

protection programme and conservation of mangroves will also be promoted to improve the livelihood of coastal communities. Aqua-parks will be set up for ornamental fishes and programmes will be launched on a mission mode to augment culture fishery, both inland and brackish water. My Government also proposes to promote deep sea fishing for exploiting the tuna resources, improve the hygienic conditions of the fishing harbours and repair and reconstruct fishing harbours and landing centres damaged due to tsunami. The integrated coastal programme will be funded from various sources, the most important being Rs. 1400 crore Tsunami Rehabilitation Project. No efforts will be spared to bring in necessary legislation to ensure remittance of cess from fish exporters to the Fishermen Welfare Fund. Pattayams or Possession Certificate will be ensured to all fishing households.

32. My Government will take uncompromising steps for the preservation and protection of forests and for the conservation of bio-diversity of the State. Some of the major steps to be taken on priority by my Government are formulation of a new Forest Policy for the State within six months, protection of sandal forests of Marayoor, establishment of a sandal oil factory in the Public Sector / Co-operative sector in the coming financial year and preservation of mangroves.

33. Besides my Government will ensure People's participation in forest protection measures through agencies such as Vanasamrakshana Samithies, Eco-Development Committees etc. Suitable amendments/modification will be made in the existing rules to ensure protection of trees in and around forest regions without depriving individual rights of tree cultivation. Improved monitoring system for early detection and warning of forest fires will be introduced with the technical support of National Remote Sensing Agency. The banks of rivers, which are prone to erosion, will be stabilized through belt plantations of bamboos with the involvement of Local Governments.
34. After agriculture, traditional industries are the biggest source of employment. Coir industry is distributed all along the costal belt and it alone employs more than 3.5 lakh workers. My Government proposes to re-organize the industry through reviving the co-operatives, removing the middlemen, modernizing and diversifying production, ensuring adequate supply of husks and fibre and strengthening marketing. The losses of the potentially viable co-operatives will be written off and the liabilities converted into shares to enable them to raise institutional finance. The middlemen system or the depots system in the coir-manufacturing sector will be abolished and coir purchase price enforcement scheme introduced. Research

and technology upgradation is vital to ensure competitiveness of the industry in the market.

35. My Government will provide all necessary assistance for the efficient functioning and upgradation of the Coirfed, Coir Corporation and Foam Mattings (India) Ltd.

My Government is committed to following the terms of settlement decided upon in the discussion held with the coir workers unions, small scale producers unions and the exporters. My Government will include one-lakh women coir workers under the Mahila Coir Yojana Scheme, within 5 years. Remunerative prices will be ensured for coir and coir products. A census of coir establishments, equipments and workers will be organized in order to create a firm database for policy making and project formulation.

36. In the cashew sector, the major intervention of my government will be to revamp the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation and CAPEX so that they become economically viable and set standards for wage and labour conditions. All the relevant provisions of the existing labour laws, Factories Act etc will be strictly implemented. Earnest efforts would be taken to curb the unhealthy trends created by middlemen in the industry. Development of market for cashew kernels and allied products, introduction of value added products to make this agro industry more attractive

and expansion of cashew plantations are the other major steps that will be adopted in this sector.

37. Dinesh Beedi Co-operative Society is the biggest Society of its kind in India supporting approximately 40,000 workers. Changing lifestyles and adverse market conditions have resulted in the financial instability of the Society. My Government is committed to evolving a Special Package to restructure and revive the Dinesh Beedi Cooperative Society.

38. Similarly, the traditional and vibrant Handloom Sector of Kerala will be strengthened with special emphasis on professional marketing. Modernisation and diversification of production, welfare measures for the weavers and strengthening of co-operative will be the interventions in this sector. Toddy tapping industry will be revamped and more employment opportunities created.

39. The public sector constitutes the backbone of modern industry in Kerala. However, most of the public sector units are facing severe crisis. In contrast to the neo-liberal solution of privatisation, my Government is committed to reviving the public sector. Measures like extending one-time assistance, technology upgradation, injection of fresh capital and improving the standards of corporate

governance for reviving viable units will be adopted. To improve professional management, CEO's will be selected solely on merit basis and for this a selection committee will be constituted.

40. My Government recognizes the need for providing world class, state-of-the art infrastructure as an essential condition for the rapid industrialization of the state. To spearhead this activity, Government intends to immediately float a public limited company on the model of Cochin International Airport (CIAL). Government along with KSIDC and KINFRA shall have substantial percentage of share holding in the company. My Government further proposes to tap the vast potential of Non-Resident Keralites across the world to raise the balance share capital. The company will build quality infrastructure required to attract high-tech industries. My Government also proposes to set up a large food-processing park in Wayanad district.

41. My Government intends to create opportunities for value addition in the mineral sector. Instead of exporting of raw, unprocessed mineral sands that fetch very low value, we plan to consciously move up the value chain.

42. My Government recognizes the critical role of IT as an enabler of employment generation and economic

development of the State. The previous government failed in sustaining the tempo of investment for developing infrastructure in IT sector in the state. My Government will fill in this gap, by augmenting both public and private investment in this sector. The State's inherent strength of quality manpower and connectivity infrastructure will be fully leveraged to create two lakh direct jobs in the IT/ITES/BPO sectors in the next five years. This will further generate six lakh indirect jobs. Establishing capabilities in the production/hardware sector will be encouraged, rather than depending on ITES sector alone. In order to achieve the above goals, my Government will create an investor friendly environment and develop the infrastructure. My Government is aware of the strategic importance of promoting Free and Open Source Software (FOSS). We shall strive to make Kerala the FOSS industry destination of India.

43. The E-governance initiatives of the State Government will be given further impetus with the commissioning of State Wide Area Network by March 2007. This project will result in giving high-speed broadband connectivity to government offices up to the Block Panchayat level to be then linked to the Village Panchayats. The Akshaya E-literacy project will be revamped to make it more effective. About thirty thousand Akshaya centres will be ready by the end of March

2007 to provide delivery of various Government / Local government and other services to the citizens. To ensure quality manpower for the IT industry, Government intends to set up a certification mechanism for the various courses imparted through IT training centres in the State.

44. To achieve the above objectives, my Government will frame a new IT/ITES policy shortly.

45. Tourism has emerged as the largest industry in the world by virtue of being the highest contributor to the GDP, employment creation and capital investment and tax generation. Keralites can be proud of the fact that Kerala is the most sought-after tourist destination in the country. My Government is committed to taking all steps to attract investment for the development of tourism.

46. During the next financial year, the focus would be on integrated development of tourism circuits connecting various destinations of the State. The Government would also concertedly promote new and emerging avenues in tourism like Health Tourism, Adventure Tourism, Plantation Tourism, Rural Tourism and Eco tourism. New initiatives like Farm Tourism and "My Village - A Tourist Friendly Village" intending to spread the benefit of tourism to the local communities especially rural agrarian communities

will be launched. The tourism potential of Malabar will be fully utilized. Tourism centres such as Bekal, Nilambur, Beypore, Peruvannamoozhy, Wayanad, Valiyaparambu and the backwaters of Malabar will be developed into full fledged tourism centres. A Cultural Village will be developed to revive the traditional art and folk forms of the region.

47. My Government also intends to prepare a comprehensive perspective plan, recognizing the uniqueness of each tourist destination. Schemes for tourism development will be crafted to showcase the abundant natural wealth of Kerala. The Government will take all precautions to ensure that our cultural heritage and environmental concerns are not compromised upon in the guise of development of tourism. Special efforts will be taken to control pollution due to tourism related activities.

48. Centres of Excellence for creating the human resource to meet the growing demand for trained manpower in the tourism sector will be set up. The Government would promote accommodation facilities for budget tourists in all important tourist centres. Special facilities would be arranged for pilgrims at all the pilgrim centres as part of tourism development. Transportation facilities will also be

improved to enable the tourists to have hassle free journeys in the State.

49. The NRKs, who are toiling very hard in various parts of the world and have done Kerala proud by making a mark in their chosen fields, and contributed significantly to the states economy will be involved in the developmental schemes of Kerala. An atmosphere will be created in which they will be encouraged to invest their hard earned money for the development of their homeland. The scope of functioning of the NORKA department will be expanded to meet the expectations and aspirations of the NRKs. Information on Keralites working outside the state will be collected for creating a database.
50. The Electricity Act 2003 paved the way for privatisation of power sector and many states in our country have already moved in this direction. Let me assure you, my Government will not privatise the KSEB and it will be retained in the public sector.
51. The LDF Government in its earlier tenure, from 1996 to 2001 could create history by achieving a capacity addition of 1089 MW while the previous UDF Government could achieve a capacity addition of 70 MW only. This Government will complete all the ongoing projects in a time

bound manner. All hydel projects will be implemented without causing much damage to the environment. The potential of small hydro projects and non-conventional energy sources will also be harnessed to the maximum extent possible to make the power sector self-reliant. Hydel tourism will be promoted.

52. Good monsoons during 2004 and 2005, increase in tariff effected during 2001 and 2002, and the reduction in interest rate for the loans availed by Kerala State Electricity Board and reduction in capital expenditure etc. have helped Kerala State Electricity Board to reduce the revenue gap. However there is an outstanding loan of Rs. 4541.32 crore at present. My Government will issue policy directions to the Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission to rationalize tariff in such a way as to enable the industrial sector to compete in the international market and also ensure social justice. This Government is committed to provide free electricity connection to all families below poverty line. On the service delivery aspect, all the pending applications for electrical connection numbering about 2.5 lakh will be cleared in a time bound manner and thereafter electric connections would be provided on demand commencing this year itself. Moreover, effective steps will be taken to collect arrears and to prevent power theft. The functioning of adalats will be expanded and made more effective.

53. My Government will endeavour to materialise the project for Power Highway within the State. The functioning of ANERT and the Energy Management Centre would be made more effective and they would co-operate with Local Governments in achieving these objectives.
54. Further, maintenance operations of the transmission and distribution system will be undertaken on a war footing, to ensure uninterrupted quality power and to reduce transmission and distribution loss. The required number of employees will be appointed or deployed for this purpose.
55. In the case of roads my Government would integrate and update the existing studies conducted by various National and International agencies so as to prepare a long term vision for the road network required to be constructed, upgraded or maintained in tune with the ever increasing traffic requirements of Kerala. Considering the rapid development taking place in the Kochi region, especially in the wake of the new Container Terminal, Special Economic Zones etc., the Public Works Department intends to commission a multinodal strategic option study by a National level agency. This study, which would be completed in six months, would focus on the special road designs and appropriate connectivity with the National

Highways, State Highways, Airports and Seaports. This would also form the basis of developing and maintaining the road network in the Central region of Kerala and also for linking with the northern part of the State.

56. Working in close co-ordination with the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), my Government would take all steps needed to build four-lane roads in all the stretches under NH 47 and complete the bye-passes. The Roads and Bridges Corporation Kerala will give priority to complete the railway over bridges on a corridor basis so as to ensure free flow of traffic on the major arterial roads of Kerala. The implementation of Capital City Road Development Project undertaken by the Kerala Road Fund Board (KRFB) and construction of roads under Kerala State Transport Project will be expedited and completed. The Highway Protection Act, 1999 will be fully implemented in letter and spirit. My Government proposes to provide adequate infrastructure for the Motor Vehicles Department to ensure road safety.

57. Development of ports and equipping them with the modern handling equipments is very important for the economic development of the State. With this end in view my Government proposes to give special priority in developing Vizhinjam Port as a Deepwater International Container

Transshipment Terminal. Beypore Port will be developed to cater to passenger and cargo traffic from mainland India to Lakshadweep Islands and Alappuzha will be developed as a Marina-cum-cargo port so as to develop the tourism potential of the area as well as the State. Azhikkal will be developed as a general cargo port. The development of minor ports such as Kollam is also taken up.

58. In order to ensure optimal balance in inter-modal mix in transport it is important to emphasise the development of Smart Waterways. The development of Kovalam-Kollam, Kottappuram - Hosdurg stretch of West Coast Canal and other feeder canals in the State is to be taken up utilising the 12th Finance Commission award. The work on revival of Veli - Kovalam stretch of the TS Canal (Parvathy Puthanar) would be taken up during the year.

59. KSRTC has been following a policy of replacing vehicles, which are old, and during the current year also new buses will be procured after assessing the requirement. The Corporation intends to put up a modern Bus Terminal Complex at Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram. In order to augment non-operating revenue, KSRTC would put up modern Bus Terminal-cum-Commercial Complexes at Kozhikode, Malappuram, Angamali and Karunagapally and also would construct commercial complexes at Kollam and

Attakulangara in Thiruvananthapuram, Bus Station-cum-Commercial complexes at Kasargode, Muvattupuzha, Kottarakkara, Peroorkada and Kattakada are to be taken up by the Corporation using in-house facilities, with the help of loans from institutional finance. These projects will substantially add to the revenue of the Corporation.

60. During the current financial year, the KTDFC proposes to expand its business. The Company also proposes to launch the Special Vehicle Scheme for MLAs at reduced interest rate, using the subvention/discount received from dealer/manufacturer and construction of multi-storied Commercial complexes after the successful completion of the present "Trans Towers" Project.
61. It will be the endeavour of the Water Resources Department to prioritise its activities and aim at faster execution of the projects ensuring total transparency with a view to providing the intended benefits to the people at the earliest. The preservation of Kerala's water resources, protection of its rivers and rainwater harvesting will be a priority for my Government. The new State Water Policy will be finalised soon. Creation of public awareness regarding water conservation and management through mass campaigns involving Panchayathi Raj institutions and educational institutions will be given priority.

62. Providing safe drinking water is uppermost in the agenda of the Government. With this end in view, the Kerala Water Authority proposes to further expand its Rainwater Harvesting Programme, Swajaldhara scheme and schemes under ARWSP, benefiting a population of about 7.68 lakhs. Under the Bharat Nirman Project, it is proposed to cover 2238 habitations benefiting a population of about 11 lakh during 2006-2007. Five Urban Water Supply Schemes covering population of one lakh would also be completed under AUWSP. During the current year, implementation of the JBIC assisted Water supply Project, will be expedited ensuring transparency at all stages.
63. In addition to drinking water supply in rural areas under the Jalanidhi Project, it is proposed to take up two major water supply schemes in the Tsunami affected coastal areas for an amount of approximately Rs. 60 crores. It is also proposed to take up about 17 number of river-based schemes sponsored by multiple beneficiary groups during this year with the involvement of Panchayat. Besides, Groundwater recharge activities are also to be taken up on a large scale.
64. To mitigate the hardships faced by people residing in coastal areas, my Government will effectively utilise Rs. 175 crore provided by the 12th Finance Commission to Kerala for the period 2005-2010 for taking up anti-sea erosion works.

65. The agreement for implementation of the National Hydrology Project Phase-II has been signed and the scheme will commence during this year. In addition to the four ongoing projects under Command Area Development Authority, Kallada irrigation project has also been proposed for inclusion in the CAD programme. It is proposed to implement Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) in select command areas of the irrigation projects during 2006-07 on a pilot basis for efficient and judicious use of water.
66. In the Housing sector my Government will implement a programme wherein all the families of Kerala will have residential houses within five years and for realizing this my Government intends to launch a people's movement under the leadership of local governments with the involvement of NRIs, NGOs, political parties and organizations of the people. Special emphasis will be given to upgradation of houses constructed under "One lakh Housing Scheme" and the houses of the Scheduled Tribes.
67. The state has attained universal enrolment in primary education and near total retention of students up to high school level. In order to upgrade the quality of education, my Government proposes to introduce social audit in Government and aided schools from this academic year. English language labs set up in a few schools will be extended to more Higher Secondary Schools this year.

68. My Government would take steps to enhance the nutritional content of Noon Meals and ensure clean and hygienic preparation and serving of food in the schools. Drinking water supply and toilet facilities will be provided in all schools and thatched buildings will be completely converted into tiled or concrete ones with the help of local governments.
69. My Government proposes to give special attention to the education of the disabled and disadvantaged groups by integrating them into the mainstream. It is also proposed to give training to girl students in self-defence arts. IT education will be extended to UP level and EDUSAT facilities will be provided in all schools. A certificate course in Communicative English will be started for students and teachers to enhance their language skills. To prevent sub-standard teaching and decline in student strength in Government/Aided Schools it is intended to take steps for closure of unauthorized schools.
70. At the Higher Secondary level, my Government proposes to set up an HRD (Human Resource Development) centre for training of teachers. In the vocational education sector, Training-Cum-Production Centres are planned for each Vocational Higher Secondary School. Career and Guidance centres will be opened in districts other than

Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode where such centres are now working. The Service Delivery Project implemented in Government VHSE schools will be extended to the remaining 219 Government Schools this year. An International Training Institute for training and research in vocational subjects is also under consideration.

71. Kerala is renowned for its achievements in elementary education but has a very low rank in higher education. The participation rate of higher education in the State has to be enhanced to keep up with other States. At the same time, it is to be ensured that the poorer sections benefit from the increased opportunities. My Government will take effective steps to ensure social justice to the marginalized sections of society by providing financial assistance to deserving students in higher education in general and professional education in particular.

72. My Government will strive for the improvement of quality in higher education. Emphasis will be given to the revision of curriculum and research in the Universities. A permanent mechanism will be set up for the continuous evaluation of the academic content, curriculum and mode of teaching in the Universities and provide feedback. The alumni associations will also be used to provide substantive inputs to improve the standard of higher education. The

administration of the Universities will be modernized with the help of Information Technology.

73. A comprehensive legislation will be enacted regarding the admission to the professional courses removing the inadequacies of the existing Act and bringing professional education within the reach of the common man. In no case, the present trend of crass commercialisation of education is permitted. The initiative to develop the Cochin University of Science and Technology to the level of an IIT will be expedited by my Government by instituting a fast track mechanism for the implementation of the project. The Kerala State Open University will be started during the current financial year and comprehensive measures will be initiated to revamp the system of entrance examinations for admission to the professional colleges giving the students better access to specialised coaching.

74. The Science and Technology Department intends to set up the Kerala School of Mathematics as a joint venture in collaboration with the National Board of Higher Mathematics (NBHM), under the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, to promote mathematical research. The Biotechnology Programme will give specific thrust to industrial application and applied research projects. An "Environment Monitoring Project" has been initiated

in the area of water quality. My Government will introduce National Green Corps (Ecoclubs) in 250 schools in each district with the assistance of the Ministry of Environments and Forests. School students will be encouraged to participate in the Scheme for Promotion of Young Talents in Science (SPYTiS) and science popularisation programmes will focus on energy and environment conservation, water conservation, forest conservation and other relevant field of science and technology. The Patent Information Centre (PIC) will be further strengthened to provide support to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) related activities.

75. Conserving the cultural heritage of the State is vital to the growth of our society as a vibrant living entity and is something to which my Government assigns the utmost importance. Cultural institutions and academies functioning under the government would be strengthened as democratic institutions with strong citizen interface.

76. The State Archaeology department would implement a scheme for the identification and conservation of structures, murals, temples etc. of archaeological and/historical significance in collaboration with Local Governments and with the assistance of the Kerala Council for Historical Research. The scheme would include the study and

documentation of local histories. The fund allocation for artists in indigent circumstances and for providing financial assistance for medical treatment for destitute artists and cultural activists will be enhanced considerably.

77. The Government of India has provisionally recognized the Kerala Kalamandalam as "Deemed University". It is proposed to avail of this opportunity and raise the Kalamandalam to an institution of cultural excellence through careful positioning and nurturing of academic research and through enhancing its profile of cultural outreach both within India and abroad. The Kunjan Nambiar Smarakam will be upgraded as a centre for Thullal Studies under the Deemed University. The year 2006 is the death centenary of Raja Ravi Varma. My Government intends to give a facelift to Sri Chitra Art Gallery, which houses many of his invaluable works and to complete the restoration of the 49 Raja Ravi Varma paintings entrusted to the National Museum, New Delhi this year. Conservation of the Hill Palace, Thrippunithura and the Napier Museum, Thiruvananthapuram will be taken up under the 12th Finance Commission Award.

78. The Sreepadam palace in Thiruvananthapuram, which is currently under acquisition, will be conserved and converted into a Numismatic Museum to house the rare

collection of coins of historical and archaeological significance with the State Archaeology department. An International Historical Museum on public action with focus on people's struggles in Kerala that illustrate how people made history will be set up as Punnapra-Vayalar memorial. It will be initiated as a part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the first struggle for Indian independence of 1857.

79. Kerala has made remarkable achievements in the field of sports. My Government intends to bring legislation for revamping the Sports Council. It will also review the existing Acts and Rules concerning sports and bring in the required change to promote sports at local and state levels.

80. Let me reiterate the commitment of my government to ensure quality health care with focus on preventive care and medical services to the poor and the needy, at affordable cost, from Government hospitals at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. A 'Life Cycle Approach' will be adopted for health care delivery focusing on maternal and child health, adolescent health and geriatric health care.

81. My Government will take steps to activate the State Rural Health Mission and District Rural Health Missions, involving Panchayathi Raj Institutions in a big way. Health