



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

24TH JUNE, 2011

By

SHRI R. S. GAVAI
GOVERNOR OF KERALA

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

1. I extend a warm welcome to the members of the Thirteenth Assembly to its first session. I earnestly believe that you have the social commitment and resourcefulness to realise the development aspirations of this state, overcoming all obstacles and problems. Therefore, I am very hopeful about the future of Kerala; I do not have any apprehension at all.

2. The people have a lot of expectations about the Government headed by Chief Minister Shri Oommen Chandy. I expect that he and his colleagues, driven as they are by the message 'Athivegam, bahudooram', will be able to rise to the expectations of the people, developing Kerala with care and compassion.

3. It is just 38 days since my Government was sworn in, but I am extremely happy at the way that my Government acted during this period. The announcement of the 100 days programme and the most significant decision to publish the assets of all Ministers, their personal staff and families is path breaking and has been applauded across the country. This shows the determination of my Government to give the people of Kerala a transparent, corruption free government for the next five years.

4. Within this short period, my Government has positively acted on the long delayed relief to victims of Endosulfan in Kasaragode. Similarly, the steps taken to solve the problems of those evicted in Moolampally also need to be appreciated. Quick decisions and very fast implementation in these matters show the determination and human face of my Government.

5. Major infrastructural projects that will have a long standing impact on the state have been taken out of cold storage and are being acted upon. These include the Kochi Metro, Kannur airport and Vizhinjam seaport projects. These and other similar projects that will be implemented over the next five years will take Kerala through one of its best periods.

6. During the last five years, the law and order situation deteriorated totally. The lives of the people became unbearable due to the stagnation in development and price rise. The Government, which repeatedly blamed the Union Government to hide its own failures, pushed the state into a debt trap of ₹ 77,900 crores. The fiscal deficit rose to ₹ 6,913 crores and revenue deficit to ₹ 4,522 crores. Corruption and inefficiency became the hallmark of the government.

7. During the 2001-2006 UDF rule, the growth rate registered an increase and the state was elevated as an investment friendly state. But during the UDF rule, the investment flow dried up and the state faced a great decline in the agricultural and industrial sectors. From being the forerunner in law and order, the

state descended to occupying the top position in terms of crimes as per the records of the Crime Records Bureau. Our land, famed for its religious tolerance, became a training ground for terrorists.

8. The LDF Government could not do anything in the developmental sector. Not one of the suggestions put forward by the then President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam in his 'Vision 2010' presentation in this august house could be acted upon.

9. Many charges of corruption were raised on the floor of the house and outside, but the government did not heed to take action on any of these. The Government itself admitted that the lottery mafia looted ₹ 80,000 crores. After alleging that there were arrears of ₹ 5,000 crores from lottery, the Government could not collect even a rupee after coming to power.

10. Even while accusing the Central Government to hide their failures, the LDF Government did not make any attempt to obtain even the legitimate claims of the state from the centre, and also wasted whatever funds were allotted to the state. The only major investment made in the state were due to the interest shown by Union Ministers, particularly the Defence Ministry. There were instances of actions that threatened the federal structure of the country. The incident of the Government of Kerala agitating against the Union Government was a blot on our administrative structure.

11. A Government which came to power promising to resume 50,000 acres of encroached land in the possession of the Tatas in Munnar could not achieve expected progress, except

indulging in destroying some buildings. The Wayanad, Kuttanad and Idukki packages announced by the Central Government could not be implemented effectively by the left Government, resulting in a collapse of the agricultural sector.

12. The people of Kerala have clearly indicated that they wanted a change from this situation and brought the UDF Government to power. I am proud that my Government has a clear vision and specific aims about the future of the state. My Government will aim for sustainable development in tune with the balance and rhythm of nature. The outlook of my Government will be to devise programmes for cautious development without sacrificing the interests of the poor. My Government shall give priority to creating jobs by transforming Kerala to an investment friendly state, improving the law and order situation, controlling price rise, ending the social malaise of alcohol in a phased manner and developing infrastructure.

13. The Agricultural sector in Kerala is passing through a difficult period, mainly due to frequent natural calamities, fluctuations in commodity prices and many other problems faced by the farming community. The area under rice cultivation is showing a declining trend for the last two decades. To achieve food security, my Government has identified area expansion through fallow land cultivation, upland cultivation and productivity enhancement as thrust areas. Timely harvest and procurement of paddy will be assured by providing adequate machinery and fair procurement price. As many farmers are returning to coconut

cultivation, owing to improved prices, my Government proposes to give more stress on increasing production through adopting cluster approach of coconut growers.

14. Although there is potential for cultivating a variety of vegetables, there exists a wide demand-supply gap. It is proposed to undertake vegetable development programme in each panchayat by organizing farmers' groups. The major activities proposed for the year are commercial cultivation of vegetables as pure crop, cultivation of vegetables in fallow lands, in homesteads and in vacant land available in private and public institutions. It is also proposed to give emphasis to precision farming to increase productivity. Effective measures will be taken to prevent the use of Endosulfan and other banned pesticides both by strengthening quality control by the department and by promotion of organic pesticides and biological control of pests.

15. Under the Kuttanad package, equipment including *petty* and *para* sets, combine harvesters, tractors with accessories and power tillers will be purchased in consultation with the farming community. Custom hiring cum training centres will be established in Alappuzha, Kottayam and Pathanamthitta districts. Emphasis will be given for rescuing farmers from debt trap. My Government will formulate and implement an innovative credit policy for farmers. Soil Health Cards will be provided to all farmers of selected panchayats in all districts in a phased manner. In the long term, we have to move to organic farming, and major steps in this direction will be initiated immediately.

16. The well appreciated Kerala model of Public Distribution System (PDS) will be strengthened further by opening more retail outlets. Steps have already been taken to distribute 25 kgs. of rice per month to BPL families at ₹ 1 per kg. by Onam. My Government shall strive to get adequate allotment of food grains from the central pool. My Government will take up the issue of primitive tribal families in backward districts such as Wayanad to be included under Anthyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY). Inclusion of more beneficiaries under the Annapoorna scheme, by relaxing the eligibility criteria for their identification will be pursued with the Central Government purposefully.

17. Government of India is expected to endorse the project costing ₹ 354 crores for distribution of 15 items of essential commodities through ration shops at a price at least 10 % below the open market price, as it is highlighted as an effective market intervention exercise to check escalation of prices of essential commodities. In order to curb the delay now experienced in the lifting of food grains from the authorised wholesale depots, Government will introduce e-payment of the remittance of cost of food grains by the dealer as also the subsidy portion by Government. My Government will take all efforts to establish more godowns and warehouses, particularly in remote locations like Arakkulam in Idukki, Meeenangadi in Wayanad district and Purakkad in Alappuzha district. Accumulated arrears of the price of paddy procured by SUPPLYCO to the tune of ₹ 100 crores will be cleared shortly. My Government will encourage open

market sales scheme of food grains as a part of the effort to curb escalation of price of food grains, to enable food grain sale at concessional rates to bulk consumers like hospitals, schools and hostels. The local Food Advisory-cum-Vigilance Committees will be strengthened, with a view to ensure targeted delivery and to check leakages. Moreover, linking of identification of ration card holders with the Unique ID Project of Government of India by inclusion of fingerprint details in the ration cards is also envisaged.

18. The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation (SUPPLYCO) will open hypermarkets at seven places. Ten more mobile Maveli Stores are proposed to be opened during the financial year, and seventy five existing Maveli Stores will be converted to super markets. Furthermore, ten super markets will be converted to People's Bazaars providing modern shopping facilities.

19. A neglected area in fishermen welfare so far has been the plight of peeling workers. A comprehensive package will be prepared to ensure their hygiene, health and safety. Government will come out with a policy on leasing inland water resources for enhancing the area to be brought under fish production. My Government will initiate a Distress Relief Fund for marine fishermen for compensating the losses to their craft and gear due to rough sea and rough weather. This is needed because at present the losses due to rough sea are not included in the list for assistance under the Natural Calamity Relief Fund.

20. My Government is committed to making the Police Force more effective, responsive, accountable and helpful. Any criminal tendency within the Police Force will be dealt with firmly. We are determined to take a serious view of crimes against women, and decisive action will be taken in such cases. There will be strict action against perpetrators of cheating and money chain business, and the offenders will be booked under the Kerala Anti Social Activities (Prevention) Act. In order to achieve this objective, Government proposes to undertake suitable administrative measures and issue guidelines that would encourage the police personnel to do their duty without fear or favour. Technological upgradation will be pursued with a sense of commitment and special efforts will be made to fill up all the vacancies in the Police Force. The existing Janamaithri Police Scheme will be extended to new police stations in a phased manner.

21. My Government shall undertake institutional reforms to prevent custodial deaths and take stringent action against those found guilty. Police reforms aimed at bringing in a new ethos that respects the legal rights of the citizens and human rights will receive the immediate attention of my Government. The enforcement of the Kerala Anti Social Activities (Prevention) Act will be reviewed and strengthened to achieve its larger objective. While my Government is keen to ensure that its provisions are not misused, it will be ensured that it is implemented effectively and objectively.

22. The activities of Fire and Rescue services will be strengthened with the introduction of new and modern equipment. Using funds provided under the XIII Finance Commission, it is proposed to complete the construction of High Security Prison at Viyyur, Thavanur District Jail and new block at District Jail, Kollam. My Government proposes to start four more Courts of Enquiry Commissioner and Special Judge for the trial of vigilance cases, which can speed up the prosecution of corruption cases.

23. The objective of my Government is to bring accelerated economic development of the State drawing upon its strengths and resources. The aim is to create a new, result oriented model of development, viewing Kerala as a single unit. A Committee, chaired by the Chief Minister will provide the required leadership in this direction. Industrial development is a dynamic matter that requires continuity in order to bear fruit. My Government had initiated several bold policies at the dawn of the century to usher in a new period of growth and development in the State. The liberal policy to attract investments, conduct of Global Investor Meet, simplification of procedures and the restructuring of public sector units had all contributed to a sound economic base for the state. Inclusive economic growth without compromising on ecology and environment will be the goal. De-bottlenecking infrastructure, opening up new areas for growth, easing the process of entrepreneurship and making available land for projects will ensure that the growth is in the desired direction. We will be focusing on the emerging areas of Education, Health, Tourism, IT,

Commerce, Retail, Bio Technology, Communication etc. as against certain sunset sectors to ensure sustained economic growth of the State and employment generation for the young people.

24. The far sighted policies of the previous UDF Government in acquiring land through agencies like KINFRA and developing the much needed Industrial Infrastructure has resulted in many central public sector units investing in the state of late. KINFRA and KSIDC will strengthen their crucial role of providing developed land, infrastructure, funding and assistance in getting clearances for both public and private investment into the state.

25. There will be no privatization of PSU's in Kerala. Traditional sectors like handloom and cashew are the backbone of the industrial activity of the State. Many of the units in this sector are not doing well financially. But we will continue to support them to stand on their own feet. The traditional sector cannot be looked at only from an economic angle. There are social, cultural and human issues in this sector. We will look at them with benevolent eyes only and not just from the profit angle.

26. My Government will work towards reviving the positive investment climate to make Kerala an IT investment friendly destination. Technology parks which were brought up on very strong financials, have over the last five years accumulated major liabilities by way of bank loans taken for acquisition of land and development as no major investment had come in during the last five years. The IT mission which was set up during the previous

UDF Government for promoting IT industry and taking IT to the people has completely moved away from the Mission mode and will need a complete overhaul. The immediate priority will be to restructure the IT mission and technology parks so as to make them more effective and beneficial to the young and educated Keralites. We will also need to work on a war footing to ensure that the technology parks do not fall into a debt trap, by attracting companies to set up new units in the acquired lands. A new Information Technology Policy will be formulated immediately. Our Government was a pioneer in the area of e-Governance which has immense potential and there is every possibility for Kerala to emerge as a number one state in e-Governance in India. E-Governance in Government in public and private sectors can bring in the increased efficiency and competitiveness that could transform the State into a leader in the economic field. As a continuation of the e-Governance initiative, my Government proposes to implement a Disaster Recovery site, and initiate other innovations like Digital Signature for electronic transactions and Cyber Forensic Lab for electronic fraud detection.

27. The development of technology parks at Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode will be completed with all required infrastructure facilities which will increase the number of investors, export revenue and employment potential. Government will take effective steps for the successful implementation of the much delayed Smart City Project at Kochi. The e-district project will be extended to more districts and mobile governance project

will be enhanced by more services. The decision to entrust AKSHAYA Centers as Enrollment Agency for Unique Identification Number registration will strengthen and increase the services of AKSHAYA Centers all over the State.

28. Coir industry is a major traditional industry in Kerala, which provides livelihood for nearly four lakh workers, mainly women. For the overall development of coir sector, a number of innovative schemes were introduced to create an atmosphere of confidence and security among the workers and the manufacturers. It is proposed to launch the "Kerala Coir Marketing Consortium" to promote marketing of coir and coir products in domestic as well as international markets. This is the first initiative being proposed in Public Private Partnership in a traditional sector with the participation of all stakeholders.

29. The Primary Agricultural Co-operative Banks and Primary Co-operative Agricultural and Rural Development Banks will give more loans for agricultural and allied activities. New schemes will be introduced for promoting the cultivation of *Gandhakasala* and *Pokali* rice varieties, and processing units will be opened. Financial assistance will be granted for the purchase of more harvesting machines and interest free loans will be disbursed for paddy cultivation. More Farmers' Service Centres will be opened. For giving more emphasis to educational and hospital co-operatives, financial assistance will be provided for opening new cardiology and nephrology units and new professional educational institutions will be opened under the control of CAPE.

Special emphasis will be given to the consumer sector and more Neethi stores and Neethi medical stores will be opened. The co-operative sector will provide necessary funds as loan to the local bodies for implementing E.M.S. Housing Scheme.

30. Considering the sharp rise in the price of cattle feed and other inputs, my Government proposes to provide subsidy as 'Milk Production Incentive' for the cattle feed purchased by the farmer from the dairy co-operatives. 'Students Dairy Clubs' will be organised in high schools to encourage youth to take up dairying as a vocation and Dairy Science as a field of study. It is proposed to transform the Dairy Extension Service Units functioning in 50 high potential blocks in the state to Dairy Information Centres with access to information on modern package of practices, sources of inputs and success stories in the field of dairying.

31. An additional extent of 2,589 hectares of land will be brought under fodder cultivation and 3,000 Azolla units will be raised. 2,550 milch animals and 980 heifers will be added to the cattle wealth of the state under the MSDP 2011-12. It is proposed to register new primary dairy co-operatives (DCS) and revive defunct DCS so that the potential of milk production can be fully tapped. Assistance will be provided to DCS for automation of milk procurement, construction or modification of hygienic milk collection rooms, setting up of quality labs and other needs.

32. My Government places priority to Animal Husbandry, impacting as it does on the well being and prosperity of the rural areas. A special scheme "Special Livestock Breeding Programme"

will provide subsidised feed, insurance and health care to selected female calves, with a view to exploit the full production potential of dairy animals. In order to augment the production of milk and egg, Food Security Programme will be undertaken through integrated livestock and poultry development, credit support programmes and support to women groups with a convergence approach. It is proposed to establish a high-tech meat processing plant on joint venture basis in Chalakudy. It is also proposed to establish high-tech bull mother dairy farm units with open nucleus breeding systems at Kolahalamedu and Mattupetti. A goat feed manufacturing unit will be established by Kerala Feeds Ltd. Under the Kuttanad Package, a unit to manufacture densified fodder blocks will be established.

33. In view of the increasing incidence in man-animal conflict, my Government will take firm steps to protect the life and property of the families living in the fringes of the forests of the state. The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 provides for the protection of people from attacks, and all measures will be taken to find a solution within its ambit. My Government proposes to improve the habitat of the wild animals by increasing water availability through the construction of check dams, water holes and enhancing the availability of forage by planting fruit and fodder trees species in degraded forests. Appropriate steps will be taken to reduce man-animal conflict by constructing barriers such as solar-power fencing, bio-fencing, trenching and walls. As a part of promoting tree growing in private lands, pattayam holders in assigned forest lands will be permitted to harvest trees grown by them on such lands.

34. At present there are a lot of problems both for the forest officials and elephant owners in implementing the Kerala Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules, 2003. In order to make the rules more effective and animal friendly, it will be suitably amended to make it simpler. A system of issuing licenses after due training to the mahouts will be introduced. All tribal colonies within the forest will be provided with livelihood support with the help of Tribal Development Department.

35. My Government is committed to take steps to strengthen the position of Malayalam as the first language in the state. The elevation of Malayalam as a classical language is the earnest desire of every citizen of Kerala, and we will reassert this position forcefully before Government of India, where a proposal has been submitted. In view of its importance, my Government will take steps to establish a Malayalam University at Thunchan Parambu, Tirur within a short time.

36. The Noon Meal Scheme will be expanded to include students in the ninth and tenth classes. A scheme to provide Insurance cover to school students will be introduced. Ninety six schools, which are under up-gradation under Rashtriya Madhyamic Siksha Abhiyan (RMSA) project, will start functioning during the year. Selected vocational schools in the state will be converted to model vocational schools. School uniforms will be provided to all students in Government schools up to class eight.

37. The IT@school project has empowered 28,000 student school IT co-ordinators (SSITC's) in the state. By utilizing the SSITC network, public awareness programmes on ICT literacy will be undertaken for the benefit of parents and general public. A website portal intended for students from classes eight to twelve will be opened in association with National Informatics Centre, to facilitate the learning of Mathematics and Science.

38. It is proposed to deploy 'SAMPOORNA', the comprehensive school information management system, to all schools in this financial year. IT@school project, in association with BSNL, will provide high speed VPN (Virtual Private Network) over broadband internet connectivity to schools and offices.

39. There is uncertainty prevailing regarding the admission and fee structure in self financing colleges, as in the previous year. My Government is determined to find a permanent solution to this issue, ensuring the concept of social justice. To improve the functioning of the Directorate of Collegiate Education, my Government proposes to establish a Deputy Directorate at Kannur, covering Wayanad, Kasaragod and Kannur districts. My Government is committed to establishing institutions of higher education in those regions of the state which do not have such academic facilities. Steps will be taken to establish new Arts and Science colleges in Pathanamthitta and Malappuram districts. A Research Park and Transportation Engineering Research Centre will be set up. Finishing schools will be established in all Polytechnic colleges.

40. A Tribal Studies and Research Centre will be established at Chethalayam, Wayanad. Kerala State Higher Education Council proposes to set up a comprehensive data bank on Higher Education and design a new curriculum framework for post-graduate and teachers education. Kerala Council for Historical Research proposes to establish a Contemporary History Archives of Kerala which aims to create and maintain an internet repository of data related to contemporary life of *malayalis* across the world.

41. My Government proposes to implement a comprehensive health insurance scheme for all families below the poverty line. The facilities available for diabetics in Medical Colleges will be enhanced, and new dialysis centres started in district hospitals. Steps will be taken to make available anti-cancer drugs at lowered prices. Life saving drugs will be purchased by Kerala Medical Services Corporation and distributed through Supplyco and Neethi medical stores at fair prices. To give emphasis to maternal and child health, women and children hospitals will be opened in districts without such facilities. A Homoeopathic Cancer Palliative Care Hospital will be established in Wandoor in Malappuram district.

42. My Government will work closely with national agencies towards prevention of diseases such as Chikungunia and dengue fever. It is a matter of concern that there has been an increase in magnitude of non-communicable diseases in the state, which demands more attention to Oncology, Cardiovascular and

Geriatric Care. To address the issue of the increase in non-communicable diseases in the state, a five year integrated super speciality M.Ch. course in Neurosurgery, Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery will be started in Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Kottayam Medical Colleges. Geriatric care wards will be set up in Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram and Government Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram and Thripunithura with central assistance.

43. Kottayam Medical College is an important tertiary health care centre for adjoining districts. Additionally, it also caters to the health care needs of Sabarimala pilgrims. Considering this, it is proposed to construct a new casualty block in Medical College, Kottayam.

44. My Government intends to make the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change the nodal department for implementation of Wetlands (Conservation & Management) Rules, 2010, for effective and appropriate co-ordination of activities. The Action Plan for dealing with the response to climate change impacts especially on the natural resources of the state will be finalized. A state level Environment Impact Assessment Authority and Expert Appraisal Committee has been constituted. Kerala State Biodiversity Board proposes to launch a massive state level 'People's Biodiversity Register'-based awareness and training programme in each panchayat of the State, the first of its kind in the country.

45. My Government will formulate a Housing Policy with emphasis on sustainable development of habitats in the state and to ensure equitable supply of land shelter and services at affordable prices for all income groups, with special focus on housing needs of the poor, marginalized and the disadvantaged. Strong partnership between private, public and co-operative sectors will be forged to enhance the capacity of the construction industry. Foreign direct investment and investment from Non Resident Indians will be encouraged in the sector. My Government also proposes to start building material margin free stores to ensure availability of all building materials at competitive rates. The KSIIB Act, 1971, will be suitably amended to meet the current challenges and demands of the sector.

46. In order to achieve targets in the housing sector, my Government will form a Housing Finance Institution named "Kerala State Housing Development Finance Corporation", which will mobilize funds for various housing schemes.

47. An integrated development communication grid will be formed using the existing development communication facilities available within the Information and Public Relations Department, through which development news from grass roots level will be collected and distributed to mass media. The IT enabled grievance redressal mechanism will be strengthened. An IT enabled feedback system for collecting and processing the responses of the public on government activities will be established.

48. The Local Fund Audit Department will be computerized to equip it to meet the challenges faced during auditing. To strengthen the human resources in the Treasury Department, training programmes will be introduced. As far as possible, pension payment treasuries will function on the ground floor, keeping the special needs of senior citizens in mind.

49. The draw of lottery is now restricted to one per week which was seven per week earlier. The lottery workers, agents and others have been demanding for the restoration of daily draws and also to release the welfare relief which is in arrears. To address these issues, my Government proposes to introduce a comprehensive and viable scheme shortly. Under no circumstances we will allow looting of our people by lottery mafia.

50. My Government is committed to ensure the welfare of the working class by effectively enforcing labour laws and providing more social security measures to workers, both in organised and un-organised sectors. My Government intends to implement a comprehensive Labour Policy after taking into confidence the workers as well as employers and people of different walks of life. The present condition of 137 ESI dispensaries and 9 ESI hospitals does not appear to be conducive to the larger interest of employees who are availing of the medical benefits of ESI. My Government intends to rejuvenate the ESI hospitals and dispensaries in consultation with Government of India and utilising the corporate social responsibility of various public sector undertakings, both in state and central sectors.

51. Keeping in mind the large number of unemployed persons on the registers of the Employment Exchanges, my Government intends to impart skill development and retraining to the benefit of the unemployed youth of the state. My Government also intends to streamline and reorganise the Labour Commissionerate. My Government is committed to the proper enforcement of labour laws and avert unhealthy practices. Even though all political parties and trade unions have strongly opposed the concept of "Nakkukooli", this illegal practice is still prevalent in some areas of our state. My Government is determined to put an end to this illegal practice. A district wise mechanism to address the issue of lightning strikes and similar issues will be set up. It is also proposed to safeguard the interest of migrant workers and avoid their exploitation by introducing a registration system. Steps will be initiated to introduce the fair wage system in selected main sectors.

52. In continuation to the successful implementation of the health insurance scheme of RSBY & CHIS, a new state scheme called 'CHIS PLUS' which provides additional medical assistance to the tune of ₹ 70,000 for the treatment of cancer, kidney and heart diseases will be started, which will cover 35 lakh families under RSBY & CHIS.

53. Government propose to implement a scheme for providing welfare measures to NRK's who return home jobless, such as educational and marriage assistance, maternity benefits and assistance for performing funeral rites. About 2 lakh beneficiaries will be covered under the Aam Admi Bima Yojana during 2011-12.

54. The NORKA Centre, which will bring all agencies of NORKA Department together, will start functioning during this year. This will be an important step for bringing all facilities of NORKA under one roof for the convenience of NRK's. It is also proposed to start an NRI Business Centre in the building along with a call centre and help line for assisting NRK's.

55. NORKA-ROOTS will strengthen the recently established job portal for promotion of safe migration practices and ensuring good jobs overseas. The awareness campaign against illegal migration being done by NORKA-ROOTS will also be expanded. The skill up-gradation and training programme will be expanded with new courses that are relevant to overseas employment as well as addition of up to date training facilities.

56. My Government is committed to completing the process of distributing land to the landless tribal families, and will expedite the steps taken in this regard. The implementation of programmes for SC/ST will be closely monitored to ensure maximum impact. An integrated development programme for enhancing the livelihood security of primitive tribal population will be implemented. A demand based socio-economic development scheme will be undertaken in tribal colonies for achieving self sufficiency and total connectivity. Efforts will be taken to settle all land related issues related to the tribal population during this year. Streamlining the health care providing system for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in consultation with Health Department will be given priority. Special courts will be set up in more places for prosecuting the offenders under Prevention of Atrocities Act.

57. All the model residential schools have given encouraging results in the recently conducted S.S.I.C. examination. The educational programme will be given more thrust, with new focus on skill development in trades that are in demand. For achieving this purpose, Government will establish centres for skill development. The stipend given to the students will be enhanced. Government will also establish community colleges for imparting specialized skills with the technical collaboration with Nettur Technical Training Foundation in Attapady for tribal youth and in Wadakkanchery, Palakkad, for youth from Scheduled Castes. In all the Scheduled Caste colonies, self sufficiency programme will be undertaken on the basis of the survey being conducted by LSG Department. All the incomplete houses will be completed during the course of the year.

58. My Government will focus on increasing power generation, reduction in transmission and distribution loss and quality power supply. For achieving this objective, small and micro hydel projects and assessed wind energy potential will be encouraged. All pending applications for energisation up to March 2011 will be completed. Energy audit will be conducted in all the public sector undertakings of Govt. of Kerala. "Energy Smart School" concept will be implemented in all the high schools through energy conservation clubs.

59. The construction of phase II of the Sea port- Airport road is an urgent need of the day, especially considering the development of new IT projects like the Smart City Project.

Detailed study of the project has been conducted and the alignment of the road is already fixed. NH 17 and NH 47 have already been handed over to NHAI for widening to 4/6 lane highway, under NHDP Phase II & III. Land acquisition for these works will be resumed after giving due consideration to the grievances of affected public. In order to achieve the easy completion of Kollam and Alappuzha bypasses, these works will be separated from NHAI and the State PWID will execute it during this year under a special package of Government of India. Works to upgrade major roads leading to Sabarimala using BM and BC standard will be taken on priority.

60. National Highways NH 49, NH 208, NH 212, NH 213 and NH 220 are included in the NHDP phase IV for developing to two lane with paved shoulders under DBFOT, through public private partnership for which action will be taken to appoint suitable concessionaires. Four laning of the Karamana - Kalaikkavila stretch of NH 47 will be taken up on priority.

61. Of the fifty two railway over bridges allocated to Roads and Bridges Corporation Kerala, twenty have been opened for traffic. Work on thirteen over bridges are at various stages of progress and are expected to complete and open for traffic during 2011-12 and 2012-13. Under KSTP, it is proposed to initiate action to complete phase II of the project which consists of the up-gradation of 367 km. of roads. KSTP also proposes to utilize Technical Assistance Loan from the World Bank for conducting a comprehensive study for identifying roads to be taken up for up-gradation and maintenance.

62. Government of Kerala is in the process of gearing up to host the 35th National Games. The events of the games will be conducted at various venues spread over seven selected districts. Renovation and up-gradation of the existing stadium and construction of new stadiums are in progress. The major achievement of the Games will be the creation of new sports infrastructure in the form of greenfield stadiums. The construction of the Games Village at Thiruvananthapuram to accommodate athletes and team officials, with private partnership will be a landmark development.

63. My Government has decided to take effective steps to ensure that students are taught swimming at a fairly young age. Construction of swimming pools will be taken up in places where there are no such facilities. With a view to identify talented sports persons and to impart scientific training to groom them into truly world class players, Kerala State Sports Council has decided to establish Centre of Excellence for disciplines such as athletics, swimming, volleyball and basketball. It is also proposed to constitute Kerala State Sports Development Fund to help out sportspersons gain international exposure.

64. Kerala State Youth Welfare Board proposes to establish 'Youth Information and Assistance Centre' to assist youth with updated information. The Board proposes to initiate "Good Citizen Training Programme" which will include awareness programmes, empowerment activities and training programmes in four phases in the academic year.

65. It is proposed to introduce an electronic payment system in the Motor Vehicles Department, so that taxes, fees, cess and other charges can be paid by citizens online. This will be a convenience to the consumer and reduce the load at the offices. Driver testing tracks will be set up in all districts. As pilot projects, works to establish driver testing yards at Kannur and Kozhikkode have started and are expected to be completed during the year. An enforcement wing under a Joint Transport Commissioner will be created.

66. In order to prevent road accidents due to over speed of vehicles, at least 6 hand held radars will be deployed. The pilot project of 'Radar surveillance system' is expected to be completed during the current financial year in 5 districts. An Institute of Driver Training & Research to provide professional training to trainers and drivers and to conduct research on driving habits and techniques will be established. A "Road Safety Wing" is also proposed to be set up. To ensure the mechanical condition of vehicles, it is proposed to set up vehicle testing stations under the Motor Vehicles Department.

67. My Government is concerned about the financial situation of KSRTC, which is reporting losses of over ₹ 40 crores every month. During the current financial year, KSRTC will roll out 1,000 new buses, which will be operated on new sectors. As part of gender sensitive scheme, special facilities for women such as separate waiting area, toilet blocks and drinking water facilities will be provided at bus stations. The total

computerization project in KSRTC is expected to be completed in the current financial year. Proposal for online data transfer from Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) to the computer in the depots will be implemented.

68. Under the Water Transport Department, steps will be taken for increasing the fleet strength. The construction of station office building at Vaikom, Panavally and Muhamma will be completed. It is proposed to take up construction of new station office buildings at Kollam, Kottayam and Emakulam.

69. Forty two major water supply schemes under NABARD, NRJWP and state plan schemes will be completed during 2011-12. Out of 5 JBIC schemes, 2 schemes viz. Thiruvananthapuram and Cherthala are targeted to be completed and commissioned fully by March 2012, benefiting a population of 17.24 lakhs. Kerala Water Authority will set up its own wide area network and implement total MIS, centralised billing and collecting system, complaint redressal system, and project monitoring system. The World Bank aided 2nd Jalanidhi Project will be launched during 2011-12, to the tune of ₹ 1,200 crores. At least 250 panchayats spread over all the districts will be covered over next five years.

70. My Government is committed to fully protecting the interest of the state, while maintaining cordial relations with neighbouring states. The fragility of the Mullapcriyar dam, which is more than a century old, has been a source of great concern for

the state, as it poses a direct threat to the lives of millions of people in Kerala. Government has made it clear that the safety of the people cannot be compromised and the construction of a new dam is the only solution. The matter is now before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Survey and feasibility studies have been completed and the detailed project report for a new dam is being finalized.

71. The implementation of Kuttanad Package will be put on fast track. The DPR for modernization/renovation of Thanneermukkam Bund and Thottappally spillway will be prepared and investment clearance from Government of India will be sought this year.

72. The construction of Seaport – Airport Waterway in Kochi will be completed within 18 months. The question of extending National Waterway from Kollam – Kottappuram to Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod will be taken up with Government of India.

73. My Government will take steps to strengthen cultural institutions so that they can focus on their objectives in a non-political manner. After the success of the first phase of digitization launched by the Department of Archives, it is proposed to launch a Mega Digitization Project. The existing Archival Library is proposed to be modernized with all infra-structural facilities. A Theological Archives drawing on documents from various religious institutions is also proposed. The State Institute of Encyclopaedic Publications proposes to bring out 'Annual Encyclopaedia-2012'.

To cater to the young generation, the institute proposes to publish desk top Encyclopaedia in 4 Volumes.

74. My Government is firmly committed to clear all encroachments on government land in all parts of the state including Munnar. Government is of the view that land owner whose land is acquired for public purpose should get his dues and that families should not be rendered homeless through the land acquisition process. Keeping this in mind, a practical, economically viable and humane resettlement and rehabilitation policy is being drafted in the State. The policy will ensure that the erstwhile land owner remains a stakeholder in the project that comes up on the acquired land. Further, the tendency to acquire land and leave it unutilized needs to be curbed. Hence, any land acquired for a public purpose will be required to be used within a reasonable time period. Land is one of the most coveted and important resources in Kerala. The State Land Bank has already surveyed and documented a large part of the Government lands in the State. This activity will be further strengthened using GPS technology.

75. My Government intends to expedite the joint surveys to be conducted by Revenue and Forests Departments with a view to provide pattayams to eligible persons living near forests. The joint surveys will also enable speedy implementation of the work to construct 'jandas' demarcating forest areas from private holdings. Based on the Forest Rights Act, 2006, record of rights will be provided to about 32,800 families after necessary verification and survey.

76. My Government is committed to implement the Sabarimala Master Plan with a view to improving the quality of pilgrimage and providing better facilities to the pilgrims. Concerted efforts will be made for the speedy implementation of the projects under the Master Plan. In order to ensure that incidents like the Pullumedu tragedy do not occur in the future, a detailed Sabarimala Safety Manual will be prepared and implemented that will ensure suitable precautions against fire and electrical accidents as well as stampede and such other disasters. A committee, headed by the Minister for Devaswoms, will look into all the issues that are of urgent importance relating to the Sabarimala pilgrimage. Temple ponds have played an important role in maintaining the ecological balance of a village. My Government will take up a programme called '*Jala Samrudhi*' Temple Pond Reclamation Programme by pooling resources available under NREGS, Devaswom Boards and other sources.

77. My Government intends to initiate an action plan for centralizing the registration data in the State Data Centre and to digitize the register volumes of sub registry offices, to ensure greater transparency and authenticity. The Registration Department also plans to provide online services for registration of partnership firms, non trading companies and charitable societies.

78. My Government is committed to nurture the process of decentralization, which is reaching the final stage of its maturity. My Government proposes to leverage the opportunity afforded by the World Bank supported Kerala Local Government Service

Delivery Project to add value and quality to the institutionalization process. The Kerala Panchayat Raj and Kerala Municipality Acts had their last major amendments in 1999; it is time to revisit them and make further changes as demanded by experience. Government will set up an Expert Group to look into this aspect. My Government will examine the necessity of introducing the Town and Country Planning Bill with the objective of streamlining procedures and for taking an integrated view of the rural and urban areas of the State.

79. There are many concerns in the performance of local governments in their traditional responsibilities. Urbanization is progressing much faster in the metropolitan cities and municipalities in the State. The cities are unable to cope with the development and people are struggling for clean air, water, surroundings and better sanitation. The aim of my Government is to clean up and transform the cities into clean, hygienic and green spaces, with the association of local self government institutions and non-governmental agencies. A comprehensive campaign, with wide public participation and involvement of local governments, public persons and NGO's will be launched, which will work towards the goal of a 'garbage free Kerala (Maalinya muktha Keralam)'. Detailed projects will be formulated for the solid waste management including collection, transportation operation and maintenance, reclamation and reuse of the existing sites. My Government will strengthen Suchitwa Mission to explore all technical and managerial solutions to deal with the problem.

80. Kudumbashree Mission has received international acclaim. Its primacy as an organization of the poor to improve their livelihood will be maintained. Non-governmental organizations and all other self help groups in the field of rural sustainable development will also be given all encouragement. As a policy, focus would be on inclusion of the excluded groups especially the Scheduled Tribes, traditional fisher folk and neighbourhood groups of the differently-abled and network them so as to empower them to access their entitlements.

81. My Government will strive to improve performance of the flagship centrally sponsored schemes. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme will be made more productive focusing on works capable of providing more employment to the poor and improving rural infrastructure and agricultural activities. The shortcomings in the implementation of JNNURM and KSUDP will be remedied. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadakh Yojana will be improved and steps will be taken to get more funds from Government of India. We will work towards establishing Kerala as a role model in the country for implementation of the three flagship Central Schemes. My Government will take over the additional burden of corporations and municipalities on account of tender excess and land acquisition costs. Two significant projects for revitalizing the food crop sector have been sanctioned to Kerala under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana.

82. My Government is committed to the formation of Hill Area Development Authority and the Coastal Area Development Authority for the overall development of backward areas. The Hill Highway Project, kept in cold storage in the last five years, will be taken up for implementation expeditiously.

83. It is the policy of Government to root out corruption completely in local governments. For this, disclosure laws will be made more elaborate and independent social audit expanded. The Ombudsman system will be further fortified by making it a three member body.

84. Khadi & Village Industries Board has taken steps to strengthen the khadi sector by providing incentive to khadi spinners and weavers throughout the State. It is proposed to disburse adequate funds as margin money grant, that will benefit more than 5,450 beneficiaries during the year.

85. Tourism plays a significant role in the overall development of the society by providing career opportunities as well as increasing foreign exchange, conservation and preservation of environment and protection and promotion of cultural heritage. Kerala has become one of the front running states in tourism development, thanks to its path breaking emphasis on sustainability, human resource development and involvement of the local community.

86. In order to give direction and thrust for the future development of the Tourism sector, my Government will formulate a Tourism Policy, giving importance to investment friendly schemes, financial assistance, tax exemption and infrastructure development. A special tourism package for the tourism industry in Malabar region which is lagging behind other regions will be framed. The master plan for Alappuzha will be finalised after detailed consultations, and will be submitted to the Ministry of Tourism for approval. My Government recognises that a far sighted human resource development strategy in Tourism can result in an increase in employment opportunities. The Responsible Tourism initiative will be expanded throughout the State with the help of local bodies, tourism stakeholders and the public. KTDC will start work on a premium hotel at Kozhikode and a three star hotel at Alappuzha during the financial year.

87. The Kerala Legal Benefit Fund will be expanded with grants to the Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund and Advocates' Welfare Fund to provide social security measures to the members of the funds. The Kerala Legal Services Authority is planning to celebrate this year as the 'Year of the rights of the child'. KELSA proposes to engage lawyers for needy litigants in appropriate cases constituting a 'front office' in all district authorities. Weekly adalat and mega adalat on second Saturdays, special awareness programmes to Kudumbasree members, constitution of para legal volunteers in all legal authorities and establishment of legal aid clinics in universities are some of the major programmes to be

undertaken during the current year. In addition to the Permanent Lok Adalat at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam, another one is proposed to be constituted at Kozhikode this year. Constitution of Kerala Traditional Knowledge Authority (KTKA) for the protection of traditional knowledge based Intellectual Property Rights and Constitution of a full-fledged Intellectual Property Rights Administration for the State of Kerala are the two new proposals to be undertaken.

88. The focus of the Social Welfare Department is to provide succour to sections of society who are unable to access entitlements available to the mainstream. The activities of the Social Welfare Department pertain to social security and development interventions for women, children and differently abled people, including people whose quality of life has been compromised by circumstances beyond their control. It is the policy of the government to ensure that delivery mechanisms to these categories of people function effectively and with commitment and compassion. It is proposed to set up a Child Rights Commission whose primary responsibility will be the protection of children's rights to safety, happiness and the opportunity to grow. Effort will be taken to improve the quality of institutional care and rehabilitation strategies for children and women in distress.

89. My Government is of the view that the denial of the 3% quota in government posts for the differently abled is cruel and inhumane. We will take speedy steps to recruit such persons and clear the backlog within the shortest possible time. The differently

abled always find it difficult to get government to appreciate and respond to their legitimate demands and issues. The Government is committed to speedy resolution of the demands of the differently abled. Special schemes for support to Endosulfan victims including support for the education of children and the running of BUDS schools for differently abled children will be taken up.

90. The health figures revealed by the latest surveys are a matter of deep concern. My Government will formulate a State nutrition policy delineating the milestones to be achieved in the area of nutrition, and the responsibilities to be assigned to various stakeholders. Government will also focus on the problems of the elderly, keeping in view the rising numbers in the geriatric age population, and formulate special schemes for their care and support.

91. Jagrata samities and mothers' meetings, which target women in the vicinity of the anganwadi and panchayat will be strengthened for effective coordination of community health, hygiene and nutrition activities as well as for supporting local interventions to help women in distress.

92. My Government intends to reorient the functioning of the Excise Department from an income earning department to one with social commitment by initiating a series of programmes and campaigns against alcoholism. Our aim is to decrease the availability of alcohol in a phased manner. A revised Abkari Policy will be spelt out after discussions with all sections. A separate

wing will be created within the department for effective implementation of awareness programmes against liquor and drugs. The department also proposes to form de-addiction /rehabilitation centres in selected government hospitals.

93. My Government emphasises the importance of e-Governance initiatives and Government Process Re-engineering to increase efficiency in the Commercial Taxes Department which will also ensure transparency, apart from simplifying processes. Dealers file their periodic business statements electronically and upload sales and purchase invoice details along with returns. By integrating Banks, Treasuries and Commercial Taxes Department, tax is credited into the Government account on the same day and the process of reconciliation is instant and error free. As a continuation of the initiative, my Government proposes to implement a Disaster Recovery site, and initiate other innovations like Digital Signature for electronic transactions and Cyber Forensic Lab for electronic fraud detection. Based on the recommendation of Sachar Committee Report, a comprehensive action plan to improve the educational situation among needy students will be prepared, availing of central assistance available for such projects.

94. My Government recognizes the vast potential of maritime activities in the coastal region. Ports with large development potential have been selected for development on public private partnership basis. Vizhinjam International Container Trans-shipment Terminal is a high priority project for

my Government. A revised action plan for Vizhinjam Port, committed infrastructural development and land acquisition has been approved. The revised phase I project cost is estimated at ₹ 4,040 crores. The proposed bankers' consortium will be activated to ensure financial linkage for the project. A private partner for the implementation of Vizhinjam port project will be selected soon.

95. An MoU has been signed for leasing out waterfront and port land at Beypore Port for constructing dedicated wharf facilities and a passenger terminal exclusively for Lakshadweep traffic. The dedicated berthing facility and the passenger terminal to be developed at Beypore port will boost the cargo and passenger movement between Kerala and Lakshadweep.

96. My Government has set up the Kerala Maritime Society for the purpose of establishing Maritime institutes for conducting courses in Nautical and Maritime Sciences. A Maritime Training Institute is proposed to be established at Kodungallur, in addition to the two existing institutes. The formation of the State Maritime Board will facilitate effective implementation of the schemes in the maritime sector. It is proposed to constitute a Search and Rescue team consisting of a panel of divers in each district for the purpose of search and rescue when accidents are reported.

97. The foregoing pronouncements and action points would demonstrate the resolve and vision of my Government to bring accelerated development to the State. I am confident that my

Government has the capacity to transform these into practical programmes. Despite the daunting challenges and numerous problems, I can assure you that my Government can rise up to the aspirations of the citizens, and perform at the speed and efficiency that the people of Kerala demand of us.

JAI HIND