



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

5TH FEBRUARY, 2016

**BY
SHRI JUSTICE (RETD) P. SATHASIVAM
GOVERNOR OF KERALA**

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,
ellavarkkum ente namaskaram

1. I warmly welcome you all to the first session of the Kerala Legislative Assembly for the year 2016. This being the concluding session of the successful completion of my Government's term, I take great privilege in presenting to you the major achievements of my Government that will continue to give positive reverberations in the state for a long time to come.

2. Albert Einstein once said that, all that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded to an individual. Going by that saying, I am proud to say that the last five years of my Government has been a golden age of opportunities, an age where dreams came true, an age that propelled Kerala towards a fast trajectory of growth and development, an age which has opened several doors that is going to bring in more and more

opportunities for a holistic development of the people of Kerala. This in fact has been the vision of the Government from day one, when we declared that "Development with care" will be the Government's motto, which has been guiding us to achieve so many feats during our tenure.

3. It can be said with pride that my Government has ensured the realization of some of the major infrastructure projects of Kerala. First among them would be the Rs. 5181 crore Kochi Metro Rail Project from Aluva to Pettah, the first phase of which will be over by June 2016. Test run was successfully completed on 23rd January 2016. This project will ensure an eco-friendly and a public friendly transportation that is going to serve 4.12 lakh people in 2017, 5.19 lakh people in 2021 and 7.57 lakh people in 2031. Not stopping with Kochi, my Government has also signed an agreement with DMRC for the proposed Light Metro Rail Projects at Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram for an estimated amount of Rs 6728 crore.

4. 70% work on runway and 55% of the terminal building of Kannur International Airport

has been completed. I have great pleasure to inform this august house that the test landing will take place this month. When it becomes commercially operational in September 2016, it will make a proud Kerala, the only State in the country with four international airports.

5. Kochi Smart City, spread over 246 acres, with the completion of 1.65 lakh square feet of building work, is about to inaugurate its first phase on February 20th, 2016. The Smart City is going to generate job opportunities for around 5,500 knowledge – based professionals in its first IT building – SCK01. The investment for the first phase is around Rs. 300 crore split between Smart City Kochi's waterfront IT building SCK01 and the supporting infrastructure which comprises of 3.5 Kms of road, bridge, substation, etc. The second phase comprising of 7 IT buildings with a built up area of 47 lakh square feet and an international school for 3400 students, will incur an investment of Rs. 1900 crores entirely upon completion. The second phase will create additional 90,000 direct jobs and is set to transform the IT face of Kerala.

6. The visionary approach of my Government has led to the declaration of the first ever start up policy in India namely the Kerala Technology Start Up policy in 2015. This has boosted a tremendous momentum in creating a conducive atmosphere for our start ups to succeed. So far, 405 start ups have been incubated in the Start up village at Kochi. This has become such a great role model that the entire country is following this success story. 'Young Entrepreneurship Summit' was held to assist the youth with innovative industrial ventures to become young entrepreneurs and the 'We Mission' meet was held for the first time in India for women entrepreneurs. Angel Fund was formed to create initial capital and Seed Fund to give additional assistance to young entrepreneurs. Incubation Centers were formed in colleges to realize the business concepts of students. For encouraging young entrepreneurs, Kerala State Entrepreneur Development Mission was formed.

7. Adding to the list of firsts that my Government has achieved, I am once again proud to say that Kerala has become the first Digital State in India. The state has achieved 100 per

cent mobile density, 75 per cent e-literacy, highest Aadhaar enrolment of 99%, highest digital banking rate and high speed broadband connection using fibre optic cable up to panchayat level. "e-Governance" initiatives have been implemented for establishing better service delivery mechanisms, to improve its internal working efficiency and bring to more trust in Government functioning. With more than 2300 Akshaya centres in 978 Panchayats, Akshaya centers are taking e-governance to the citizen's door step. E-District services are available across 14 districts spanning 1,700 Village and Taluk Offices from 26th March 2013. Currently, 24 Certificate services mainly from Revenue Department and 500 utility cum fee payment services of Government of Kerala can be availed online. Government of Kerala had also launched the online Right to Information and Public Grievance services. More than 1.8 crores certificates have been issued which makes Kerala the leading state in terms of transactions. E-Office is replacing the existing manual handling of files and documents with an efficient electronic system. Around 27 Secretariat Departments have been

covered including the Chief Minister's office and the Chief Secretary's office. IT sector in Kerala has grown to the extent of direct employment to one lakh persons and income generation of Rs 15,000 crore from IT exports. It was just Rs 3000 crores worth IT exports when the UDF Government came to power in 2011. With the commissioning of phase 1 of SmartCity and CyberPark, IT exports from Kerala would reach Rs 18,000 crore in 2016 and would provide two lakh direct employment.

8. My Government also saw the development of a new software to smoothen Government to Government co-ordination , namely ACTION that connects all the Department Secretaries and the Chief Secretary online. Sometimes projects hit roadblocks due to small reasons. ACTION would keep top officials informed about obstacles and challenges in a real time manner.

9. Kerala used to be one of the largest maritime hubs of international trade a few hundred years back. The Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd will bring back Kerala into its rightful position in international trade once again. Work