorate of Economics and Statistics
ARMS	Animal Resource Management System	DoECC	Directorate of Environment and Climate Change
ASC	Agro Service Centres	DPL	Development Policy Loan
ASCAD	Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases	DRFI	Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations	EDC	Eco Development Committees
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committees	EEA	European Environment Agency
BMC	Biodiversity Management Committees	EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
BMW	Biomedical Waste	EPI	Environmental Performance Index
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand	ePoS	Electronic Total Station
BOQCL	Biofertilizer and Organic Manure Quality Control Laboratory	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
BPL	Below Poverty Line	FCI	Food Corporation of India
CAAQMS	Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations	FDA	Forest Development Agency
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate	FFEWS	Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System
CAMPA	Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority	FPMS	Forest Fire Prevention and Management System
CAPE	Co-operative Academy of Professional Education	FPO	Farmer Producer Organization
CAPEX	Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Co-Operative Society	FSI	Forest Survey of India
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	FSS	Farmers Service Societies
CBWTFD	Common Biomedical Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility	FTA	Free Trade Agreement
		GDI	Gender Development Index
		GDP	Gross Domestic Product

GHG	Green House Gases	KFWFB	Kerala Fishermen's Welfare Fund Board
GIM	Green India Mission	KIIFB	Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board
GIS	Geographic Information System	KINFRA	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation
GLC	Ground Level Credit	KITTS	Kerala Institute of Tourism and Travel Studies
GNI	Gross National Income	KITE	Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education
GPS	Global Positioning System	KKS	Karshika Karma Sena
GSDP	Gross State Domestic Product	KLDB	Kerala Livestock Development Board
GSVA	Gross State Value Added	KMML	Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
GVA	Gross Value Added	KFON	Kerala Fibre Optic Network
GoI	Government of India	KRDCL	Kerala Rail Development Corporation
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point	KRFB	Kerala Road Fund Board
HDCK	Handicrafts Development Corporation of Kerala	KSAMM	Kerala State Agricultural Mechanisation Mission
HUDCO	Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited	KSBB	Kerala State Biodiversity Board
HWA	Human Wildlife Conflict	KSCADC	Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation
IIITM-K	Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management Kerala	KSEBL	Kerala State Electricity Board Limited
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	KSERC	Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	KSIDC	Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management	KSIE	Kerala State Industrial Enterprises Ltd
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	KSINC	Kerala Shipping and Inland Navigation Corporation Limited
JJ	Juvenile Justice	KSITIL	Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd
JJS	Jana Jagratha Samithi	KSITM	Kerala State Information Technology Mission
JNTBGRI	Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Research Institute	KSLMA	Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority
KAICO	Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Ltd	KSoM	Kerala School of Mathematics
KALNET	Kerala Academic Library Network	KSPCB	Kerala State Pollution Control Board
KAMCO	Kerala Agro Machinery Corporation	KSPDC	Kerala State Poultry Development Corporation
KARSAP	Kerala Antimicrobial Resistance Strategic Action Plan	KSWIFT	Kerala Single Window Interface for Fast and Transparent Clearance
KASP	Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi	KUFOS	Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies
KAVIL	Kerala Aqua Ventures International Limited	KVASU	Kerala Veterinary & Animal Science University
KCC	Kissan Credit Card	LBHS	Local Biodiversity Heritage Sites
KCEMS	Kerala Captive Elephant Management System	LFPR	Labour Force Participation Rate
KCMMF	Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation	LGs	Local Governments
KCZMA	Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority	LIFE	Livelihood, Inclusion and Financial Empowerment
KESRU	Kerala Self-Employment Scheme for the Registered Unemployed	LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
KFL	Kerala Feeds Limited	LSGD	Local Self Government Department
KFRI	Kerala Forest Research Institute		

LTRCF	Long Term Rural Credit Fund	NUALS	National University of Advanced Legal Studies
MBGIPS	Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Science	NULM	National Urban Livelihood Mission
MDDT	Multi-Disciplinary Diagnostic Team	NWMP	National Water Quality Monitoring Programme
MFP	Minor Forest Produce	OFP	Operation Flood Programme
MGNREGS	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme	PACS	Primary Agriculture Credit Societies
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee	PBR	People's Biodiversity Register
MPI	Meat Products of India	PDS	Public Distribution System
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio	PFMS	Public Financial Management System
MSME	Micro Small Medium enterprises	PFR	Program for Result
MT	Metric Tonne	PHH	Priority Household
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development	PLFS	Periodic Labour Force Survey
NABL	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories	PMFBY	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
NAFED	National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd	PPC	Primary Processing Centers
NAMP	National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme	PROUD	Programme for Removal of Unused Drugs
NAPCC	National Action Plan for Climate Change	PRT	Primary Response Teams
NAS	National Accounts Statistics	PSA	Priority Sector Advance
NATPAC	National Transportation Planning and Research Centre	PSUs	Public Sector Undertakings
NCDC	National Cooperative Development Corporation	RBCMA	River Basin Construction and Management Authority
NDDB	National Dairy Development Board	RBDCK	Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala
NDPREM	Norka Department Project for Return Emigrants	RCC	Regional Cancer Centre
NDPS	Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance	RCEP	Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
NETFISH	Network for Fish Quality Management and Sustainable Fishing	RCS	Registrar of Co-operative Societies
NFHS	National Family Health Survey	RKDP	Rebuild Kerala Development Programme
NFSA	National Food Security Act	RKI	Rebuild Kerala Initiative
NHAI	National Highways Authority of India	RRT	Rapid Response Teams
NHM	National Health Mission	RT	Responsible Tourism
NNI	Net National Income	RUSA	Rashtriya Uchathaar Shiksha Abhiyan
NORKA	Non Resident Keralite Affairs	RWBCIS	Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme
NPCA	National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems	SACC	Student Affairs and Counseling Centre
NPS	Non Priority Subsidy	SAF	Society for Assistance to Fisherwomen
NRCB	National Research Centre for Banana	SAMP	State Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme
NSO	National Statistical Office	SAPCC	State Action Plan on Climate Change
NSS	National Sample Survey	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
NSSO	National Sample Survey Organisation	SFAC	Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Produce	SFC	State Finance Commission
		SHE	Scheme for Her Empowerment in Engineering education
		SHGs	Self Help Groups

SHM	State Horticulture Mission
SI-MET	State Institute of Medical Education and Technology
SJD	Social Justice Department
SLBC	State Level Bankers Committee
SLBP	Special Livestock Breeding Programme
SLEC	State Level Empowered Committee
SMP	Skimmed Milk Powder
SONTR	State's Own Non Tax Revenue
SOTR	State's Own Tax Revenue
SPB	State Planning Board
SRIBS	Srinivasa Ramanujan Institute for Basic Sciences
Supplyco	Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited.
SWMP	State Water Quality Monitoring Programme
SWTD	State Water Transport Department
TDS	Targeted Distribution System
TSG	Technical Support Groups
TTDI	Travel and Tourism Development Index
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UPASI	United Planters Association of Southern India
VAT	Value Added Tax
VDVK	Van Dhan Viaks Kendra VFPCCK
VFPCCK	Vegetable and Fruit Promotion Council, Kerala
VSS	Vana Samrakhana Samithis
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation
WPI	Wholesale Price Index
WPR	Worker Population Ratio
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
ZSI	Zoological Survey of India



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