

care delivery will be strengthened by ensuring convergence of various schemes under the line departments such as Water Resource Department and Social Welfare Department and the Local Governments. With this view in mind, a People's Health Programme will be formulated and implemented by adopting a holistic, integrated and decentralized approach for health care, sanitation, drinking water, nutrition and waste management with an inbuilt component for social control and monitoring. A focused programme targeted at vulnerable groups - tribal population, fisherman community and physically and mentally challenged persons will also be implemented.

- 82.** The disease burden pattern in Kerala suggests a drastic increase in non-communicable, life style diseases as well as incidence of a host of resurgent communicable diseases. AIDS is another growing menace. Therefore my Government will bring in cost effective clinical and public health approaches to address burden of these diseases.
- 83.** A comprehensive 'Computerized Procurement and Inventory Management System' will be introduced, to bring in transparency and to improve efficiency in procurement of medicines and equipments in Health Department. Strengthening the institutions and ensuring their functional autonomy will improve the quality of medical and para-

medical education. The Thiruvananthapuram Medical College would be upgraded as a Centre of Excellence, with a status equivalent to AIIMS. My Government will take steps to establish a Medical University linking the educational institutions in the health sector. Further, the service conditions of doctors in the Government Sector will be suitably modified to attract and retain the best talent.

84. Homeopathy, Ayurveda and other Indian systems of medicine will be encouraged. There will be a special focus on research on specialized Ayurvedic treatment and Ayurvedic medicinal product development.

85. Kerala stands foremost among the States of the country as far as the social and development indicators pertaining to women and children are concerned. However, a more focused, holistic and integrated approach is required, in order to sustain our achievements and for the overall welfare and development of our women and children. I am happy to announce that my Government intends to carve out a separate department of Women and Child Development.

86. The outreach of the Integrated Child Development Services will be further extended. The 3258 additional Anganwadis sanctioned by Government of India, particularly in coastal, tribal, urban slums and unreachable areas of the State,

where nutrition levels of children are below the State average, will soon start functioning. Moreover, Take Home Rations will be provided to all children below three years to reduce nutritional deficiencies. Our Anganwadis will be further developed as Community Resource Centres and the government will explore the way to improving the condition of Anganwadi workers.

87. My Government is deeply concerned about the plight of young children in distress – be it due to any reason. Child line services to help such victims will be extended to all the districts with State support starting with Palakkad, Kannur, Kasargode and Malappuram. Further, Government will encourage placement for all orphaned children by way of adoption or foster care under the provisions of the Juvenile Justice Act.
88. This Government is committed to the welfare of our disabled brethren. The Anganwadi workers will be trained in early detection of childhood disabilities. This will go a long way in reducing the incidence of correctable learning and physical disabilities among children. Dwarf and small stature men and women will be included in handicapped category.
89. The Public Distribution System in the state, which is the best in the country, is being steadily undermined by the new

reforms. The shift from universal rationing to targeted system has resulted in a major proportion of even the BPL families themselves being excluded from Public Distribution System. Our State has 14.16 lakh families Below the Poverty Line. However, Government of India has made provision for allotment of food grains covering only 9.58 lakh BPL families. Steps are being taken to identify and exclude the ineligible persons from the BPL category and to include the eligible persons. Although no provision was made by the previous Government for distribution of rice at Rs. 3/- per Kg. to the poor, this scheme will be continued, for which an amount of Rs. 10 crore per month is required.

90. In the silver jubilee year of starting of the Maveli Stores, my Government will take steps to improve the service delivery standards in the Maveli Stores, Labham Market, Sabari Super Markets and ARD Sabari stores. More medical stores will be opened during the current year under the Supplyco. Further, to ensure a permanent marketing channel for the farmers in the State and to ensure a stable price for the farmers, my Government has authorized Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation to procure paddy directly from farmers for converting to rice for distribution through Public Distribution System. A special incentive for the consumers for Onam is also being considered in order to strengthen marketing intervention during the festival period.

91. Kerala has a long and illustrious track record in the provision of public services. In order to build capacity to monitor the quality of these services and upgrade it, Government proposes to set up a Centre of Good Governance (CGG) with the support of Government of India. This will be an autonomous body functioning within the campus of the Institute of Management in Government (IMG). Its focus will be on guiding and handholding public service delivery institutions to achieve high standards of performance.
92. The core priority of my Government is to introduce basic Administrative Reforms to make functioning of Government professional and people-friendly. To start with, the fifteen reports of the Third Administrative Reforms Committee would be implemented. My Government believes that transparency is the best form to administrative reforms. Therefore the opportunities provided by the Right to Information Act would be fully utilised to make government transparent and fully accessible to the ordinary man. My Government intends to be proactive in providing information to the public on key aspects of its functioning. For this purpose each department would prepare a list of items where disclosure of information is mandatory and the information provided is in a form and language understood by the layman. This will enable continuous public audit of the performance of government.

93. The Department of Parliamentary Affairs is now in its infant stage. A new vision and added nourishment will help the Department to grow in to a very dynamic Department. In addition to its primary role as a co-ordinator between the Government and the Legislature, the Department proposes to undertake a wide range of activities, which would strengthen our constitutional democracy. The Institute of Parliamentary Affairs under this department will be developed into an Institute for study, research and training in parliamentary democracy.

94. My Government proposes to set up a State Youth Commission as recommended by the National Youth Commission for the study and analysis of youth related problems and to suggest its remedies. My Government intends to conduct job fairs for helping the unemployed and the employers. It is also proposed to equip youth clubs, particularly in tribal and backward areas to function as centre for Information Technology and Satellite Education in association with Indian Space Research Organisation. The Government would also organise Keralotsavam with better participation of youth.

95. My Government will constitute an Industrial Relation Board to create a peaceful and new atmosphere in labour related matters. The Government is also committed to give

encouragement and protection to the industrialists and investors. The existing single window clearing system will be strengthened and made more effective to provide hassle-free clearances to fresh investors. The Minimum Wages prescribed will be revised in time and minimum wages will be prescribed in those sectors where they have not been fixed. The functioning of the Labour Enforcement Wing will be made effective. My Government is committed to expand the coverage of welfare schemes to the entire unorganised sector and therefore new welfare scheme for the different uncovered sectors will be taken up in a phased manner. Timely disbursement of the benefits under all welfare schemes, security of women at work place and effective implementation of Inter-State Migrants Act will be ensured by my Government.

96. Kerala has been in the vanguard in the protection of the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and proactively reaching out to them to improve their status. Now in the emerging economy these disadvantaged groups are being pushed further backward in the ruthless and unfair competition for grabbing opportunities. Therefore my Government will endeavour to specially address issues related to the long-term development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and re-orient the Special Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan to achieve this objective.

Diversion or mis-utilisation of funds earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be treated, as offences and the Protection of Civil Rights Acts would be given new meaning and direction to support all round development of Dalits and Adivasis.

97. Provision of the basic needs such as housing, electricity, drinking water and land to landless, education and health will continue to be focal points of intervention. A detailed survey will be conducted on the implementation of reservation in order to identify the shortfalls, which will be filled up immediately. It will be ensured that the educational concessions are disbursed in time. Efforts will be made to identify students of high excellence from among SCs/STs for providing facilities for studies abroad. The Government intends to start a Nursing College for SC/ST. Selected Industrial Training Centres under SC Development Department will be upgraded and model residential ITCs will be set up, which will also function as production-cum-training centres, thereby enhancing the employment potential of Scheduled Communities. Entrepreneurship programmes for small scale and micro enterprises will be strengthened.

98. There are about 18,500 tribal families residing in the Forest areas spread over 671 settlements in the State. It is

proposed to launch a new scheme viz "Scheme for the Welfare of Tribal Residing within Forest Areas" with technical support of the Forest Department. Steps will be taken to liberate the tribals from the clutches of the forest mafia and sexual exploitation. My Government is also proposing to re-organise and strengthen ST-Co-operatives in various sectors like Agriculture, Industry, Coir and other traditional sectors for employment and income generation. The traditional skills of the various tribal groups will be upgraded. Steps will be taken to promote and protect ethnic skills of the tribals in traditional medicines.

99. To augment the resource side, stringent action will be taken in Commercial Taxes Department for substantial increase in tax collection. To achieve this end, it is intended to complete the transition to the Value Added Tax regime during this year. The reasons for the fall in expected revenue from Value Added Tax will be identified and rectified. The Audit Assessment Wing and Intelligence Wing will be strengthened for this purpose.

100. The computerization of the Sub-Registrar offices in the State has been included in the Plan Scheme and all efforts will be taken to computerise the remaining offices. Time bound action will be initiated to construct buildings for all

the Sub-Registrar offices. The computerization of the Treasuries has been completed. In addition to the dial-up system in operation by which the entire data of all Treasury transactions on a day are transmitted to the central server kept in the Directorate each day, Wide Area Network which facilitates inter - connectivity between Treasuries would be introduced shortly.

101. The Excise department will initiate immediate action against the wide spread use of ganja and other narcotic substances which play havoc among the youth. A joint team of forest, police and excise officials will conduct raids in the forest area to weed out the cultivation of ganja. Twenty-four hour control rooms will be opened at District/ Taluk Centres to curb the production, selling and consumption of illicit liquor. The construction work for "Excise Complex" building is rapidly progressing and it will be ready for occupation by the end of this year.
102. It is my Government's paramount duty to maintain peaceful law and order situation and to ensure protection to the life, property and rights of the people. In order to appropriately deal with complaints of police excesses and to address the grievances of police personnel the Government intend to set up a Police Commission. Reports submitted by committees appointed by the previous Governments would

also be considered for modernising the police force. All efforts will be taken to ensure that the police force will not resort to third degree methods in the police stations. At the same time, steps will be taken to clamp down on mafia elements. Functioning of the Highway Police Patrol Teams will be streamlined and it will be ensured that the Highway Patrol Teams do not harass the general public by merely booking petty cases.

103. My Government also intends to give top most priority in implementing the schemes under Coastal Security Scheme. As part of the Coastal Security Scheme, Coastal Police Stations will be established with the assistance of Government of India in eight places along the coastline in Kerala.

104. A high technology crime enquiry cell will be established in the Police Headquarters to give technical assistance to the investigating officers of local police and crime branch CID. A full-fledged Cyber Police Station will be started in Thiruvananthapuram to enquire into and check the rising tendency in cyber crimes in the State. As part of the infrastructure development programme basic facilities in police stations will be improved and the Government will ensure that a better work atmosphere and adequate facilities are provided to the police personnel and to the general public visiting the police stations.

105. My Government is aware that the conditions in our Jails need to be improved. New construction works are being undertaken under the Modernisation of Prisons Scheme with the assistance of Government of India. Video conferencing network of jails will be given top priority and housing facilities for the Prison staff will also be improved.

106. My Government is determined to root out corruption in Kerala and to ensure corruption free rule in the State. My Government will bring about suitable amendments to anti-corruption laws and Lok Ayukta Laws to ensure corruption free Civil Service.

107. My Government takes the alarming rise in road accidents with all seriousness. With this in view, for improving the quality of driver testing, it is proposed to set up driver testing yards with modern gadgets like driving simulators and test tracks at 18 centres. The first vehicle Testing Centre is being set up at Chevayoor, Kozhikode. The department proposes to set up 5 more Vehicle Testing Centres at District Headquarters. My Government proposes to install radar surveillance systems to detect traffic violations and to engage expert agencies for conducting traffic study and identifying black spots and locations to be provided with traffic signboards, signal lights and blinkers.

108. My Government will take steps for modernization and strengthening of the vigilance apparatus in the Revenue Department in tune with the latest development for better service delivery without delay. My Government will take strong steps to take over all the surplus lands which are legally due to be taken over and distributed, expediting the pending court cases. In order to achieve this the Revenue and Forest Departments will take urgent steps in a co-ordinated manner to overcome any legal difficulties in the matter. The interest of all those who have started farming activities in the forestland before 1st January, 1977 will be protected and they will be issued pattayams. However, the continuing encroachment of forestland will be severely curbed. In order to unearth bogus pattayams, if any, special teams will be formed and strict action taken. A thorough investigation in the matter of delay in taking over surplus lands will be undertaken and action taken against the culprits. The government lands on lease to individuals and institutions will be modified to suit the times and arrears collected. Further, unauthorised activities in leased lands will be taken seriously and action taken to resume the lands.
109. Kerala has been included in the disaster prone map as a multi hazard prone State by Government of India. Natural calamities like drought, floods, sea erosion, lightning, landslides and earthquake are on increase. After the

frightening Tsunami disaster in the State, the Disaster Management Department has formulated and obtained permission for two major projects, which forms part of the Tsunami Rehabilitation programme sanctioned by Government of India for Rs.1441.75 crore. In order to effectively co-ordinate and implement the disaster mitigation programme my Government will introduce a Disaster Management Policy. With active assistance of Government of India, risk mitigation programmes for cyclone, land slide, etc. will be undertaken. Steps will be taken to establish a Disaster Management Training Institute.

110. My Government will extend all necessary assistance to the Travancore Devaswom Board in providing basic amenities to the pilgrims visiting the Sabarimala shrine, in accordance with the Master Plan as stipulated by Government of India and in line with the directions of the Supreme Court. Considering the large number of pilgrims visiting Sree Krishna Temple at Guruvayur, my Government is committed to developing the area by building adequate infrastructure facilities. My Government will conduct an overall review of the existing Devaswom laws and will take steps to update the laws. Malabar Devaswom Board will be constituted.

111. My Government proposes to undertake Law reform as a high priority item on its agenda. All the existing Laws have to be carefully scrutinized to find out whether they need any amendment, or in some cases whether they need to be retained at all. It is also necessary to propose new Legislation in emerging areas. For this purpose, a Law Reforms Commission is to be set up, utilizing the expertise and experience of judges, lawyers and jurists. My Government proposes to create Legal Data Bank incorporating State Acts, Rules and important Orders and Notifications using advanced technology and strengthen the monitoring mechanism in the Law Department.
112. The initial steps for preparation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan have started. My Government will try to address the specific problems of Kerala in the plan formulation. For this, my Government will request Government of India to include representatives from the State in the various Working Groups of the Planning Commission.
113. My Government will strive for appropriate changes in the criteria fixed by Government of India for setting up National Institutes and for creation of Special Economic Zones and suggest that requirements of land may be fixed on need-based criteria so that States like Kerala with very high density of population are not left out. Many of the

Centrally Sponsored Schemes are not suitable to Kerala. Therefore my Government will interact with Government of India for bringing about suitable changes in the existing structure of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes so as to be better benefited by these schemes.

114. Kerala's premier position in the country in terms of realising women's rights is now under challenge. Liberalisation has unleashed ugly forces of exploitation of women. My Government would leave no stone unturned in upholding the status and rights of women and would not hesitate to use all its might to ruthlessly punish the agents and abettors of exploitation of women. Moreover on the development front also gender justice would be ensured. For this purpose gender budgeting would be introduced in phases.
115. I have outlined a long list of action points, which my Government intends to take up. Through these pronouncements the promises made in the manifesto have been transformed into formal policy statements. I am happy to note the sweep and comprehensiveness of the proposals for change and development and this indicates the clear vision of my Government. I am confident that these solemn policy commitments would be translated into practice. The mission undertaken by my Government is huge and the

tasks are myriad, made daunting by the financial situation. But my Government is confident that with the help of the people of Kerala, it can fulfil its promises. I can assure you that my Government will look back only to learn and will look ahead solely to perform. My Government will not only wipe the tears from every eye but also bring smiles to every face.

JAI HIND