

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

I warmly welcome all of you to the seventh session of the Thirteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly and its first session in 2013.

1. The UDF Government in Kerala has completed twenty decisive months of diligent efforts and concerted action. Needless to say, it is when a Government completes the programmes that it has announced in time, that it actually becomes worthy of the trust and mandate of the people and gains their acceptance. In every step of the way, my Government has displayed a remarkably clear and unambiguous sense of direction. Despite the best of opportunities in the past and the most conducive factors, many of the development sectors in our State had receded into a hopeless state of dormancy and torpor. My Government has been able to successfully infuse a fresh breath of life in all sectors. It has, with dedication and determination been able to put back the much-needed momentum into the State's development process. Indeed, it has had to strive relentlessly to recapture the lost development initiative.

2. This august House enacted the Right to Service Act a few months ago. This is the momentous first step in reshaping our governance system rooted in the highest standards of transparency to move it closer to the hearts of our people.

Through this historic legislation, my Government has made it a solemn duty to ensure that each person in our State gets all due benefits, certificates and other documents within the stipulated time.

3. Kerala's record in the maintenance of law and order is undoubtedly praiseworthy. It is a crowning achievement of my Government that it could bring those really guilty to stand trial before the law and ensure that due punishment is meted out to them. My Government has been able to put a stop to gruesome political murders in the State. My Government is drawing up a defining legislation that will ensure security to all women. At this juncture, this indeed assumes great significance given the appalling growth in the number of atrocities against women in our country. For ensuring speedy and effective trial in such incidents that took place recently in our State, my Government has already taken steps to constitute fast track courts. This has been widely welcomed by our people.

4. The ambitious programme that it has chalked out to make Kerala a 'Zero Landless State' by 2015 is yet another golden feather in the cap of my Government. It is just when my Government had drawn up the first phase of this flagship programme to provide one-lakh poor families with three cents of land by August 2013 that the agitation in the name of Land Reforms Protection was launched recently. This ill-advised and

farceical agitation that enjoyed absolutely no support of the people of Kerala petered out to a dismal washout. An undying commitment to the landless people of our State is indeed the hallmark of my Government.

5. Despite the most benign factors that should have spurred Kerala's development - the best health indicators, cent percent literacy, low infant mortality rate, highest longevity of life, impressive social and economic progress, heightened environmental awareness and above all its rich human resources, invariably so many of our new projects and schemes get inordinately delayed. The Emerging Kerala Event in Kochi was conceived to signal a distinct departure from this and showcase the endless possibilities and potential of our State and position it as a genuinely investment friendly State. Above all, it heralded the indomitable spirit of our State and emphasised its undying desire to chart a new progressive path of development.

6. My Government has been able to ameliorate the adverse effects stemming from the significant deficit in the monsoon rainfall this year, through precautionary steps in water conservation and sound energy management. My Government acknowledges the generous assistance that the Central Government extended to us in this hour of need. While other States in the South are reeling under prolonged power cuts from 10 to 14 hours daily, Kerala is ensuring that there is least

difficulty to its people by limiting power cuts to merely half an hour in the morning and evening. With the expansion of the 'Rooftop Solar Power Plant' Scheme to 10,000 households, Kerala will witness the beginning of a new era of participatory power generation. My Government has geared up to tackle the prevailing drought situation on a war footing with a slew of well-thought out measures and has already announced moratorium of revenue recovery for one year and rescheduling of agricultural loans.

7. The Smart City Project that had got inextricably mired in inaction, did not progress an inch in the last five years. Today, thanks to the diligent efforts of my Government, this project is well on its way to becoming a reality. Some of our detractors needlessly tried to whip up an acrimonious debate and agitation around the Kochi Metro – the dream project of our State. But today, the foundation of Kochi Metro has been laid and the project is assuredly on its way to successful implementation. The Detailed Project Reports for Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode Monorail projects have already been completed. On the basis of our request, Government of India has exempted the Vallarpadom Terminal from the application of cabotage laws. The BPCL expansion project has been approved. A package for land acquisition for our development projects has already been put in place. My Government has been avidly pursuing the implementation of

several key initiatives under the guidance of Dr. Sam Pitroda, Advisor to the Prime Minister and a few of them are already well on a path of successful implementation.

8. While my Government is wedded to the goal of catalyzing economic development, it will, with equal sincerity, pursue the goal of strengthening the fiscal and macroeconomic stability of the State alongside. Already the figures show that there has been a distinct surge in capital expenditure in the State during the last twenty months. No doubt, the fiscal consolidation path is not an easy one. But my Government has done its best to adhere to the fiscal targets and this has been reflected in the improved figures on our fiscal deficit.

9. While the face of our State is undergoing progressive and radical changes through the realisation of ambitious dreams and vital development projects, the UDF Government remains unflinchingly wedded to its promise of bringing solace to the poor and the distressed in our State. The Scheme of giving 25 kg of rice at one rupee a kilo has been of immense support to the poor. My Government has been able to bring relief to our people by effectively containing the price rise of essential food items besides ensuring their availability. My Government has drawn up a definite strategy for this by enhancing the market intervention operations of all agencies engaged in the supply of essential items in its efforts to hold the price line. Several laudable schemes like giving free generic medicine to

persons below the poverty line, providing pensions to the elderly with male children but are left uncared and the 'Snehapoorvam' project for orphans are sterling examples of my Government's efforts to reach out to the poorest of the poor. Those who unabashedly cried hoarse in the past in the name of lotteries in the State, today watch with grudging admiration, the immense benefits accruing to our poor from the Karunya Benevolent Fund Scheme funded entirely by revenues realised from our lotterics. The Ashraya Programme for destitute rehabilitation provides succour to eighty thousand families in the State and will be made more inclusive to cover more destitutes this year.

10. The Malayalam University declared open on the birthday of our State last year, to preserve and protect our language and the cherished cultural traditions adds to the laurels of my Government's many achievements.

11. Realising that it is imperative to ensure that our future generations do not languish in misery for want of public resources for their welfare and development, my Government has brought in the Contributory Pension Scheme prospectively for its employees who join service after April, 2013. The agitation by some sections of our employees was terribly short-sighted and did not reflect a mature understanding of hard realities. This blind opposition to a scheme already implemented by the Government of India and all the States in

country other than two was no doubt, ill-motivated by narrow political considerations. Expectedly, this agitation failed to evoke any public sympathy and fizzled away ingloriously. Even the employees and that too, a sizable majority, rejected this uncalled for agitation against a Government that has implemented several welfare measures for them. The public at large have been quick to realise that misguided efforts are on to put impediments in the path of my Government that is vigorously pursuing vital development goals for our State. My Government is confident that with its commitment and devotion to the weal of the people of our State, it will be able to overcome all such obstacles.

12. My Government realises that it is through unleashing the potential of our entrepreneurs, reforming the public sector and making meaningful investments in infrastructure and development projects that substantial rewards will accrue to our State. The Emerging Kerala Event evoked a very good response from the major industrial players. Malayalis from far and wide expressed their hope that Kerala will become a place that invites and nurtures entrepreneurship willing to partner with the private sector – breaking away from the shackles of tradition rooted in deep-seated ideological prejudices. People who participated from different parts of the globe warmly endorsed this paradigm shift in our approach to development.

13. My Government is committed to creating a vibrant industrial climate in the State by developing infrastructure, facilitating clearances and continuous interaction with various segments of industry. It is expected that several industrial projects will take shape as a follow up to the Emerging Kerala Summit. In addition, a number of new projects in other fields such as Tourism, Higher Education, Skill Development and Health are also expected to come up. Towards industrial infrastructural development, my Government is planning to set up a National Industrial Manufacturing Zone and a Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industrial Region, for which the proposals are already under consideration of the Government of India. In addition, KINFRA and the Directorate of Industries are developing several new Industrial Parks. Special emphasis is also being given for developing clusters of MSMEs along with the required infrastructure facilities.

14. The performance of our Public Sector Units has improved significantly. Electronic procurement has been introduced with the objective of ensuring transparency and accountability. A number of proposals have been approved for their strengthening and modernization and the profitability is expected to improve. A major project for the revival and modernization of Textile Mills has recently been taken up.

15. My Government has announced a comprehensive IT Policy that will lay secure foundations for a digital ecosystem in the State to ensure administrative transparency and

efficiency. The prime goal is to make Kerala a preferred IT destination in the country. To achieve our objective of creating 5 lakh jobs, Technopark, Infopark and Cyberpark will build additional IT spaces. My Government will also promote Integrated High Tech IT townships for which guidelines have been issued. The first phase of the prestigious Smart City Project has been initiated and this will be completed in a time bound manner.

16. My Government gives a very high priority to e-governance as a means to provide more and more services to the people at their doorsteps. The prestigious e-District project with 23 citizen services will be rolled out in all 14 Districts against the national target of 50 Districts by March 2013. 23 services from 11 more Departments will be included in the project. E-procurement and e-tendering will be introduced in all major departments to ensure greater transparency in government procurements and contracts. With almost universal coverage of population with the unique identity (aadhar) cards, the benefits of pensions, subsidies, scholarships and other cash benefits from government will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. This will enable the ordinary citizens to avail digitally enabled services from the government, delivered fast at his doorstep either directly or through the Akshaya Centres.

17. Encouraged by the success of the Technopark Technology Business Incubation Centre and the Start up Village at Kochi, an 'Innovation Zone' will be set up in Kochi with an initial investment of Rs. 100 cr. to accelerate innovation and entrepreneurship in the State. In the first phase, the zone will provide 3 lakh sq. ft. of space at nominal rates to budding entrepreneurs and Host Incubation Centres in specialized technology verticals like micro-electronics and biotechnology. High bandwidth connectivity will be provided to Panchayath level government offices within a year through the National Optical Fibre Network.

18. Development of the traditional industries is a priority area for my Government. It is planned to set up a Handloom Village in Ernakulam District near to the major tourism circuits to improve the marketing of handloom, handicrafts and coir products. A special scheme has also been evolved for strengthening the Handloom Co-operative Societies and Weavers by improving marketing, diversifying products and developing skills. The marketing efforts of the Handicrafts Development Corporation have been strengthened. Special provision has been made for timely payments of arrears due to artisans.

19. Due care and attention is being given to technology upgradation and revival of existing spinning mills in the State. Revitalisation of traditional weaving and spinning units is

coordinated through the Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board. For the comprehensive development of Coir sector, the Coir Corporation set up a factory to promote value added products in coir and its derivatives. Coir Units that focus on integrated activities from procurement to production will also be started.

20. This year my Government intends to set the tone of activities in the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors that resonate in its new development slogan “Karshaka Raksha Bhakshya Subiksha”. My Government has adopted a comprehensive Agricultural Policy developed on the basis of stakeholder discussions. A Coconut Biopark and Rice park will be established to boost production in these sectors. Coconut procurement will be initiated through the Krishi Bhavans to ensure that the farmer gets a fair remunerative price. Paddy development programmes will be further strengthened this year and paddy farmers will be given financial assistance of Rs. 4000 per hectare. The Niravu Programme initiated in 12 Assembly Constituencies will be extended to other Constituencies in the coming years. The Government is in the process of preparing a new Agrarian Policy. The establishment of a Farmers Welfare Fund Board and Farmers’ Tribunal is under active consideration. The programme to propagate organic farming in the State is underway and by 2016 the entire State will be declared an ‘Organic Farming’

State. The first phase of this project is in progress in the Endosulphan affected Kasaragod District. The Kerala Agricultural University will be upgraded to a Centre of Excellence in the Agricultural Sector.

21. My Government will launch a major programme, Govardhini to increase the internal cattle population by inducting one lakh female calves with the assistance of Government of India and Local Self Governments and aims to add one lakh litres to the existing milk production. My Government will set up a Goat Development Board in 2013-14. To increase backyard poultry production, one lakh families will be provided with five-bird units. New Regional Artificial Insemination Centres will be established in Wayanad, Kasaragod and Kozhikode Districts. The Livestock Management Training Centre at Thiruvananthapuram will be transformed to a Centre of Excellence. A 300 TPD cattle feed plant and 60 TPD goat feed plant will be established. As part of increasing the supply of high protein meat in the market, the State will set up modern pig farms with the support of the Netherlands Agro Foods and Technology Centre.

22. My Government has made significant progress in the field of dairy development during this year. In 2013-14 'Milk Production Incentive' for dairy farmers will be given. My Government will institute the Dr. Varghese Kurien Memorial Award to promote Dairy Co-operatives. The Sewage Farm at

Valiyathura will be modernized into a 'State Fodder Farm and Training Centre for Fodder Production'. My Government will implement a special package to achieve self sufficiency in milk production during the 12th Plan period.

23. The sound foundation of effective Local Self Government institutions in Kerala built on Mahatma Gandhiji's dream of self-governance has come to be regarded as the model for the rest of the country and the world. My Government has a two pronged strategy - to effectively implement social and public infrastructure programmes and schemes and build the support system to enhance the efficiency of functioning of Local Self Government and its institutions.

24. My Government will continue its emphasis on providing shelter to the homeless. To date, 1,08,013 houses were constructed and construction works of 46,906 houses are progressing under the EMS Housing Scheme. 5745 houses have been renovated under the M N Laksham Veedu Renovation Scheme. A Special Purpose Vehicle will be created to integrate implementation of housing schemes under various departments and agencies in the State. Kerala Institute of Local Administration will be made a national level institute with Deemed University status. An International Conference on Local Governance will be organized as a platform for exchange of experience and cross learning with other countries.

25. Kudumbashree will continue its yeoman efforts in poverty alleviation through skill development of below poverty line people to increase employability in rural areas. Employment opportunities for one lakh persons will be created in 2013-2014 through its initiatives. It will also broad base its efforts in urban areas through the Livelihood mission. Kudumbashree is the state level nodal agency for achieving the goal of slum free city through Rajiv Awas Yojana that will be implemented in six urban agglomerations in the State. My Government is implementing the World Bank assisted Kerala Local Government Service Delivery Project in all Grama Panchayat and Municipalities. My Government is making concerted efforts for effective waste management in urban and rural local bodies. 33 Solid Waste Management Projects have already been completed. These efforts will be further strengthened by providing subsidy for upgrading waste treatment plants. This year subsidy was given to City Corporations, Municipalities and Panchayats for establishing 3,34,080 compost devices and 40,542 biogas systems. Modern waste treatment plants will be established at Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kottayam in PPP mode. As the first phase of making our entire State 'Woman and Child Friendly', one Panchayat in every District will be declared a Woman and Child Friendly Panchayat during 2013-14.

26. My Government is aware of the shortage of space and acute congestion in our urban spaces. It is proposed to launch a flagship programme to alleviate this problem by providing modern parking plazas and mechanised parking facilities. 'E-toilet' facilities will also be provided in selected urban centres. My Government will continue to give emphasis to slum area development and providing shelter to the urban homeless. A roadmap for a redevelopment scheme for underdeveloped areas in prime locations in urban centres through a consortium of stakeholders will be drawn up. Projects under the Jawaharalal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM), Capital Region Development Programme (CRDP) and Urban Infrastructure Development in Small Scale and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) are being given the highest priority in the State.

27. In the area of rural development, my Government has been strenuous in its efforts in tapping the resources available under the various development schemes launched by Government of India. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, efforts are on to achieve the target for generating 633.71 lakh person days. In 2013-14 the State aims to generate 700 lakh person days under the scheme. My Government is committed to introducing more production linked schemes under the MGNREGS. A special package for Idukki District based on the study conducted by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan on the crisis in the Agrarian sector

has been approved. About 30 roads having length of 137.58 km have been identified for inclusion under the PMGSY and 29 roads of length 60 km in the Endosulfan affected area in Kasaragod District. Another 720 km of road under Phase VIII of PMGSY has been approved by Government of India and work will be started this year.

28. My Government will establish an enabling environment in the housing sector in an integrated habitat approach on a rights based framework. The newly framed Housing Policy envisages addressing the issue of housing shortage of an estimated number of 12 lakh houses in the State. Several vital schemes such as the 'Grihasree', for providing housing subsidy, 'Surabhi', a scheme for constructing individual houses and 'Santhwanam', for providing subsidized rental accommodation to the patients/bystanders are proposed. Two bills namely, the Kerala Apartment Regulatory Authority Bill and the Kerala Building (Lease and Rent Control) Bill are under final stages of enactment. A City Centre at Thodupuzha with modern facilities and Laurie Baker Institute for Habitat Studies at Vazhamuttom, Thiruvananthapuram will be set up.

29. My Government has increased the unit cost of houses for general and SC category to Rs. 2 lakh and the unit cost for ST category to Rs. 2.5 lakh respectively. During 2013-14, it is proposed to construct 62,000 houses for rural BPL households under the IAY Scheme.

30. Construction of 6000 houses for the homeless fishermen families with a HUDCO loan of Rs. 150 cr. through Kerala State Coastal Area Development Corporation and construction of another 5000 houses under the 13th Finance Commission Award are the important initiatives planned. 5000 fishermen houses will be upgraded and as part of improving the sanitation facilities, 5000 toilets will be constructed in the coming year.

31. In the Fisheries sector, my Government will give maximum priority to the welfare of fishermen. A Commission will be set up to study the problems of fishermen in our State. The Integrated Development of Fishing Villages Project will be implemented with the support from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund. To maximize fish cultivation in inland water bodies and to develop fish seed testing standards, enactment of a Fish Seed Act is under consideration. Other initiatives include development of 6000 aquariums as part of the 'One Home One Aquarium Project'.

32. My Government will formulate a Scheduled Castes Development Policy exclusively for the accelerated and holistic growth of Scheduled Caste communities with special focus on mothers, children and the aged. Several development-oriented schemes are proposed and they include construction of flats in prime localities, financial assistance to inter-caste married couples of which either one spouse belongs to a Scheduled

Caste Community and employment-oriented Skill Development programmes. The programme of Integrated Development of Scheduled Caste colonies having fifty or more families to make them self sufficient habitats will be implemented in 436 colonies over the next three years. Other schemes include rehabilitation of victims of atrocities, enhancement of financial assistance for construction of houses and enhancement of feeding charges for nurseries. A "Land and House Scheme" will be formulated for providing land and houses to all eligible Scheduled Caste families.

33. The scheme 'Janani-Janma-Raksha' intends to provide nutrition to tribal mothers and babies. The scheme 'Gothra Sarathi' will be implemented to provide transportation facilities for tribal children to schools and back to their hamlets and assumes great relevance with the implementation of the 'Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act'. A Hamlet Development Scheme with thrust on addressing specific issues of tribal hamlets will be started in 50 selected hamlets.

34. My Government has taken special interest in protecting the rights of the Backward Communities and has established a new Department solely with this objective. Two Commissions have been set up to study the problems faced by the Viswakarma and other Backward Classes. My Government intends to assist the OBC students by launching Pre Matric Scholarships with Central assistance and extend grants for law

graduates for starting legal practice. During the year 2013-14, the Government plans to undertake a Special Area Development Programme, financial assistance to OBC students of Chartered Accountancy and other employability enhancement programmes.

35. My Government has notable achievements to its credit in its work for the welfare of minorities in the State. This includes the creation of the Minority Development Finance Corporation and setting up of the Kerala State Minority Commission. My Government plans to open District Welfare Offices/Project Offices in all Districts. A Civil Service Academy for providing residential coaching to educated youth from the Minority Communities will be established and Girls' hostels will be opened in Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi and Kozhikode.

36. A Corporation for the welfare of economically backward families from forward communities has been set up. Specific schemes will be drawn up for their welfare and educational support.

37. My Government through the Social Justice Department has been able to carry the message of care and empathy to the disabled, destitute, old and the infirm. My Government has drawn up a massive plan to equip twenty percent of its 33,000 Anganwadis to provide pre-primary education to the children. Construction on the first phase of

Model Anganwadis, designed around high standards of care for the child, mother, elderly women and adolescent girls will begin this month. This year 700 Anganwadis will be constructed under the RIDF scheme of NABARD.

38. Government of India has adopted the Ministerial declaration of ESCAP enshrined in the Incheon Strategy "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific. These principles shall guide my Government's responses to Persons with Disabilities. I am happy to report that my Government has made commendable progress in resolving the long pending issue of recruitment of physically disabled to Government service and has identified 1187 backlog vacancies through a one-day long adalat conducted with the participation of the Public Service Commission and Departments. Under the Special Initiative for Disabilities, the first of its kind in India, action plans for four major disabilities Autism, Hearing Impairment, Cerebral Palsy and the Mentally Challenged, have been drawn up. A Paraplegia Centre will be commissioned in Irinjalakuda on land and building freely donated by a philanthropic person.

39. My Government is saddened by the growing atrocities against women and the gruesome events in the recent past symbolised by the tragic death of a brave young lady. Nirbhaya – a comprehensive policy declaration that asserts the right of every woman to live without fear and with respect has

been notified. The first shelter home under Nirbhaya has been launched. Advertisements for the Gender Park have been floated and the construction will be started in the coming year.

40. A new Old age policy has been announced and separate task forces have been formed to prepare action plans for implementation. Under the Vayomithram Project, mobile vans with laboratories will be introduced in all Districts.

41. My Government has drawn up action plans incorporating standards of care for each category of welfare institutions and is initiating a comprehensive upgradation plan for all welfare institutions in the State. This year, my Government will launch the 'WE CARE', a unique fund mobilisation programme under the Kerala Social Security Mission, which will link charity from people and institutions both in India and abroad to specific projects for the destitute and distressed individuals and families in need of assistance.

42. The Child Rights Commission has been notified and the process for appointing the Child Rights Commissioner and members to the Commission has been initiated. My Government intends to expand the "Snehapoorvam" project that provides financial support to orphans who are living in families, with their relatives, friends, or the support of the community through KSSM. Under the Cochlear Implantation Programme, nearly 200 surgeries for hearing impaired children from poor families will be completed before March 31, 2013.

200 more surgeries are planned in the coming year. My Government is launching the "Our Responsibility to Children (ORC)" in all districts of Kerala to impart counselling to adolescent girls and boys against the social evils of drugs, intoxicants, trafficking etc.

43. The focus of my Government in the coming year will be to improve the employability of the existing workforce including graduates. Under the Additional Skill Enhancement Programme, Employment Exchanges in 8 more districts will be converted as Employability Centres which will serve as training cum employment centre for those registered there. Industry-institute linkages between ITIs and leading industries to increase the employment potential of the students will be given greater focus in the coming year. Various Skill development initiatives by Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence are to be implemented in domains like retail, automobile, petroleum and oil rigs, tourism and hospitality, gems & jewellery and nursing.

44. Considering the plight of the nurses within the State and across the Country, particular emphasis will be given to train them to seek employment across the globe. The existing housing scheme for plantation workers will be revamped taking into account the problems faced by them. It is proposed to set up Workers' Block in association with welfare boards, in all district hospitals to improve healthcare facilities for them. To alleviate the problems faced by the migrant workers in Kerala

and to improve welfare measures for them, a new enactment viz. the Kerala Migrant Workers Social Security Act is proposed this year. The wage protection system will be expanded to bring more establishments within its ambit. An affordable housing scheme on PPP mode in association with welfare boards will be launched in the cities of Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode on a pilot basis.

45. My Government firmly believes that Kerala has been passing through an advanced phase of health transition and the need of the hour is to provide comprehensive and quality health care at affordable costs at all levels. Towards this end, a Comprehensive Health Policy will be formulated. Further, the Mental Health Policy of 2002 will be redesigned to meet the emerging needs and challenges. A series of measures will be taken for the benefit of the poor, including the 'Kanya Suraksha', a health protection scheme for girls, 'Kazhcha', a scheme for free cataract surgeries, 'Madhuram Balyam', a scheme to provide free insulin to BPL students of Government and Aided schools and a Direct Cash Transfer System for the tribal areas of Wayanad and Palakkad as an incentive for pregnancy and child care. The 'Arogya Theeram' programme covering the coastal belt of the State will strive to provide comprehensive health care to the coastal communities.

46. The Medical College, Kozhikode will be upgraded under the PMSSY Scheme. New Para-Medical Course and Burns Unit in 5 Medical Colleges and a Centre for Holistic Medicine in the Regional Cancer Centre will be among the key initiatives for the coming year. Tertiary Cancer Care treatment facilities will be introduced in the Kottayam, Alappuzha and Kozhikode Medical Colleges. Trauma Care Centres will be developed in 10 district hospitals. My Government has accorded great priority to the Indigenous Systems of Medicine viz. Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. Besides 25 Ayurveda dispensaries announced in the last budget, 25 new Ayurveda dispensaries more will be started. Towards providing emergency services in waterlogged areas, it is proposed to introduce water ambulances, 'Jalaraksha'.

47. My Government is proud of the scheme for distribution of generic drugs free of cost to patients through the Government Hospitals and the Medical Colleges as a major step towards making medical care affordable to all. This will be extended to the Public Health Centres also. The State works closely with the NRHM to provide the much needed assistance for the rural population. New W&C hospitals in 8 districts and new Dental Colleges in Alappuzha and Thrissur are proposed for the next year.

48. In School Education, the focus of my Government has been on quality improvement. A number of innovative schemes in this direction include strengthening the

infrastructure of schools, initiating student centric activities, teachers training and assisting minority education institutions. By implementing the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act, 2009) and various schemes under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Rastriya Madyamvik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) the State is shaping an enabling environment for imparting quality education.

49. During the next academic year, at least one class room in a Government school will be upgraded into an interactive smart class room. 36 new schools have already been started under the RMSA scheme and 11 more are proposed for the next academic year. Digital libraries will be created as a backbone for internet based learning in the high schools. My Government is supplementing the noon-meal scheme for our children with milk twice a week and one egg and will further take measures to diversify the nutritional variety and improve the nutritional status of the children.

50. My Government will revise the curriculum for the higher secondary schools during the next academic year and this will come into force from the academic year 2014-15. As part of the initiative to improve the quality of management in the schools, the State Institute of Educational and Management Training has developed management training modules for Head Masters. The present system of saddling Head Masters in L.P

schools with more than 150 students and in U.P schools with more than 100 students with the responsibility of class charges has been dispensed with. My Government is incorporating the noble values contained in the teaching of Sree Narayana Guru in our curriculum.

51. The State has been a forerunner in assisting the minority educational institutions and modernizing the Madrassas. During the current academic year alone an unprecedented number of 418 minority educational institutions have been short listed for financial assistance.

52. My Government proposes to extend the supply of free Uniforms under the SSA Scheme in Government schools, to girl students and students belonging to SC/ST Communities and BPL families up to Standard VIII to Aided Schools also. My Government has enhanced honorarium to qualified pre-primary teachers and ayahs to Rs.5000 and Rs.3500 per month respectively and proposes to extend this to all existing pre-primary teachers who meet qualifications and requirements to be prescribed by Government.

53. My Government believes that in the field of Higher Education, the State should attain a leading position in India and progressively advance to achieve world standards. To this end, Government intends to announce an Action Plan for Higher Education that balances the need for achieving excellence with equity. The feasibility of giving autonomous

status for well run educational institutions will be examined as part of this plan. For the first time in the last decade, 58 new Arts and Science Courses at different levels were allowed in Government Colleges. Several new initiatives in Higher Education including the Additional Skills Acquisition Programme, the Walk with a Scholar and the Scholar Support Programme in the educational institutions have infused fresh vigour to Higher Education and have contributed significantly to quality improvement. During the year 2013-14, my Government plans to start new generation courses in Colleges based on industry needs and encourage modern areas like nanotechnology in Universities. More investment will be made to complete the process of upgrading selected Government Arts and Science Colleges into Centres of Excellence. My Government will establish educational institutions both colleges and schools in areas which do not enjoy such facilities now. Outreach programmes through Community Colleges will be established in Government Arts and Science Colleges and Polytechnics. The Kerala State Higher Education Council has formulated plans for establishing the State Accreditation and Assessment Council (SAAC). Under the auspices of the Council, a proposal for opening a Faculty Training Institute for University and College Teachers has been submitted to the Government of India.

54. My Government intends to set up an Academic City in Kerala and a High Level Team has already submitted its report in this regard. All necessary preparatory work for the Kerala Technological University has been completed and the University will be established shortly. The English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU) Off-campus will be inaugurated this year itself. Kerala accords great priority to its long cherished hope of an IIT in the State and earnest efforts are on in this direction. The recently concluded Emerging Kerala Summit has been very beneficial for the higher education sector. A new International Relations Group has been set up in Government and all Universities plan to set up similar groups. Several initiatives underway or proposed include partnerships with major international companies. The Trivandrum Research and Engineering Science Park will be established in the campus of the College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram. My Government is completing the preparatory work for the setting up for a new Institute of Engineering and Technology.

55. The Srinivasa Ramanujam Institute of Basic Sciences, announced in the International year of Mathematics is becoming a reality next week with the launch its first academic programme.

56. My Government has given considerable attention to the management of Forests and Wild life. Despite the State enjoying a forest cover of approximately 29% that is

significantly better than the national average of around 19%, the density of population in the State has accentuated problems arising from man-animal conflict. My Government intends to take concerted measures to alleviate this problem. Last year 44 check dams were built within forest areas for providing drinking water for wildlife. 100 more check dams will be constructed. For ensuring easy availability of forest produce to the public more mobile 'Vanasree Units' will be started. The 'Vanadeepthi Project' that seeks to recreate mini forests in areas of not less than five acres is yet another initiative proposed for the coming year. It is also proposed to start four model teak plantations. The construction of the Thrissur Zoological Park and Research Centre at Puthur in Thrissur District will commence within a month. The formation of Orchid Garden at Wagamon and the Gandhi Smrithi Vanam at Purakkad are some of the highlights of this year.

57. My Government intends to start the work on the Vizhinjam International Transshipment Terminal this year. An action plan for coastal shipping has been approved and a legislation to set up the Maritime Board is being drafted. The development of infrastructure facility at Azhikkal, Ponnani, Beyyore, Kollam and Kodungallur are progressing well. It is planned that by 2020, 40% of the cargo presently being handled by road/rail will be diverted through coastal shipping. To encourage this, my Government has decided to provide a subsidy at the rate of Re.1/tonne/km of cargo carried through coastal shipping along the State's water boundary.

58. Maritime Institutes are being established at Neendakara and Kodungalloor with the financial assistance of NABARD. Other important developments in this sector include the construction of a 20 MT capacity port at Ponnani through Public Private Partnership, container handling facilities at Beypore Port and Marina and berthing facilities for small passenger ships at Alappuzha. A Maritime Museum will be established at Valiyathura.

59. My Government recognises that ensuring adequate supply of power to consumers, industrial and domestic consumers is a sine qua non for the economic development of the State. In the field of power generation, it is planned to add 140 MW in hydro capacity. My Government intends to give high priority to the popularization of Solar and Wind Energy. Steps are being initiated for installation of grid-connected solar panels in government offices and off-grid roof top solar system in households to attain a power generation of 100MW. A 2 MW Solar Power Station by ANERT at Kuzhalmannam, distribution of 1 lakh subsidised solar lanterns and 10,000 solar street lamps will be the other initiatives. In an effort to augment the wind power capacity, my Government has signed an MoU with NTPC to develop around 200 MW wind energy-based power projects in the State on 'Build, Own and Operate' basis. It is proposed to install a 22 MW wind farm in the land allotted by KINFRA at their Textile Park.

60. It is proposed to set up a gas-based power plant of 300 MW capacity in the KSEB land at Brahmapuram. Implementation of the Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (RAPDRP) will be completed by mid 2014.

61. My Government is very well aware of the adverse effects of climate change and the unprecedented drought conditions in the State. Government will take all steps to initiate effective water conservation and management programmes. The strategy will be to ensure availability of drinking water in the State by making ongoing schemes more efficient and modern by adopting suitable technologies. In regions where water sources have dried up, small water supply schemes such as those under the Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission will be implemented on a priority basis. The Ground Water Department is being strengthened to deal with the situation. Completion of 45 major water supply projects by the Kerala Water Authority and all the schemes under the Japanese assisted drinking water supply project will improve the availability of drinking water in the next year. Emphasis will be given for constructing as many check dams possible and for Lift Irrigation Schemes.

62. My Government is giving considerable importance to the development of high quality roads in the State. The preparation of detailed study report of the City Road

Improvement Projects in Kottayam, Thrissur, Malappuram and Kannur will be completed in two months. Land Acquisition for these projects will be started during this year itself. Work on the first phase of the Kozhikode City Road Development Project will commence this year. My Government intends to take up the implementation of the second phase of Trivandrum City Road Development Project. 1204 km. of selected State Highway and Major District Roads in the State will be upgraded to world class standards by the Road Infrastructure Company Kerala (RICK). The Kerala Highway Research Institute (KHRI) will be developed as a Centre of Excellence. My Government will give prime importance for the construction of the new bye-passes along National Highways and steps will be taken to complete the pending construction works of Kollam, Alappuzha, Kozhikode, and Thalassery-Mahe bye-passes, on a cost sharing basis with Central Government.

63. The road section from Kazhakoottam to Adoor is being developed as a Model Safety Corridor with the assistance of World Bank under KSTP. Under the Kerala State Transport Project, Government has decided to introduce Multimodal Integrated Transport System, integrating road, rail and water transport systems in Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Kozhikode on an experimental basis. Kerala Mono Rail Corporation Ltd. has been formed for implementing the Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram monorail projects. New residential flats, with all modern amenities to the MLAs replacing the 30 year old Pamba block and its buildings in the MLA hostel, will be constructed.

64. My Government intends to consolidate the impressive growth in the Tourism sector and to promote rapid growth of the sector through various initiatives. Scaplane project will be fully operationalised during the year and major tourism destinations will be developed comprehensively through master plans. Two mega cultural hubs will be developed in the Malabar area to boost the tourism potential of the region. Alappuzha Mega Backwater Tourism Circuit and North Kerala Mega Tourism Circuit will be developed with the support of the Central Government. KITTS will be positioned as a 'Centre of Excellence' for training and HR development in tourism.

65. My Government will pursue the goal of floating its own airline - Air Kerala and hope to make this dream a reality soon. Significant progress has been achieved in the development of transport facilities in the State. Land acquisition for the Kannur International Airport Project has progressed significantly and the work will be commenced this year. Feasibility studies for the Green Field Airport Projects of Idukki and Wayanad have already been completed and substantial progress is expected in the year 2013-14. Efforts are also on to acquire land for the expansion of the Thiruvananthapuram and Calicut International Airports with a suitable compensation and rehabilitation package for the landholders.