



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

18TH FEBRUARY, 2022

BY
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GOVERNOR OF KERALA

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

1. It is my honour and privilege to address this august body of representatives of the people of Kerala, marking the beginning of the 4th session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly.
2. My Government in its previous tenure faced trials and tribulations as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic which adversely affected the lives and livelihoods of people and the economy of the State. We successfully came out of this crisis with determination. The abating of the incidence of Covid-19 provided us some relief, but that was not enduring. The second surge of the pandemic was witnessed in the month April – May 2021. Recently, the State is facing the third wave of the pandemic. It is a matter of relief that the number of case is coming down and we have been able to keep the death rate under control like the previous two occasions.
3. Kerala Government has been able to tap on its strengths like empowered local governments, people's participation and wide awareness about consequences of the pandemic. The role played by Health, Local Self Government, Police, Revenue,

Disaster Management Departments, RRTs (particularly the ASHAs), ward level committees, community volunteers and members of the public deserves special praise.

4. My Government is effectively carrying out the vaccination drive to build herd immunity against Covid-19 in the society. My Government has been in the forefront of the demand for providing Covid vaccination free of cost to everyone. I am happy to announce that Kerala has attained 100 percent coverage in first dose vaccination and 85 percent coverage in second dose of vaccination in the case of persons aged above 18 as on February 7, 2022. The coverage among children aged between 15 and 17 which began recently is at 73 percent.
5. Despite financial constraints my Government has taken every possible step to provide relief in the time of the pandemic. A comprehensive rehabilitation package for children who lost both parents due to Covid including children who were abandoned by the surviving parent, a scheme for providing ₹ 5,000 for 36 months to the BPL families who lost their breadwinner due to Covid, timely disbursal of the ex-gratia of ₹ 50,000 to the legal heirs of those who succumbed to Covid-19 has been implemented in the State.

As on February 4, 2022, 43,994 applications have been approved. Besides the above, my Government has provided financial relief packages, tax relief and interest subventions which have been announced through three economic packages.

6. My Government has been implementing various Programmes in a time bound manner and informing the people about the progress. 100-days Programme is part of this. The present Government completed the first 100-days Programme in June-September 2021. The second one is now on from February 10 to May 20, 2022. The total expected outlay of the second 100-days Programmes is about ₹ 17183 crores in order to complete 1557 Programmes by May 20, 2022 when my Government completes its first year in office. 100-days Programme lays special emphasis on creation of direct and indirect employment opportunities and person days of work.
7. During the recent past, our State faced extreme rainfall events and two cyclones. Experts have opined that these are the consequences of patterns of climatic change which we are experiencing. The unexpected landslides which happened in places where they were least expected resulted in loss of precious lives causing anguish to all of us. My

Government is moving ahead with policies and programmes to tackle the consequences of climate change lest they should become cataclysmic. Improving the carbon footprint is an important objective of my Government.

8. The safety of the people of Kerala is of utmost concern to my Government. As regards the Mullaperiyar Dam in Idukki District we are taking every effort to ensure the safety of people of Kerala while making sure that the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu gets the water it needs. We believe that the dam's capacity should not exceed 136 feet of storage. As Kerala is committed to providing water to Tamil Nadu while safeguarding the lives of its people, it has put forth the proposal to build a new dam in the place of the existing dam which is aged around a century and a quarter.
9. But in the midst of these troubles, we have had reasons to cheer, as the State found itself for the third consecutive time at the topmost position among all States in attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, as per the assessment of the NITI AAYOG. The assessment covered all 17 goals, 70 targets and 115 indicators. Kerala was also found to be the best performer in health indices in 2021 as evidenced in the fourth edition of the NITI

AAYOG health index, which ranked States based on overall health performance.

10. The NITI AAYOG Baseline Report on the National Multidimensional Poverty, released in December 2021, puts the multidimensional poverty in Kerala at 0.7 percent, which is the lowest in the country. This is the result of the State's unrelenting welfare orientation aiming at reaching the poorest of the poor.
11. Land and housing for all is an important goal to which my Government is firmly committed to. The aim to implement this through the convergence of resources and efforts of multiple Departments, Institutions and Schemes. My Government intends to revise the Housing Policy 2011, by incorporating changes in housing scenario recognizing the housing needs of the citizen as a right.
12. My Government is committed to improve the quality of service delivery to its people, as well as facilitating resurgence in the economy through multiple measures for digital governance and ease of doing business. The restrictions imposed by COVID have brought home the relevance of digital technologies to ensure outreach and access and therefore my Government is working towards

becoming a completely e-governed State in 2022. Universalisation of the e-office digital platform in all Department and Public Institutions, providing over 500 services online and incorporating single sign on facility, including payment gateways, bringing about aadhaar vaults and unified registry to dispense with the need for multiple certifications for multiple purposes, creating digi lockers for people to store important documents and records digitally, setting up dashboards for tracking progress of applications and service delivery, online personnel management systems. The digital services extend to business applications as well. To ensure ease of business, my Government has streamlined application processes, allowing for self certification in the case of small businesses, introduced centralized inspection systems to eliminate adhocism, and simplified procedures and forms.

13. The COVID-19 pandemic led to revenue loss and additional expenditure commitments which have worsened the State's debt to GDP ratio. This is expected to reach a sustainable level once the State's revenue collection including GST recovers, as we grow out of the pandemic. Besides the revenue loss due to COVID, the State has been facing severe cut in revenue from central transfers

at present. There has been a consistent decline in the State share provided from the divisible pool by succeeding Central Finance Commissions. At the time of the 10th Finance Commission, the State share was 3.8% of the divisible pool. By the 14th Finance Commission, this had comedown to 2.5% and now the 15th Finance Commission award only permits 1.92%. During the first year of the award year itself, there was a reduction of about ₹ 6500 crores. On account of the GST compensation ceasing to exist after June this year, we may further lose about ₹ 10000 to 12000 crores. The Revenue Deficit Grant is going to be reduced sharply in the coming Financial Year. It has been the practice of the Union Government to give exemption to the direct taxes which fall in the divisible pool and to raise significant amount of revenue through cess and surcharges, which are not in divisible pool. This causes huge fall in the share of resources due to the State. Hence, it is not just the reduction in State's own revenue which causes the deficit but mainly the change in policy at the level of Union Government in devolving resources to the States that pushes the State Government to financial difficulties. Importantly, while the fiscal deficit of the Union Government is

around 6 percent, the States' deficits are restricted to 3 percent. This is unscientific as the expenditure obligations of the State are much higher than the Union and the spending has increased manifold due to the COVID related packages and assistance from the part of the State Government. The Union Budget has not accommodated any longstanding demands of the State.

14. Despite these, we will ensure that the State's economy continues to grow. My Government is committed to enabling the creation of 20 lakhs job opportunities for educated unemployed and has given itself a target of generating 5 jobs per 1000 population in every local body. The State is expected to make a sharp recovery in its economic growth to over 10% growth in GSDP in 2022-23 with the revival of economic activity, increased pace of vaccination, fiscal consolidation measures such as rationalisation of expenditure and recovery in revenue collection including GST. During the last year, given the impact of the pandemic, the State adopted rationalisation measures to create the fiscal space to expand the social security net through higher allocation for Social Security Pensions, Welfare Board Pensions, ex gratia payment to the various vulnerable sections of the population, higher

expenditure on pre-medical treatment, free grocery kits and sector support scheme for tourism, industry, Non Resident Keralites etc. It is praiseworthy that the State has been able to get an additional 0.5% capital expenditure link borrowing in the current Financial Year by achieving the total target of incremental capital expenditure fixed for the State by the Central Government.

15. The climate of economic distress that currently prevails in the country was exposed by the Farmers' agitation against the Farm Legislations. This agitation is a reflection of acute deprivation among workers and farmers in rural and urban setting alike, which necessitates immediate drastic intervention. In light of the impact of the agitation and the Union Government's response, we are hopeful that the Union Government will come up with an inclusive strategy that will address rural and agrarian distress.
16. Kerala has witnessed perceptible growth in industrial investments in the last six years. Close to 48 percent of the MSME establishments (68,419) in the State were formed during the same period. An estimated 3,00,000 employment opportunities were created in the MSME sector. There is a paradigm shift in the way Industrial Licensing is issued and

entrepreneurs are engaged. The reform process in the Industrial Sector included, simplifying industrial licensing, improving and expanding industrial infrastructures - like industrial parks, dedicated industrial corridors and entrepreneurship training institutes.

17. Enabling the citizens of the State to avail quality infrastructure for basic services of water, electricity, telecommunications and transport continues to be an area in which my Government is focusing its attention and identifying innovative projects. The ambitious K-RAIL Project will provide a new environment friendly transport mode compared to fossil fuel based transportation and will be a green initiative that would catalyse employment and growth while enhancing the speed, joy and comfort of travel. My Government expects an early approval from the Union Government for this Project.
18. Kerala continues to be the only State in India to make effective use of Five Year Plan as an instrument for the development of the economy. The preparations for the 14th Five Year Plan have begun and the reports of the various Working Groups are in final stage. The Approach Paper to the 14th Five Year Plan document will be finalized by May 2022.

19. Federalism is an inalienable part of the basic structure of our Constitution. Cooperative Federalism has been recognised as our common desirable goal. However, in the recent times, legislations by the Union Government is taking place on subjects enumerated in State and Concurrent Lists, that too without effective consultation with the States. This goes against the grain of cooperative federalism. My Government is of the opinion that this should not be a practice to be continued.

Let me now discuss my Government's important initiatives across specific sectors:

I. Agriculture and Allied Sector

1. Agriculture

20. In the context of recurring natural calamities, Crop Insurance Programme has been strengthened. 1,26,570 farmers have been insured under the Programme. As part of crop loss compensation due to natural calamities, a total of ₹ 5,473 lakhs was distributed to 52,988 farmers.
21. As part of the timely market intervention to curb the rising prices of vegetables in the State, vegetables bought directly from farmers were distributed across

the State at half the market price through Government supported outlets.

22. Paddy cultivation was undertaken in a total area of 77,375 Ha under the Rice Development Programme. Bharathiya Prakrithik Krishi Padhathi was implemented in 51,933 Ha. 66.37 lakhs fruit plants have been distributed under the "One crore fruit plants" Programme. As a part of Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization, machineries like tractors, tillers, harvesters, threshers, processing and value addition machineries were provided to farmers and groups and for custom hiring centres by expending ₹ 125.69 crores.
23. Attapady Millet Village Project was successful in its fifth year also. The Athirappally Tribal Valley Agricultural Project has been launched under RKI to focus on food security, livelihood and conservation of traditional agricultural products in the region.

The main Programmes proposed for the year 2022-23 by my Government are;

24. Initiation to reduce carbon footprint through grassroot level campaigns.
25. 50 Farmers' Producers Organizations have been registered so far under the Department of

Agriculture and VFPCCK. More such FPOs will be formed soon.

26. Krishi Sree Groups will be organised at Krishi Bhavan level to provide timely support to agricultural operations and to take up cultivation in at least 2 Ha of land per year.
27. My Government plans to bring about a paradigm shift from crop based assistance to a farm based one by developing a farm land based multi cropping system as a basic block for agricultural development.
28. The Sustainable Mandalam Programme aims at development of 'Tharishurahitha Mandalam' at assembly constituency level through establishment of integrated nutrition gardens.
29. It is proposed to provide Hi-tech Organic Supermarkets as a means of marketing the organic produce in the State.
30. Online Market Platform or E-Trading Platforms are proposed to achieve integration of distant Agri-markets, systemic supply chain logistics and process designs that boost trading.
31. Government will take up Agri Cadet Corps Programme with an objective of developing interest

among school students in agricultural activities. My Government will also establish Krishi Sree Groups of youth, women and NRIs.

32. The Krishibhavans will be given a makeover as SMART Krishibhavans.
33. A new system of Crop Insurance Scheme through which farmers will enjoy the existing benefit of low premium but will get professional insurance coverage from lead players in the field is planned.

2. Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development

34. In spite of adversities like flood calamity and Covid pandemic, Dairy Sector in Kerala could maintain a higher growth rate of 4% milk production during the last five years. My Government aims to revitalise the Dairy Sector of Kerala in 2022-23 so as to ensure that the State achieves self-sufficiency in milk production. It is also planned to increase Milk Procurement through Dairy Cooperatives to 23 lakhs litres per day.
35. Scheme to breed elite cows in the State with superior germ plasm, in order to hasten the genetic improvement in population will be initiated.
36. In tune with the Government's policy of providing doorstep veterinary service to farmers, mobile

tele-veterinary units with advanced diagnostic and treatment facilities, were established at Ernakulam and Kannur Districts and are being established in the remaining Districts.

37. The State has been able to vaccinate 80% of the cattle and buffalo population against the Foot and Mouth disease. Herd quarantine cum trading centers will be established under dairy co-operatives to keep the animals under quarantine while on transit from neighbouring States to avoid spreading of diseases.
38. PAALKKUDAM – Integrated Dairy Development Programme will be implemented in Selected 10 Panchayats during the year 2022-23 with Special Herd Induction Programme, Dairy Farm Mechanization Cum Automation Programmes with the aim of making the Panchayats self- sufficient in milk production.
39. In 2022, a special Programme will be launched for promoting women farmers in key animal husbandry activities. Entrepreneurship Development Programmes will be implemented by strengthening the extension services of Animal Husbandry Department.

40. Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) shall establish a referral and diagnostic laboratory for supporting livestock farming and diagnostic zoonotic diseases consisting of 30 labs of BSL-3 (Biosafety Level 3) facilities. It also proposed to establish a state of the art Centre for Monitoring Xenobiotic Residues and Advanced Animal Health Care, a knowledge park for capacity building and business promotion in dairy processing and a duck research facility in Kuttanad.
41. Dairy Training Centers at Thiruvananthapuram, Ochira, Kottayam, Palakkad, Kozhikode and Kasargod will be upgraded to Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Centers with incubation Centers to promote entrepreneurship in Dairy Sector.

3. Fisheries Department

42. The United Nations General Assembly has declared 2022 as International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. Holistic development of the sector is a matter of emphasis for the Government. Providing high quality fish products at affordable price and generating employment is an area of focus for my Government.

43. Model fish vending units and hygienic transportation support will be ensured for the empowerment of fisherwomen. Also, Government's flagship program 'Punargeham' will focus on providing safe dwelling to fishers who are residing within 50 metres of High Tide Line.
44. My Government is committed to promote fish farming in all suitable water bodies in the State with an objective of doubling the aquaculture production from 34,000 tonnes to 70,000 tonnes within five years.

4. Co-operation

45. Co-operative Governance will be strengthened through the comprehensive legal reforms and regulation of Audit and Inspection of the Co-operative Sector. A monitoring System—CAMIS (Co-operative Audit Monitoring and Information System) was introduced for reviewing the updation of audit and the financial condition of Co-operative Societies. New generation banking facilities will be made available to the members of the Kerala Bank through the implementation of Common Accounting Software.
46. The "Muttathe Mulla" Micro Finance Scheme has been implemented through Kudumbashree units all

over the State to protect the people from private money lenders. ₹ 1536.96 crores has been disbursed through 4,07,796 Kudumbasree Units. Snehatheeram - a micro loan scheme will be implemented for fishermen, workers and small traders in the coastal region.

47. As part of attracting young entrepreneurs and service providers to Co-operative Sector, 30 Youth Co-operative Societies have been registered and have started functioning under the Department of Co-operation. Yuva Co-operative Societies for promoting SC/ST youth will be registered in all Districts.

II. Industries, Labour and Commerce

5. Industries

48. My Government has been taking up many initiatives to energise and stimulate the business environment in the State. Legislative, procedural and digital reforms were introduced with the aim of bringing in 'Ease of Doing Business' to the industry. The Statutory Grievance Redressal Committee is a novel initiative wherein, all complaints/grievances of existing entrepreneurs will be addressed in a time bound manner. This Committee has the power of a civil court. Centralised Inspection System ensures

that unnecessary and repeated inspections are avoided.

49. Automatic approvals for MSMEs highlights the change in the Government's approach from investigation or enquiries to issuance of approvals on self-declarations. Around 11,878 MSME Acknowledge Certificates (instant approvals) for starting MSMEs have been issued in the State. Online system of industrial land allotment is available now. The State has made considerable progress in implementing Business Reforms under the Ease of Doing Business Programme (EoDB). Ranking made by NITI AAYOG on Innovation Index has placed Kerala at 10th place and the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) placed Kerala in 6th position under the Investment Potential Index.
50. The Department has implemented the policy of strengthening Public Sector Undertakings. The Department has taken over two Central PSUs—Hindustan Newsprint Ltd in Kottayam and BHEL-EML in Kasargod. The Instrumentation Ltd will also be taken over in the current Financial Year. Masterplans were prepared for modernisation, diversification and expansion of PSUs.

51. My Government proposes to develop an online platform for linking the manufacturers, consumers and logistic companies for creating e-market. Through this, even a small household nano enterprise will find market for its products. The Government will provide managerial and entrepreneurship training for the starters as well as the established entrepreneurs to scaleup their business.

Following initiatives will be the focus of my Government in this fiscal year:

52. The Private Industrial Park Scheme will be launched this year, making it possible for private individual to establish an industrial park. Government will extend assistance towards infrastructure development in the park.
53. A new Programme giving impetus to ESG (Environment Social Governance) is being promoted in the State to bring in Responsible Investments and Responsible Industries (RIRI), thereby making Kerala the ESG destination of India. The strategic areas for attracting investments are electronic manufacturing, life sciences, including pharma, petrochemical industries, aviation, food processing, e-mobility and defence sectors.

54. The Department is also focused on developing the Kochi-Palakkad Industrial Corridor, for developing Integrated Manufacturing Centre (IMC) for attracting large scale investments.
55. Mega Food Processing Park in Cherthala, Kerala Paper Products Limited and Kerala Rubber Limited will start functioning during 2022.
56. It is proposed to establish logistic parks with multi-model transport heads for rail, road and airway traffic.
57. KSWIFT Version 3.0 which will incorporate more services of the existing Departments and Agencies and by on-boarding more Departments/Agencies.
58. Fast-track development of 481 acres of KINFRA Petrochemical Park in Ambalamughal and GIFT (Global Industrial Finance and Trade) City in Kochi will be undertaken. A Spices Park is proposed to be developed in Thodupuzha.
59. My Government is initiating a unique programme for establishment of more than 1 lakh enterprises in the State during the Financial Year 2022-23. The innovative technologies developed by the R&D institutions will be made available to the existing and new entrepreneurs through the Technology Clinics.

60. 'Meet the Minister' Programme was conducted to bring in confidence among the investor community and to understand the issues faced by the entrepreneurs. 'Meet the Investor' Programme was launched for direct interaction with the prospective investors with investment plans above ₹ 100 crores. Investment offers for ₹ 7,000 crores has been received through this initiative.
61. My Government has taken several steps to introduce innovative Programmes for diversification and value addition in the traditional industries sector. An e-commerce portal will be launched for marketing of the products and professional designers will be engaged for introduction of contemporary designs and branding. Kerala Kaithari brand has been introduced for the handloom sector for ensuring specific standards in production and for the popularisation of hand-woven products. Block level handloom clusters will be developed to increase the infrastructure and income of the weavers.
62. Kerala has already transformed as the Total Solution Provider (TSP) of Coir Geo-textiles for engineering and agricultural applications and shall expand the market of Coir Geotextiles across the country. Manufacturing plants for newer products

like binder-less coir boards, needle felts, composite boards and acoustic panels will be operational during 2022-23.

63. My Government is making efforts to uplift the Cashew Industry Sector in the State. Masterplans will be prepared for the cashew sector for modernisation, infrastructural upgradation and diversification. Steps will be taken for Brand Building, maximize sales in domestic and international markets, to scaleup procurement operations to meet the requirement of industry and promote cashew cultivation.
64. The Department of Mining and Geology proposes to make available all mineral concession details in public domain and to provide all services online. Advanced technologies will be used in monitoring of mineral extraction and mineral transportation.
65. Steps will be taken to repeal those Acts which are irrelevant in the present scenario. Legal Awareness Programmes will be conducted to spread the availability of free legal aid to eligible citizens.

6. Labour and Skills Department

66. My Government is committed to safeguard the interests of labour including interstate labour. As of

December 2021, 30,00,176 members were registered in the E-shram portal developed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the national database of unorganised workers and labours.

67. During the second phase of Covid-19, Government allotted ₹ 213.32 crores to registered members of various Welfare Fund Boards, Plantation labour and Closed plantation labour.
68. 5,09,865 interstate migrant workers have been registered as on date in the Health Insurance Scheme for ISM Workers (AWAAZ). Government have defined certain standards for residence for migrant workers. Kerala Athidhi App and Guest Workers Friendly Residence in Kerala (AALAY) is a digital app for collecting the details and providing health care & other facilities for the Migrant Workers in Kerala.
69. Different Schemes were introduced for the welfare of unorganised sector workers. An amount of ₹ 58 crores has been provided for Maternity Allowances to Workers in the Un-organised Sector.
70. In the Studio Apartment Project the aim is for providing good quality, decent and safe accommodation in the form of Studio Apartment, for single and married working women in Kerala.

71. 'Samanwaya' is the training initiated by the Department of National Employment Services in 2020-21 Financial Year with the objective of comprehensive promotion of SC/ST candidates. The 'Samanwaya' Scheme also envisages for providing employment oriented training to youth belonging to tribal communities and residing at remote areas.
72. Grading System for Shops and Commercial Establishments, Thozhil Sreshta Award for evaluating establishments and Personal Accident Death Assurance Scheme for Employees in Un-organised Sector will be implemented.
73. A Virtual Employment Exchange/Online Portal for NRI/NRK is proposed to be started in the Financial Year 2022-23.

7. Information Technology

74. State Data Centre Capacity will be upgraded to address the demand from increased digitisation of governance. Hybrid Cloud and Containerisation Technologies will be implemented at the earliest in SDCs. The Kerala University of Digital Sciences and Technology is planning to set up a Hybrid Data Centre in the campus, which is a dedicated cloud data centre.

75. ROW SUGAMA Portal has been implemented successfully in the State in order to ensure smooth online submission of applications for Road Cutting and Utility Shifting.
76. Kerala IT Parks (Technopark, Infopark and Cyberpark) are generating over 1.1 lakhs direct employment through 950 plus companies. Building of additional space to the tune of 7.68 lakhs sq.ft. is being tied up for realisation in the coming year. The construction of the first phase of TCS Aerospace Hub Project at Technocity, Thiruvananthapuram is to commence in the first quarter of 2022 and will get completed by mid-2024.
77. KSITIL in consultation with KSITM proposes to implement Predictive Governance in Kerala, by creating a State Family Database and a block chain backbone, that will enable citizens to receive their statutory documents in their digital vault, without them ever having to apply for these documents or ever having to visit a Government office. This will take e-Governance in Kerala to the next level.
78. The Digital University will host state-of-the-art facilities for (1) sensor manufacturing (2) intelligent sensor system hardware and Artificial Intelligence software development and (3) comprehensive

compliance testing to provide business and mentorship support to Start-up companies.

79. Digital University plans to set up a centre of excellence in the area of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to establish national/international collaborations (industry/academia) for building capacity in Responsible AI Technologies, applications and policy frameworks.
80. Phase-1 of the KFON Project which was approved for an estimated cost of ₹ 1,548.08 crores is ready for roll out.

8. TOURISM

81. The adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the highest negative growth ever recorded in the history of Kerala Tourism. Tourism needs to bounce back strongly with innovative strategies. As a result of the joint effort of Tourism Department and the stakeholders of the industry, the domestic tourism sector showed signs of fast recovery from April 2021 itself resulting in an altogether growth of about 14% during the first 9 months of 2021 in the domestic tourism sector when compared to 2020.
82. The Project “Destination Challenge” has been approved by my Government for developing local

areas with potential as tourism destinations in collaboration with Local Self Governments. Responsible tourism will be given support for its new initiatives.

83. To support the employees and employers of Tourism Industry, my Government has sanctioned a Revolving Fund. The Chief Minister's Covid Relief Supporting Scheme for Tourism entrepreneurs will also be continued during 2022-23.
84. Caravan tourism which includes modified vehicles as well as parks for safe camping of tourists to enjoy a specific destination, will be implemented shortly.

III. SOCIAL SECTOR

9. Backward Classes Development Department

85. Important Programmes proposed include Subsidy for loans through 'Awakening' (Unarv), Rehabilitation/Support of Street Vendors and Retailers, AyyaVaikunda Traditional Employment Innovation Centre' and the 'Renaissance Scholarship for Girls' (Navodhana Scholarship). The Navodhana Scholarship Scheme can be implemented for OBC Girls, who are studying in medical/medical allied courses who have lost a

parent or both and the annual family income does not exceed ₹ 2.5 lakhs.

10. Scheduled Caste Development

86. Under LIFE Mission, in the second phase, 9962 new houses were completed out of 11,854 targeted houses and in 3rd phase, 1957 new houses were completed out of 7341 targeted beneficiaries. It is proposed to complete the incomplete houses of 6000 in 2022.
87. Construction of 5000 new study rooms and completion of 7000 spill over study rooms are proposed in 2022-23.
88. The Department provides assistance of ₹ 1,00,000 as foreign employment subsidy to those who are seeking employment abroad. In the current year, Foreign Employment Subsidy was given to 445 beneficiaries.
89. A comprehensive survey for the educational, economical, and social development of SC people in the State and updating of database is ongoing. The Digital Survey will be completed in 2022-2023.
90. Employment Guaranteed Skill Training Programme has been proposed in 2022-23 with an objective to provide training to 3000 beneficiaries. The facility,

'Startup Dreams', is located at Mannanthala Ambedkar Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram. It will provide assistance to SC youth by incubating their innovative ideas and technology products, supporting them through facilities and capacity-building programmes and helping them grow into scalable businesses.

91. Empowerment Societies and Talent Centres are new Schemes proposed in 2022-23 to provide financial assistance to the young entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes to start new ventures.
92. The WINGS Project is designed to give financial assistance to SC/ST students who have been selected for the training of Commercial Pilot License in Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology, Thiruvananthapuram.

11. Scheduled Tribes Development

93. My Government intends to frame a development package for Edamalakudi, the only completely Tribal Grama Panchayat of the State. The package includes provision of basic necessities such as housing, drinking water, electricity, road, digital connectivity, education and health facilities at

Edamalakudi. During the year 2022-23, focus shall be given to development of basic infrastructure.

94. In order to address undernourishment among tribals, Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres in tribal areas is envisaged. Each NRC includes doctor, health promoter, members of Mobile Medical units.
95. My Government intends to promote Farm tourism in Attapady, Wayanad and Idukki Tribal areas which have rich potential. In order to improve popularity and accessibility of tribal products, a permanent online Platform will be setup for showcasing traditional tribal products. The solution will be managed by SC/ST Federation.
96. Micro plans shall be prepared in each settlement on the basis of identified gaps and requirements.

12. Minority Welfare Department

97. Kerala has always been a pioneer in ensuring the welfare of the minorities and in safeguarding their rights. In light of the judgment of the Honourable High Court of Kerala, my Government appointed a Commission to bring out a comprehensive report on the issues faced by Christian minorities. The study is under progress. Meanwhile in compliance with the judgment, my Government issued orders sanctioning merit-cum-means scholarships to

students belonging to notified minority communities, in accordance with the representation of the minority communities in the 2011 Census. While effecting this policy change, my Government took care to ensure that there was no reduction either in the number of existing beneficiaries or the scholarship amount.

13. Social Justice Department.

98. Kerala has the country's highest proportion of senior citizens and therefore interventions targeting their wellbeing and care are priority to my Government. The "Vayoraksha" Scheme was initiated to provide emergency medical care, rehabilitation, caregiver support and legal assistance to senior citizens who are abandoned by the family. "Vayoposhanam" is a nutrition supplementation Scheme to improve the health condition of senior citizens in the aftermath of Covid. Caregiver training programmes with technical tie up with NISH, CUSAT, Kerala Health University etc. are being envisaged.
99. My Government initiated a new Scheme "Varnam" to provide financial assistance to transgender students pursuing distance education. It is also planned to set up facilities for gender reassignment

surgery and allied therapies as part of ensuring the health and safety of transgender persons.

100. A new Project by name “Thanalidam Probation Home” was initiated for the homeless released from jail. My Government intends to formulate and implement a similar Rehabilitation Scheme aimed at social and family rehabilitation of released women.
101. Under the Department of Social Justice, it is proposed to set up three “Rehabilitation Villages” of international standard in three regions of the State for the comprehensive rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.
102. National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (NIPMR) has taken up Cerebral Palsy Rehabilitation Research Centre, Regional Autism Rehabilitation Research Centre (RARRC) for the rehabilitation of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders with the assistance of the State Government and the Social Security Mission. To cater to the needs of families, it is proposed to construct a residential care facility.

14. Sainik Welfare

103. Initial works for the construction of War Memorial at Thiruvananthapuram has begun. Around 4000 Ex-servicemen are deployed in various Central and

State Government Departments through Kerala State Ex-Servicemen Development and Rehabilitation Corporation during this year.

15. Health and Family Welfare

104. As the country and State reel under the devastation unleashed by the 3rd wave due to Omicron, Kerala continues its fight against the pandemic based on scientific rationale and evidence available across the world. In spite of the pandemic, my Government is conscious of the need to focus attention on pandemic control and mitigation along with various measures for the development of the State.
105. My Government is committed to provide free Covid treatment and also focusing on the emerging issues of 'Post Covid Management'. For this, 1188 Post Covid Clinics and 186 Pulmonary Rehabilitation units at Community Health Centres are started.
106. The Government has taken ambitious initiatives under Nav Kerala Karma Padhathi-2 to eliminate indigenous Malaria, Kala Azar, Filariasis, Leprosy and Tuberculosis by 2025. District Cancer Control Programme will be implemented in all 14 Districts. Life style disease peoples' campaign will be initiated in the State along with annual screening of people above 30 years of age.

107. The Government is taking strides to use cutting edge technology like Artificial Intelligence, machine learning in health sector under the State Digital Health Mission and e-Health Project.

16. General Education

108. Despite the devastating impact that COVID has had on contact classes, my Government has been able to keep our students in the path of learning through digital classes followed by Online Classes that enabled the teacher and students to communicate with each other real time. The challenge of access of all students to digital equipment to avail the Online Classes was met through the 'Vidya Kiran' Project, which was supported by philanthropic Keralites.

109. Government are going ahead with the proposal of preparing new curriculum based on the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 but bearing in mind areas of disagreement with the NEP, 2020. The curriculum shall include both scientific conscience and technical knowledge, giving due importance to secularism. Awareness activities against superstition and inculcation of scientific temper will be included in the proposed curriculum. Emphasis on protecting constitutional values also be included in the Curriculum.

The important Programmes that the Department proposes to implement in the year 2022-23 are given below:

- i. The **FOCUS SCHOOL** Project is to bring low performing schools up to the benchmark.
- ii. The **MODEL INCLUSIVE SCHOOL** Programme envisages strengthening selected general schools to function as model centres of inclusive education in specific disabilities. Five specific disabilities viz Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Intellectual Disability (ID), Hearing Impairment (HI), Visual Impairment (VI) and Specific Learning Disorder (SLD) are identified to be addressed in this manner.
- iii. It is seen that health issues have developed in children due to the lack of proper physical exercise in the wake of Covid-19. Therefore a Special Programme, namely, 'Fitness for Future' is proposed to be introduced in schools during 2022-23.
- iv. A school at a block level is to be converted into skill development centres on the hub and spoke model to acquire the job skill qualifications envisaged by the NSQF curriculum for Higher Secondary - Vocational students.

17. Higher Education

110. My Government aims to transform the standard of higher education so that our educational institutions also find a place in global rankings by implementing a paradigm shift in investment and approach to teaching and research.
111. The Government intends to start centres of excellence in various Universities with the aim of imparting world class education and attract talent across the globe.
112. A Project for Digitisation of Library Resources and Development of Kerala Academic Library Network (KALNET) is being planned which envisages Digitisation and Preservation of rare collections/manuscripts of University and other Libraries in the State. The Kerala State Higher Education Council in association with the State Planning Board has initiated a Project of building up database of Keralite- Academic Diaspora around the Globe, which is termed as 'the Brain Gain Project'.
113. The Directorate of Collegiate Education has started implementing a Gender Sensitisation Programme called "Samabhavanayude Salkalaasaalaka!" in order to end gender

discrimination and make our campuses centres of equal opportunity to all. A Programme, namely, 'Scheme for Her Empowerment in Engineering Education (SHE)', is intended to encourage girl students in technical fields.

114. Collegiate Education Department also proposes a new 'Green Campus Project' to reduce the carbon footprint of all institutions and offices by shifting to renewable energy sources.

18. Science and Technology

115. The Institute for Climate Change Studies in collaboration with IIT Madras has started a 'National Aerosol and Bioaerosol at High Altitude Laboratory'. The Institute has set up a short term weather simulation system for understanding the weather scenario in advance. The Institute of Advanced Virology has been developed to conduct cutting edge research on diagnosis and management of different viruses and started research on antivirus and strive for achieving excellence in the field, especially in the event of Covid-19 pandemic. My Government also intends to establish an Institute of Diabetic Studies in Kerala.

IV. Local Governance

19. Local Self Government

116. The Local Self Government Department has been in the vanguard of many of the initiatives of the State – be it COVID management, disaster resilience, climate action, eradication of poverty, employment generation, ease of doing business, digitization of citizen services and many more. I would particularly like to acknowledge the yeomen service rendered by the Local Self Governments and their elected representatives who have been leading from the front in COVID and disaster management.

117. My Government has undertaken a phenomenal intervention of identifying the most vulnerable and marginalised people in our midst through a participatory process led by Local Governments, involving over 13.74 lakhs people in all the Wards of the State. 73,555 of the poorest of the poor have been identified, for whom family based customized micro plans will be developed, so that they can be brought out of destitution and distress.

118. A new paradigm of local economic development which converges institutional credit, promotes new local enterprises, start ups and service opportunities like service aggregators, develops cyber workspaces, and

supports skilling for employment, has been developed. In collaboration with the Industries and Co-operation Department, and foregrounding the Kudumbashree new gen entrepreneurial ventures, the 'One Local Self Government One Product (OLOP)' will be implemented.

119. The 'Intelligent Building Plan Management Software' has been successfully implemented for building plan applications of low-risk buildings in all the urban local bodies. The Integrated Local Government Management System (ILGMS) will be scaled up to all Grama Panchayats this year.
120. Through concerted sanitation activities and scientific management of solid and liquid waste, 400 LSGs are expected to attain ODF-plus status by 2023. The Department also plans to launch an IT-enabled waste management system across the State. At least 20 urban local bodies are expected to attain garbage-free status in 2022.
121. This year will see a major influx of resources for waste management by urban local bodies through the Kerala Solid Waste Management Project supported by the World Bank for ₹ 2500 crores which will address long standing problems like dumpsite remediation, sanitary

landfills, waste processing of electronic waste, glass waste and construction and demolition waste.

122. A State wide communityled clean aquifer campaign for the mapping and protection of all major water bodies of the State – “Thelineer ozhukum nava keralam” - will be undertaken. My Government will also be comingout with a clear articulation of policy for Liquid waste management in the State.
123. Under LIFE, the flagship umbrella Programme for housing, as on 31st December 2021, construction of 2,78,812 houses has been completed. My Government has fixed an ambitious target of one lakh houses and 30 housing complexes using pre-fab technology, for the next Financial Year. A new intervention – “manassodithirimannu” – will be taken up to canvas providing land to the landless by philanthropic persons and institutions, to support the cause of a home for all.
124. I am happy to note that Kudumbashree has launched a new insurance scheme - ‘Jeevan Deepam’ - for its NHG members, in which 4.25 lakhs members have already enrolled. As part of ‘Hunger free Kerala’ Scheme, Kudumbashree has already established 1172 ‘Janakeeya’ Hotels across the State. The 19550 newly created auxiliary groups of Kudumbashree will enable young women to access Kudumbashree as a

discussion platform for social issues and as an avenue for new livelihood opportunities. Livelihood opportunities have been created for more than one lakh beneficiaries under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative.

125. In 2022-23, my Government intends to generate 1050 lakhs person days of wage employment in Kerala and to support at least 16 lakhs households through the MGNREGS and Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Schemes. The Kerala Employment Guarantee Workers' Welfare Fund Act, 2021 has been enacted to create a welfare fund for wage earners under these Schemes.
126. Restoring play spaces to children who have been holed up on account of COVID is a priority to my Government, which is working to develop at least one playground in every Panchayat and ULB as a collaborative effort of the Sports Department and LSGD. Local body Sports Councils are all set to be formed in every LSG in the current year.

V. FINANCE AND TAXES

20. Taxes, Lottery and KSFE

127. The State GST Department has been proactive in adopting modernization of tax administration in the milieu of change in tax laws and on-going innovations in technology along with reorganization

of the Department. The improvement has been facilitated by the adoption of information technology solutions like the model 2 GSTN, number plate recognition system, fraud detection tools etc. to meet the operational and strategic needs of the Department ably supported by a virtual IT cadre. The initiative of the Department, viz, the “tax payer profile card” will drive the tax payers, customers, other stakeholders towards an environment of accurate voluntary tax compliance.

128. As part of resource mobilisation, prize structure of the lottery tickets has been revised and number of tickets printing enhanced up to One Crore Eight lakhs tickets in twelve series. Despite COVID, the Department was able to collect an amount of ₹ 4597.55 crores from sale proceeds and an amount of ₹ 1287.31 crores as GST up to December 2021. A Portal has been launched for lottery agents facilitating online remittance for sale proceeds and GST.
129. The Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE Ltd.) launched various Schemes to help persons who suffered financial dislocation in the wake of pandemic. The KSFE implemented Pravasimithram and Pravasi Sauhrudam Gold Loans with a nominal interest rate of 5 per cent to provide fund to NRKs

who returned to homeland due to the pandemic for their survival.

21. Excise Department

130. My Government will facilitate production of wine and low alcohol liquor from native agricultural produce that are currently being wasted in bulk due to lack of proper value addition. The Track and Trace System will be implemented to ensure greater transparency in the toddy industry by monitoring the production and distribution of toddy.

131. The Excise Department along with the Vimukthi Mission is formulating and implementing extensive Schemes to eliminate the drug abuse in the State. With an effort to achieve a holistic development of the tribal areas, new Janamaithri Excise Squads will be set up.

VI. INFRASTRUCTURE

22. Power

132. While being able to provide 24x7 power supply throughout, my Government is determined to minimize its dependability on external sources. The focus will continue to be on Sustainable Energy Solutions harnessing hydro, solar and wind.

My Government aims to ensure generation of at least 1000 MW of power from renewable sources by 2025.

133. My Government will pursue possibility of additional powerhouses of Idukki (800 MW) and Sabarigiri utilising water available in the existing reservoirs. Twin Kallar Multi-Purpose Project of 60 MW capacity for power generation and irrigation is also on the anvil.
134. It is expected that in another three decades 50 per cent of the energy requirement in transport sector will be met from electricity. To cater to the increasing demand a wide network of EV charging stations will be set up across the State.
135. The flagship Projects like Dyuthi and Transgrid 2.0 launched under Oorjja Kerala Mission have enabled hassle free integration of renewable energy sources and have brought down the distribution loss and transmission loss to among the lowest levels in the country. My Government proposes to continue the second phase of the Dyuthi at a total outlay of Rs.4400 crores. With the completion of Transgrid

2.0 and 400 KV transmission corridor projects, the import/export capability will reach 5,000 MW.

23. Public Works

136. My Government has embarked upon a path of transformation to create quality public infrastructure to catalyze the economic development of the State and extend good experience to the citizens. This is reflected in the emphasis my Government has placed on the speedy implementation of National Highway, Coastal Highway and Hill Highway Projects.
137. Due importance will be given to road safety and the concept of “Streets for all” will be implemented with pedestrian friendly footpaths, cycle tracks and street furniture at suitable locations. All State Highways shall be developed to two lane/four lane standards based on traffic requirements in a phased manner.
138. The development of way side amenities along the highways and construction of multilevel parking facilities in coordination with the local authorities shall be undertaken.
139. My Government has initiated steps for ‘Pothole free Kerala’ with appropriate systems and technologies. A running contract system for the maintenance of

roads will be adopted so as to ensure timely preventive and reactive maintenance.

140. PWD Rest Houses are being transformed to People's Rest Houses. The facilities will now be accessible online to travellers and tourists.
141. The buildings and architectural wing is making an audacious effort to change the face of Government Buildings. At least one building in each LAC will be constructed as per green building concept in the next five years.
142. My Government shall develop a comprehensive public infrastructure Design Policy and Guidelines to help create a public infrastructure of high quality and experiential value. State of the art facilities for quality control of assets are established at Kerala Highway Research Institute and regional laboratories. Mobile quality control laboratories are also being established for real-time field monitoring.
143. In order to promote total transparency and corruption free project execution, important project information like defect liability period and details of responsible officers and contractors are made available to the public. Mobile application based grievance redressal and monitoring system

'PWD4U' app is also implemented as a part of this initiative.

24. Water Resources

144. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission Water Resources Department aims to provide 10,22,635 new Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) during 2022.
145. It is the need of the hour to improve the sewage treatment capacity particularly in the wake of increasing pollution of water bodies in the State. Commissioning of sewage treatment plants at Elamkulam and Kureepuzha with sewage treatment capacity of 5 MLD and 12 MLD respectively are expected to be completed in 2022. Plans for constructing Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a sewage treatment capacity of 30 MLD and 9 MLD at Alappuzha Municipality and Cherthala Municipality respectively are being devised among other Projects for implementation in the coming years.
146. There are 10 Municipalities in the State that do not have supply of treated water. Water Resources Department will address the water demands of the people in these cities by setting up water treatment plants and laying out distribution networks.

147. My Government will give top most priority to realise the projects envisaged for Cauvery Basin. In Pamba Basin, construction of Pattissery dam and canal system is rapidly progressing. My Government will continue to focus on formulating innovative technologies suitable for coastal areas vulnerable to coastal erosion.
148. In the wake of recurring heavy rainfalls and flash flood events in the State, Government intends to strengthen its flood prediction capabilities by installing more hydro-meteorological stations and Flood Early Warning Systems (FEWS) in 2022.
149. During 2022, Water Resources Department will continue with dredging works of the leading channel and in the Pamba, Manimala and Achankoil Rivers for the renovation of Thottappally Spillway. Water Resources Department is committed to removing water hyacinth/weeds, silt and plastic wastes from the Vembanad Lake and connected water bodies for improving its flood carrying capacity.
150. State level Masterplans for each major river in Kerala will be prepared for the sustainable conservation of river eco systems. Plans are in place to convert 10,000 wells into protected and

sustainable sources of drinking water through groundwater recharging techniques.

151. During 2022, rehabilitation and improvement works of Kallada, Karapuzha, Kanjirapuzha, Malankara dams and Maniyar barrage are set to be executed.
152. My Government plans to transform Kerala Engineering Research Institute (KERI), under Irrigation Department, into a research oriented institute of academic excellence at national level to meet the challenges in the field of management of water resources, flood management, coastal engineering, hydraulic research etc.

25. Transport

153. My Government proposes to implement “Smart Enforcement” Project which involves equipping field officers with most modern smart enforcement devices and latest technology. Safe Kerala Project has shown encouraging results from its inception through addressing more than 7.5 lakhs violations.
154. For ensuring ease of commuting, the Department proposes to implement Intelligent Public Transport System. My Government proposes to develop State Wide Vehicle Tracking Platform for ensuring safety of women and public under the Nirbhaya Framework.

155. A new Project 'Gramavandi' will be implemented by KSRTC in collaboration with the Local Self Governments during the year 2022-23.
156. As part of zero carbon emission policy boats under the Department will be fully solarised by 3 years. The built of India's first Solar Cruise Vessel is in good progress and likely to be completed within the current fiscal.
157. A new Programme has been formulated for supporting rescue operation of road crash victims at the site of accident. Through this Programme it is planned to develop a task force including the Public, School children, Police and volunteers for rescue operation at the site of accident(s). The Programme will formulate SOPs (Standard Operation Procedures) and guidelines for Ambulance Service providers.

26. Ports

158. In order to launch a green freight corridor to improve coastal trading along the Western coast, Government of Kerala started Green Freight Corridor-2 service from Cochin to Beypore and Azhikkal Ports.
159. The development of West Coast Canal and the proposed new canal formation in Mahe -

Valapattanam reach and Neeleswaram – Bekal reach are envisaged in 3 stages. The proposed works envisaged in the first stage are to clean the canals and make the same fit for water traffic and tourism maintaining the present width. In the second stage it is envisaged to increase the width of the canals and to evict the encroachments through rehabilitation process by the end of 2022. In the third stage, it is expected to develop the canals to the National Waterway Standards for improving the cargo movement.

VII. NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

27. Forests and Wild Life

160. An Eco-restoration Policy 2021 has been brought out by the Government for restoring the natural forests and other ecosystems. This will be a combined initiative of Departments like Local Self Government, Environment and will involve Local Governments. Peoples participation will make this attain the character of a mass movement.
161. It is proposed to initiate a special project for eradication of prioritized invasive alien species from the forests of Kerala during 2022-23.

162. The role of forests and tree cover outside the forests is of prime importance in achieving the goal of a “**Carbon Neutral Kerala**”. There is significant potential for increasing this sequestration by forests through improving the quality of existing forests and also by expanding the tree cover.
163. The Eco-restoration Policy, 2021 adopted by the Government provides that the raw materials from the clear-felled commercial exotic monoculture plantations of Acacia, Eucalyptus and Wattle will be given to small-scale forest-based industries at a fair price fixed for the purpose.
164. In order to provide effective barrier against coastal erosion, it is proposed to establish a Bio-shield of mangrove and other vegetation along the coast of Kerala. This will be a cross-departmental effort with active participation of local communities. A special project for the same shall be supported under the Rebuild Kerala Development Project (RKDP).
165. My Government gives utmost priority to address the hardships caused by Human-Wildlife Conflict. A special project will be supported for addressing Human-Wildlife Conflict.
166. My Government is proposing to implement a special project to raise small urban forests in select

locations. Forest Department has recently initiated a Programme to revive and expand the activities of Forestry Clubs in Kerala through “Mission Forestry Clubs”.

167. To encourage the protection and conservation of sacred groves special Schemes will be implemented.

28. Environment

168. Biodiversity conservation projects are in progress at different locations in Kerala focusing on different themes such as conservation of sacred groves, mangroves, riparian vegetation, endangered and threatened plants. Biodiversity Parks are being developed in association with Biodiversity Management Committees in 11 Districts.

169. Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station at Palakkad and Alappuzha and Online Water Quality Monitoring Station upstream of Pathalam Bund are proposed to be completed.

170. The State Climate Change Cell (SCCC) will be strengthened by engaging professional human resources and developing a State Climate Change Knowledge Management Portal for effective coordination of the Climate Change related activities in the State. State Action Plan on Climate Change

(SAPCC) will be revised in consistence with the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). Coastal Zone Management Plan will be revised in accordance with the latest Coastal Regulation Zone Notification and amendments.

29. Disaster Management and Climate Change

171. My Government has taken every effort to enhance the resilience of the community towards disasters and thereby mitigate the risk of disasters. State Emergency Operations Centre currently has a Centralized Operations Command Centre solution for disaster management in the State to specifically address the IT needs for cooperative governance and cross agency collaboration during emergency needs and disaster management. A special campaign to make the people aware of disaster literacy will be carried out throughout the State.
172. Land use/Land cover map of five Districts and Wetland Information System for four Districts will be completed and Web -based LRIS will be upgraded with updated information on natural resources.
173. The Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre (KSREC) will also upgrade the server infrastructure, develop Disaster Data Recovery

Solution, and provide Satellite image based Wetland and Paddy Land change detection reports.

30. Rebuild Kerala Initiative

174. Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI), administrative sanction has been issued for ₹ 7823.43 crores worth of projects being anchored by 13 Departments, which are under implementation and Rs.5410.95 crores worth of projects have been tendered and awarded.

VIII. OTHER SECTORS

31. Devaswom

175. My Government will give top priority to the development of Sabarimala and will provide more facilities for the pilgrims arriving at Sabarimala. As a measure to increase the amenities and facilities of the Sabarimala Pilgrims, Midway Pilgrim Shelters (Idathavalams) will be strengthened.

176. My Government has initiated preparations for the formation of a Pilgrimage Corridor connecting the famous temples under the Malabar Devaswom Board.

32. Culture

177. My Government proposes to enact a new Act to regulate the management, administration and preservation of public records of the State. It is also

proposed to decentralize conservation of Archival records by commencing District Heritage Centres at the sites proposed by the District Administrations. Under the aegis of the Department, it is proposed to implement a cultural circuit for people visiting various cultural and heritage centres of Kerala, a cultural heritage village to showcase the traditions of Kerala and four other special initiatives in this regard.

33. Food and Civil Supplies Department

178. Food and Civil Supplies Department played a vital role in keeping the State as hunger free during the pandemic period by providing free food kits to all families. The price of essential commodities including vegetables, food grains and pulses was controlled by effective market intervention by Supplyco.
179. It is planned to construct 83 Taluk wise godowns all across Kerala so that one-month ration food articles can be stored in such locations. It is also planned to implement VTFMS and CCTV surveillance in all the 209 NFSA godowns to monitor and ensure prompt delivery of food grains and protect against delay and diversion.

180. My Government has introduced a PVC ration card in the size of an ATM card from November 2nd, 2021. It is proposed to provide Banking services up to ₹ 5000 and the payment of all utility bills through the fair price shops by incorporating the services of bankers in the field.
181. Highest procurement price for paddy in India to farmers ie @ ₹ 28/kg during the running season is prevailing in the State. For the sale of products marketed by Supplyco, Matsyafed, HortiCorp & Kepco, an integrated online delivery system has been evolved under the leadership of Supplyco.
182. An enterprise Resource Management Solution will be established at Supplyco which works with blockchain technology to identify stock position, information regarding fast or slow moving articles, outlet cash balance etc.

34. Home Department

183. My Government has shown keen commitment in adopting modern technology in Policing. As part of this, we have established a Drone Forensic Laboratory at Thiruvananthapuram. District Forensic Science Laboratories have been established in all Revenue Districts.

184. Special initiatives of Kerala Police include:

- i) Strengthening of India's first Drone Research and Forensic Centre at Thiruvananthapuram and development of Drones of various capabilities to be used for disaster management, police patrolling, VIP security and surveillance. A Mobile Anti Drone Facility also will be set up in this Centre to handle enemy drones.
- ii) Setting up Digital De-addiction Centre in the four Police Ranges, where all students and persons suffering from digital addiction will be effectively counselled.
- iii) Implementation of Totally Integrated Digital Enforcement System which will ensure that no vehicles are stopped for traffic checking and "traffic checking to fine payment" will become digital, throughout the State.

185. Construction of Central Prison at Thavanur is nearing completion and this would be the first Central Prison in Kerala State after its formation.

186. It is a matter of pride that our Fire & Rescue Services Department has been in the forefront during the days of calamities and Covid-19 pandemic. To augment the Department's capacity, five new Fire & Rescue Stations were opened

in 2021. Sanction has also been accorded to start Fire Safety Science Post Graduate Research Centre in Kannur.

187. As a mark of the State's commitment to efficient management of cases filed in the High Court, Case Management System has been developed as an in-house case management software with various features. As part of e-Governance Project in Judiciary, it is proposed to set up a Data Centre and to digitize and preserve records in the High Court of Kerala.
188. Out of the 28 Fast Track Special Courts, 14 have been notified as exclusive POCSO Courts during the Financial Year.
189. My Government proposes to constitute Kerala's own "Specially Trained Brave Brigade" which is capable of facing any calamities by imparting training similar to that of Air Force/Navy.
190. Steps are in progress for preparing the Kerala Police Manual in Malayalam, the Official Language of the State.

35. Law Department

191. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, various sessions of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly could not

be held and hence Government had to issue 45 Ordinances at various points of time. Giving emphasis to replace the said Ordinances by Acts of the State Legislature, the 3rd Session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly was specially convened to pass Bills and 34 laws could be enacted.

36. Non Resident Keralites' Affairs Department

192. During Covid-19 pandemic period around 1.75 million Pravasis returned to Kerala. About 70% of them were constrained to return due to job loss. NORKA has launched a new Scheme REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION AND COORDINATION OF NRKS – PRAVASI BHADRATHA which aims to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities to returnees for assisting them to start nano, small and micro enterprises.
193. NORKA ROOTS, the State run overseas recruitment agency has entered into a MoU with German Federal Employment Agency, as part of Triple Win Programme for recruiting nurses to Germany. It has opened up more than 10,000 job opportunities for nurses from the State in the German health care sector in the post-Covid scenario.

37. Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department

194. A Centre for Good Governance was set up at Institute of Management in Government (IMG) for addressing complex issues and providing timely inputs to Government. A DARPG guided study to develop competency frameworks for functionaries at the cutting edge level for various Departments in Government of Kerala, evaluation of the effectiveness of programmes and service delivery by documentation of factors affecting the effectiveness of training and upgradation of training and residential facilities at IMG are planned for the next year.

38. Planning, Economics and Statistics

195. The State Planning Board published “Kerala Development Report: Initiatives, Achievements and Challenges” which analyses of the major features of economic policy and development in Kerala with an emphasis on the years from 2016-2020.

196. The Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (KDISC) is responsible for setting up the 'Innovation for Government (i4G)' crowd sourcing platform for start-ups in Emerging Technologies and for 'One Department-One Idea 2021', an exclusive

platform for the employees of Government Departments and agencies. Ten State and five District innovation hubs, a crowd sourcing platform for innovation and a programme for training and positioning innovation fellows are also planned.

197. My Government proposes to study the extent to which Government efforts addressed the challenges faced by the Pravisis and to study the social and economic status of Pravisis who are unable to return due to Covid- 19.

39. Registration

198. My Government has successfully rolled out Digital Document Execution Platform for financial contracts. In the coming year, e-stamping below one lakh and providing e-certified copies will be implemented and necessary rules for e-registration and e-filing will also be formulated.

40. Land Revenue

199. My Government aims to complete the Digital Re-Survey Project in 4 years with the aim of providing a clear and authentic record of right for all land owners, for which an amount of 339.438 crores has been set apart in the first phase under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative.

200. My Government intends to issue pattayams to all the deserving landless people in the State.
201. The Unique Thandapper System will be implemented in the State of Kerala, which will provide a unique identification number for all the land holders holding lands in different parts of the State under multiple survey numbers and thandapper numbers.
202. My Government shall address all the pending land issues on mission mode. My Government will continue to work and take a new leap to transform the ambiance of offices like Village offices, Taluk offices and Civil Stations to promote a new work culture of transparency, efficiency and citizen friendliness.
203. The steps will be taken to strictly enforce the Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008 to protect the paddy fields in the State. The Government will take strong legal action against the encroachers by intensifying measures to reclaim illegally held Government land.
204. It is intended to develop the Institute of Land and Disaster Management (ILDMD) as a Centre for Excellence, for which a new endeavour called Revenue Information Bureau (RIB) will be launched.

205. District Survey Reports will be prepared for 10 Districts in the State for the first time to ensure sustainable removal of sand resources from rivers without harming the environment.

41. Sports and Youth Affairs Department

206. My Government will ensure a new sports culture by implementing Multi-purpose District Sports Complexes, encourage cycling, strengthening play-for-health scheme, establishing residential sports schools etc.

207. Sports Kerala Elite Residential Football Academies were inaugurated at GV Raja Sports School, Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur Sports School for Girls.

208. A free legal guidance system to the youth with a toll-free number is intended to implement. Awareness campaigns against dowry, drug use and such social evils at District level are also being planned.

42. Vigilance Department

209. Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau has initiated several innovative measures in support of the Government Policy of "Zero Tolerance to Corruption". During 2020-2021, the Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau has completed the

digitization of administration, opened new office-buildings at Idukki, Palakkad, and Kannur Districts, and established the Cyber Cell at the Vigilance Headquarters.

43. Conclusion

210. The federal polity requires the Union and State Governments to work together harmoniously to do justice to the people. In these difficult times, it behoves us to imbibe the principles of cooperative federalism and find areas of synergy and resolution.

211. No State deserves to survive which does not put the well being of all its citizens first. In order to do so the State has to be consciously inclusive, particularly of people who are not in the mainstream – marginalised communities, minorities, genders, people with special needs and disabilities. These are lessons that COVID teaches us. It teaches us that the well being of one person is the well being of us all. It teaches us that to survive uncertain and volatile times we need to work together, we need to work for everyone. The global scenario has also been impacted by this disruptive experience. Challenging times bring out the best in us by way of innovation and the spirit to persevere and overcome. The future is one of responsive, inclusive

governance, and the State of Kerala that has developed many a model towards this end, will continue to be a trailblazer and inspiration to the country and the world.

212. The Navakeralam Karma Padhati takes inspiration from these ideals and will have a significant impact in taking the achievements of the State in education, health, sanitation and natural resource management to new heights. In conclusion, I would once again like to highlight the focus of my Government in reviving the economy of the State through enhanced employment opportunities and improved production, in bringing in citizen centric and efficiency driven digital governance, in taking strong strides towards a knowledge economy particularly in cutting edge disciplines, and in continuing to persevere to meet the Sustainable Development Goals for a vibrant and resilient Kerala.

JAI HIND