



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

24TH JUNE, 2016

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

1. I have immense pleasure in addressing the first session of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly. Let me convey my hearty congratulations and warm greetings to all of you.

2. My Government has been voted to power by the people of Kerala with great expectations and high hopes. People have decisively reacted against corruption, favouritism and nepotism. The verdict reflects the strong displeasure of the voters against anti-people policies, atrocities on women and weakening of secularism. Agricultural growth has declined, public sector units have once again slipped into losses, traditional industries have collapsed, education has been commercialized, the public health system has been weakened, and people have bestowed their hopes on the Left Democratic Front Government to radically alter this scenario. I am extremely happy to present before you the policy approaches, which would enable Government to rise to the expectations of the people.

3. Globalization is creating frightening inequalities and environmental deterioration. There is a strong feeling that there is no alternative to

the new world order, but the global economic stagnation and the crisis of climate change call for fundamental shift from the existing situation. In this context, my Government, within the limits imposed by the federal framework, would strive to create a people's alternative.

4. India cannot escape the global crisis. But Government of India is trying to further strengthen neoliberal policies to get out of the crisis. Further, there are constant attempts to weaken India's secular fabric. The cultural ethos of resurgent Kerala would be built on secularism. Kerala's secularism has been reinforced by the movements of workers and peasants and the national movement, which drew inspiration from the earlier reform movements. My Government would give utmost importance to protect this legacy and combat all efforts to undermine it.

5. Development strikes root only in a land of peace. Therefore, my Government is strongly committed to ensuring law and order.

6. We need a new and transformed Kerala. We need to rise to the hopes of our youth who hold the future of Kerala in their hands. We should be able to provide them with employment

opportunities to suit their aspiration. We need to accelerate industrial growth alongside modern agriculture. At the same time, we need to provide complete social security cover for the workers in the traditional industries in the State and for the poor and the marginalized. We need to strengthen our public delivery systems in education and health and upgrade the standards of service delivery. In short, the mandate given by the people of Kerala to my Government is to bring about corruption-free governance that can usher in a new era of development in the State.

7. Let me take this opportunity to affirm that my Government will pursue a proactive policy of zero tolerance to corruption, that will be visible and felt. To achieve this objective, a bouquet of specific measures to control corruption will be adopted and shall include:

- Providing for mandatory disclosures in all departments.
- Extending e-tender for wider range of public works.
- Putting in place a credible quality assurance system for public works on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

- Consolidating and strengthening of e-procurement of goods.
- Putting in place clear, transparent and well defined norms for transfers in Government.
- Making social audit mandatory for all Local Governments and key public works.
- Facilitating social watch through a transparent Geographic Information System (GIS), which will enable any citizen to see all public works at different stages with relevant details.

8. My Government is firmly committed to include women in development and put an end to atrocities against them and ensure gender equality. It is necessary to transform Kerala into a totally gender-friendly State. My Government is happy to announce that a new Department for Women and Child Development would be created.

9. Kerala has succeeded to a significant extent in improving the lot of the ordinary people. Yet it has not been possible to ensure the inclusion of all sections of society into the mainstream. Improving the livelihoods of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the fisher folk and other marginalized

sections would be a policy priority of my Government. The pockets of poverty that still exist in Kerala need to be wiped out.

10. My Government understands that development implies a deep, scientific and balanced relationship between man and nature. It is the policy of my Government to ensure that development is eco-friendly. It is the perspective of my Government to take people into confidence and make them an integral part of protecting and nurturing the environment.

11. My Government believes that good governance calls for people's participation in all aspects of Government ranging all the way from policy formulation to evaluation of outcomes. Mine will be an open Government with wide interface with the citizen, providing opportunities for consultations, suggestion-giving and feedback – both electronically and through direct interaction in formal fora.

12. The topmost priority of my government shall be redressing the grievances of the most vulnerable and most marginalized citizen. This Government will adopt a proactive approach – conforming to the ideal of "opening the door on

hearing the footsteps". Effective mass contact programmes will be regularly organized at the district and sub district levels as recommended by the 3rd Administrative Reforms Committee, headed by Late E.K. Nayanar. Modern technology will be harnessed to strengthen redressal of grievances, which would enable any citizen to track the progress of redressal of his or her grievance.

13. The Kerala State Right To Service Act, 2012 will be further strengthened to bring in features like Citizen's Charter and scope for interaction with citizens.

14. My Government is committed to setting up the Kerala Administrative Service, including the Secretariat, with the multiple objectives of attracting talented youngsters to public service, improving its efficiency and breaking down departmental silos.

15. My Government will formulate a new training policy for enhancing the efficiency and professionalism of our employees. This will clearly stipulate mandatory induction training for all Government employees as well as systematic in-service courses. The Director General of Institute of Management in Government (IMG) will be

designated as Director General of Training to facilitate the coordination of different training institutions under Government to achieve synergy. To finance this ambitious goal, appropriate budgetary mechanisms will be designed to allow departments to use at least one percent of their Annual Plan Budget for training.

DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVE

16. Kerala is today facing a very vexing development stalemate. On the one hand, the crisis in the commercial crop sector coupled with the effect of recession triggered by the oil price slump in the Middle East poses a serious threat to our economy. On the other hand, the unpardonable decimation and undermining of the revenue collection machinery of the State by the previous Government for corrupt, parochial and partisan ends has put resource mobilisation at grave risk. We are deeply challenged by the question as to how we can move the State forward from out of this mess. Needless to say, my Government will certainly find creative and practical solutions to these problems.

17. My Government has set for itself certain very specific developmental goals. These will form the foundation of the development strategy of my Government in the next five years. Our aim will be to create 10 lakh jobs in the areas of Information Technology (IT), Bio-Technology (BT), Tourism, Electronics and other emerging areas. We hope to add another 15 lakh jobs in the areas of agriculture, construction, commerce, small industries. Another 10 lakhs youth will be provided skill training. We will provide financial, infrastructure and technology assistance to 1500 start-ups. My Government will double the space available in IT Parks. We will draw up plans to attract twice the number of tourists into the State.

18. My Government intends to complete the Gas Pipeline Project and invest heavily into electronics hardware parks. Mega Infrastructure Projects will be completed in time and new ones will be taken up. Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode airports and such other infrastructure projects on which broad political consensus has already been reached shall be taken up and completed in a time bound manner. Land Acquisition has been a serious constraint in

completing major projects particularly roads of the prescribed specifications of width. My Government will expedite land acquisition for projects, compensating landowners fairly and rehabilitating those who depend on the land to be acquired for their livelihood.

19. The public health system will be strengthened and upgraded radically. The school education system will be revamped to international standards. Universities will be developed to flourish as centres of excellence.

20. Through the next phase of the People's Campaign, Local Self Government (LSGs) will be made active partners in all spheres to achieve the development goals that this Government has set for itself. Kerala will be made a hunger-free State. Social security pensions will be delivered at the doorsteps of all pensioners.

21. In order to mainstream gender in development, my Government will introduce Gender Budgeting during the current year itself, followed by Gender Auditing as the next step.

22. My Government will encourage rapid infusion of private investment into the state and

shall provide a congenial environment for this. We will no doubt attract private investment but that shall be without neglecting the rights of our workers or without breaching our environmental laws. The main attraction for private investors to Kerala, apart from its unique natural endowments and educated labour force, will be the modern infrastructure that my Government shall build on a war footing in the State. Modernised road systems, rapid railway lines, efficient inland navigation, vibrant air and seaports, industrial parks, assured supply of quality power shall be created through leveraging adequate funds outside the budget.

23. The reorientation of the economy with focus on the emerging new growth sectors and infrastructure will be accompanied by a well thought out strategy to provide total social security to the poor, protect their livelihood in the traditional sectors, strengthen the public health and education system, and ensure environmental balance and gender equity. This approach would necessitate a higher role for the Government in planning and development. The success of such interventions would depend upon generation of adequate financial resources to improve the efficiency of the

Government. This in a nutshell shall be the agenda of my Government for the creation of a new Kerala. The challenges are many. But with the support of the people of Kerala, my Government will surely deliver on these promises.

PLANNING

24. My Government believes that the decision of the Union Government to dispense with the Five Year Plan was acutely short-sighted. Currently, the States and ironically the Centre too, are groping in the dark on national priorities. In the absence of a well orchestrated plan built around national policies, the developmental directions of the Union Government seem rather hazy and rudderless. My Government will continue with five year planning. The preparatory work on drawing up the 13th Five Year Plan will begin shortly.

25. My Government intends to make planning more professional and scientific. The State Academy on Statistical Administration (SASA) will function as a centre of excellence for training and research studies of official statistics as per with the standards set by the national and international

institutes of similar nature. Block Level Reports on Natural Resources will be prepared and used for effective local level planning. The Geo-informatics laboratory will be strengthened as a state level digital data repository for land and water resource management for ensuring better regional and spatial planning.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

26. The State is facing an acute financial crisis. My Government is today facing the unenviable task of steering the State out of this. For the last three years (2013-2016), the implementation of the Annual Plan approved by the people of Kerala through the Legislative Assembly has virtually stagnated. Against the large number of schemes announced in the annual plan budgets of the three years, actual expenditure has been only 60-70% of the budget approved by the Legislature. This, in particular, has had a negative impact on public investments in Kerala, and has adversely hit poorer sections of the society the most. The flow of funds to beneficiaries and workers in the coir, fisheries and other traditional sectors have suffered the most in the aftermath of the crisis. This has also severely impeded the overall economic growth, income and

employment generation of the State. The entire borrowing ceiling now permitted by the Central Government is just sufficient to meet the day to day expenditure of the State Government. Consequently, my Government is faced with the stark reality that there are no funds left for capital expenditure like construction of roads, bridges and other major infrastructure projects.

27. The options before my Government are severely limited. By eliminating corruption and mismanagement - the main reasons behind the decline in revenue receipts - sincere and vigorous efforts will be mounted to increase revenue. Borrowing is another alternative, but this has to be contained within the limits allowed by Government of India, which has expressed its unwillingness to enhance the borrowing ceiling beyond what has already been allowed for the State Government. The third option is to impose treasury restrictions as was done during the last year. But this would entail drastically cutting down or deferring essential expenditure - and this would first and foremost seriously affect the poor and workers in the agricultural and traditional sectors - an option that my Government will never adopt.

28. Therefore, my Government will focus on a multi-pronged strategy firstly, of stepping up revenue mobilization, secondly of eliminating wasteful expenditure while ensuring essential expenditure for the poor and the traditional sectors and thirdly, of leveraging provisions earmarked in the Budget for capital expenditure for mobilizing funds from market. A creative development strategy will have to be formulated to accelerate growth by increasing public investments in mega projects through off budget borrowings using special purpose vehicles.

29. My Government has a clear vision for developing infrastructure in the State. It is committed to ensure that Kerala's infrastructure whether it be in Roads, Bridges, Inland Waterways, Airports, Rail or IT is the best in the country. Our people should enjoy the use of infrastructure with the same standards available in developed countries across the world. The goal of my Government will be to propel the State to be in the forefront in terms of economic development and competitiveness. Conservative estimates indicate that Kerala needs an infusion of Rs.50,000-1,00,000 cr. funds for infrastructure, both in the public and private sector, if we are to reach this goal. This means that Kerala will have to mobilise 10-15% of its current GDP

during the next five years for infrastructure. The task is by no means easy.

30. My Government will resort to novel means of raising finances to achieve this formidable goal. Infrastructure projects are long term and political risks loom large for investors. Investors will be prepared to commit substantial sums for long periods only if they have faith in the legal and political procedures. For this, my Government intends to bring in the necessary legislative framework in the next session of this Assembly. To mobilise borrowings from abroad, two of our financial institutions will be restructured as Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and aligned in compliance with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) regulations.

31. My Government will launch a new financial management system that will integrate the financial, payroll, pension and personnel databases of Treasuries and Finance Departments linked to the related IT systems in the office of the Accountant General, to become the first State to develop such a comprehensive information system. The Treasury Network will be developed to have its own Core

Banking System in the next six months. Liquidity management will be developed to a high degree of sophistication with intelligent forecasting tools built in. These tools no doubt will come to our aid in extricating the State out of the terrible financial mess that it is in now.

32. Let me now outline the policy directions that my Government intends to take in various sectors. In doing so, I shall make a departure from conventional practice and focus more on the policy initiatives themselves and less on enumerating specific schemes in the various Departments.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

33. e-Governance and Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will no doubt serve as the foundation for the growth of our economy in the years ahead. My Government has set for itself the vision and will go ahead with determination to use these technologies to improve governance, service delivery mechanism and e-Literacy.

34. My Government shall focus on encouraging investment in IT sector making it a preferred destination for investors from India and abroad.

This can be achieved only through assured ease of doing business. My Government believes in adopting a professional approach for facilitating investment and creating an investment climate and ecosystem, moving away from the era of offering subsidies. A comprehensive IT policy will be brought out in consultation with all the stakeholders in the next two months. Emphasis shall be given to increase the employability of our youth in tune with the changing demands of the IT industry.

35. My Government will launch several new initiatives and complete ongoing ones to propel our State into the forefront in the IT sector in India.

- ◆ The first phase of Cyberpark, Kozhikode will be completed in this financial year. Allotment of space in the new building sprawling over 2.88 lakh sq. ft. will commence.

- ◆ The ambitious Technocity Project in Thiruvananthapuram would be completed on priority.

- ◆ Existing and new schemes for encouragement of start-ups in accordance with the Kerala Technology Start-up policy will be continued.

◆ Construction activities under the 2nd phase of Technology Innovation Zone for about Rs.105 cr. will be taken up and expedited. The 3rd phase of the project will also be initiated during this financial year and facilities made available to the beneficiaries in 2018.

◆ A new scheme for supporting 1000 selected innovative ideas in the Technology Sector with an assistance of Rs. 2 lakh for each will be launched.

◆ Open Innovation Spaces will be setup at various places of the State to meet and exchange innovative ideas and for discussion of concerned among the public.

◆ A virtual platform will be set up as Science & Technology Innovation and Commercialisation, Kerala (STICK) for facilitating interaction of R&D institutions, scientists, students, entrepreneurs, etc. and a physical lab will be set up at Technology Innovation Zone, Kalamassery for testing and refining the ideas developed through the platform.

◆ Full-fledged residential campus of Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram will be ready by 31st March 2017.

◆ International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) will be developed into an Academic organisation with focus on the developmental needs of Kerala society taking advantage of global network of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) and Free Knowledge initiatives.

◆ The State Data Centre infrastructure will be strengthened further by upgrading it to international standards.

◆ A State of the Art Security Operations Centre will be built to monitor traffic at the two State Data Centres and the State Wide Area Network and proactively act against potential cyber attacks.

36. e-Office, the Digital Workplace Solution to transform offices to 'Less Paper' offices by automating office procedures will be rolled out in all departments of the Secretariat, all 14 District Collectorates, 21 Sub Collectorates, 75 Taluk offices and Land Revenue Commissionerate. Other Department Directorates will also implement e-Office at the Head Office first and at district levels subsequently.

37. m-Keralam, an unique multi-platform mobile application which will integrate citizen centric e-governance applications enabling citizens on the move to access Government services 24 x 7 will be launched with 75 transactional services and 35 informational services across 42 Government departments.

38. An ambitious plan to provide wired connectivity to all Government Offices using the distribution infrastructure of Kerala State Electricity Board Ltd.(KSEBL) will be launched during the current year at a total cost of Rs.2000 cr. and completed in two years.

39. In the next three months, thousand Wi-Fi hotspots will be made available to the public, one Wi-Fi hotspot in each Panchayat with preference to bus stations/railway stations, A-Grade libraries and similar common waiting facilities.

40. A coordination mechanism will be put in place to bring about synergy among the ICT initiatives of different departments and other government agencies.

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT

41. As the first phase of the decentralization experiment has reached an irreversible stage of consolidation, my Government proposes to embark on the second wave of deepening decentralization. The People's Plan, will be relaunched and will specially focus on formulating implementable plans of action in areas of total sanitation, organic vegetable cultivation and Natural Resources Management including Local Integrated Water Resource Management (LIWRM). Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) will be fully utilised for watershed management.

42. My Government will operationalise the policy decision that was taken in February 2011 to integrate the different cadres under the Department of Local Self Government into a Common Service. Engineers of the Local Self Government Department (LSGD) Engineering Wing would become officers of the Local Governments.

43. Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) has now acquired the status of a National Institution of Excellence in Local Governance, particularly Panchayati Raj. In order to strengthen

it and expand its capability, the State Institute of Rural Development will be merged with KILA.

44. My Government proposes to restructure the present Kerala Town and Country Planning Act, 2016 to fully reflect the spirit of decentralized planning as relevant to the State.

45. My Government intends to restore the pre-eminent position of the District Planning Committees. The Technical Secretariat of the District Planning Committee will be made functional with immediate effect.

46. To meet the growing need of local infrastructure in the State, my Government intends to modify and expand the scope of the Kerala Local Government Development Fund (KLGDF).

47. Kerala has emerged as a global model in decentralization setting well acclaimed best practices. Therefore, it is only appropriate that my Government offers mentoring support to other states in India that are interested in deepening decentralization. KILA will carry out this task.

48. Building on the success of Kudumbasree Neighbourhood Groups, NHGs of people with disabilities as well as of the elderly will be organized.

49. My Government will revitalize the Ashraya programme to provide basic services and facilities to the most marginalized destitutes with the first priority to be given to roofless people. BUDS Schools and BUDS Rehabilitation Centres would be universalized, providing coverage to every child having mental disabilities.

50. My Government intends to take up the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme in one Block Panchayat and one Urban Local Government in all districts and these would become resource clusters for the rest of the district. Kudumbasree will nurture Community Resource Persons in public health to provide basic care services with special emphasis on non-communicable diseases.

SUCHITWA MISSION

51. My Government believes the challenges posed by the increased demands for sanitation and waste management in Kerala needs immediate and accelerated interventions. A concerted plan of action will be drawn up to provide sanitary facility for all rural households by 1st November, 2016, and urban households by 31st March, 2017 through Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs) to make

the State Sustainably Open Defecation Free. Waste Management has to be handled in a decentralized manner following the subsidiarity principle, starting at the household level itself. My Government's approach to sanitation will include an array of interventions which will include recycling, promoting and incentivizing entrepreneurship in recycling through setting up "Recycling Parks", and providing project based funding to LSGIs for a range of projects including solid waste processing plants, Up-Facility Centres for recycling and package septage treatment plants.

52. An extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign shall be launched to sustain a vibrant people's movement for building the civic sense required for nurturing environment friendly behaviour and habits.

AGRICULTURE

53. My Government will strive hard to enhance the extent of land under paddy cultivation to three lakh hectares and for this will also adopt measures like upland paddy cultivation and cultivation in fallow lands. My Government intends to expand the

area of vegetable farming to 50,000 hectares. Organic Farming will be promoted extensively across Kerala and an Organic Farming Policy will be announced. Modern technology for detecting hazardous chemicals and poisonous substances in vegetables will be adopted. 'Agriculture' will be introduced as a subject in the curriculum at the School level. Safe--to--eat vegetables will be supplied through the "Onam Samridhi" Scheme.

54. The Kuttanad Package will be revitalized.

55. A Special Package for addressing price fall in cash crops including rubber will be formulated with the support of the Central Government. Support price for agriculture produce of paddy farmers and coconut farmers will be disbursed in a time bound manner. An Action Plan will be formulated and implemented for increasing the production and productivity of coconut. Farmer Producer Companies would be facilitated to undertake value addition and production of Neera.

56. My Government intends to take steps to distribute Soil Health Card to all farmers in the State.

57. Sales outlets of HortiCorp will be extended to all the Assembly Constituencies and vegetables will be procured at fair price from farmers of the State and sold to consumers at reasonable rate. An ambitious scheme will be launched to provide loans with interest at 4% to farmers and interest free loans to eligible small scale farmers of paddy and vegetables.

58. Customised stalls will be opened across the State to ensure the availability of value added products from farm produces and farm inputs produced by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under the Department and the Agricultural University.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEVELOPMENT

59. In the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Department sector, the core strategy of my Government will be to enhance the production and productivity of livestock, increase income and profits to the farmers and employment and entrepreneurship to youth and weaker sections. My Government intends to launch a mission mode umbrella programme integrating these objectives

and projects of sector agencies. As Kerala can achieve self sufficiency in milk production, with an additional five lakhs metric tonnes of milk, the strategy to enhance milk production will focus on subsidized scientific rearing of calves, mechanizing the milking and processing process, continuing to strengthen the animal health care, production of therapeutics and diagnostics and providing 24x7 veterinary services in select high referral points. On the nutrition side, the fodder production and productivity will be enhanced and the co-operative sector procurement and marketing automated and improved managerially. Modern dairy quality laboratories will be set up and direct cash transfer to beneficiaries Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) will be introduced.

60. In the poultry and meat sector, my Government will target enhancing production to meet the major share of consumption in the State. In addition to introducing superior technology, state of the art management and insurance cover, skill development programmes to unlock the entrepreneurial opportunities in the sector will be launched and aggressive use of information technology will be encouraged. My Government

hopes to enhance employment potential of the sector by 20% and employ three lakh additional entrepreneurs and workers.

HEALTH

61. My Government will implement a comprehensive health programme with the Primary Health Centre(PHC) as the focal point. Primary Care Health Centres will be re-designated as Family Health Centres to focus on health promotion and disease prevention. They will be equipped to identify and solve health problems in their location. Causes of communicable and lifestyle diseases in each locality will be identified and addressed through coordinated efforts of different departments. An epidemiological survey shall be conducted to identify prevalence of disease and to identify the causative factors. Results of the survey would form the basis for prevention and management of diseases. Our ambition is to develop a primary health system for non-communicable diseases. Taluk and District hospitals will be upgraded to provide speciality and super speciality services. Treatment facilities that must be made available at each level shall be defined and in places where such facilities are lacking, they will

be provided in a phased manner. The palliative care network would be linked to PHCs and Community Health Centers (CHCs).

62. The human resources of the Health Department would be reviewed and as the first step, necessary posts would be provided to the upgraded hospitals.

63. My Government will implement a comprehensive e-Health programme in the State. Under this programme, health data of all citizens will be collected at sub-centre level and made the basis for Electronic Health Record (EHR) in future. Using EHR, quality and personalised health services, appropriate to their stage of life can be provided to the citizens. It will be the first comprehensive e-health programme in the country.

64. In Kerala, patients spend large amounts of money at the time of treatment, pushing many of them into poverty. To avoid this, my Government will implement a free treatment programme by coordinating different health care facilities. My Government intends to launch a new prepayment scheme with the help of Insurance Companies to those who do not come under the above schemes, so as to provide a universal prepaid scheme cover for all persons in Kerala.

65. My Government intends to upgrade all Medical Colleges in Kerala as centres of excellence and elevate two of them to the status of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Medicines at low rates shall be made available for lifestyle diseases. Special treatment facilities shall be extended to tribals, fishermen, women, children and disabled. Schemes shall be framed for the rehabilitation of AIDS patients. Special facilities will be provided for the health care of the disabled. The Health University will be strengthened and new research centres will be started. Research facilities in Government Medical Colleges shall also be strengthened.

66. Ayush Treatment systems shall be fully utilised for prevention, control of diseases and health care. Importance will be given to all systems of treatment. An advanced Research Institute shall be established under Ayush. Activities of Pollution Control Board shall be modernised scientifically and the related rules will be implemented stringently in the State.

EDUCATION

67. My Government intends to bring about comprehensive changes from Pre-primary to Higher

Secondary Schools laying emphasis on modernising their infrastructure and academic facilities with an objective to convert them as centres of excellence. A master plan will be evolved for this. Classes from 8 to 12 will be made high-tech. The educational system will be reoriented to make it more student-centric.

68. Emphasis will be laid on learning of the mother tongue from Pre Primary to Higher Secondary Schools. At the same time, learning of the English Language will be promoted, thus building a new generation with excellent command of both the languages.

69. A comprehensive system will be evolved for skill development. The Community Skill Parks under Additional Skill Acquisition Program (ASAP) will be extended to all the districts in the State. Ten more additional Community Skill Parks will be started during the year in addition to the proposed fifteen Skill Parks. The Skill Development Centres of ASAP will be extended to all Assembly Constituencies in the State. Thirty more such Centres will be started.

70. A Programme will be put in place to bring into the mainstream, all the students who are in

need of special attention. Nutritious noon meal will be ensured in the schools.

71. Timely changes will be made to modernise IT@School. School campuses will be converted into Biodiversity Parks and awareness of students will be enhanced on concepts such as organic cultivation of vegetables, decentralised waste management system and water conservation, thus promoting an eco-friendly culture.

72. The literacy movement, which the State pioneered, will be sustained in an inclusive manner.

73. In the field of higher education, my Government shall endeavour to convert Universities as the nerve centres of Higher Education with an objective to align them with the best of educational concepts and practices. More Higher Education Centres will be established in the State. University libraries will be raised to the level of research centres of international standards. Timely reforms will be made in elections and functioning of the governing bodies of the Universities so as to raise their standards to the levels of modern universities.

74. The fruits of basic research undertaken in the Universities will be shared with people's

representatives and the public to disseminate the benefits of research to the society. This will strengthen the relationship between Universities and other socio-economic sectors which will in turn give a new direction to research. University-Industry linkages will be fostered in all the Universities.

75. Engineering colleges will be converted as centres of excellence. Transformational changes will be made so as to take full advantage of the scope of technical education in the State.

76. As part of modernisation of Higher Education Sector, action will be initiated to establish Information Power House (Learning portal) during the year.

SPORTS AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

77. My Government would take pro-active steps to introduce yoga in schools. It intends to construct 'Kayika Bhavan' to bring under one roof different agencies in the field of sports and youth affairs. In order to boost tourism, my Government would attempt to get the hosting rights of Asian Beach Games.

78. The functioning of the Directorate of Sports and the Sports Council would be harmonized to avoid overlaps, duplication and to bring about synergy. Sports incubators would be set up, especially in educational institutions. A separate programme for promoting sports among girls would be launched, including formation of exclusive Sports Clubs for them.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

79. My Government believes that the Cultural Affairs Department has a vital role in promoting and disseminating the unique culture of Kerala and preserving our heritage and tradition. The key activities for the year will include developing the Kerala Kalamandalam Deemed University into a Cultural University, reviving folk arts facing the risk of extinction, documentation of rock art, completing ongoing conservation works in a time bound manner and taking up new conservation works of heritage value as well as museums and art galleries. My Government will undertake construction of a new building for the Sree Chitra Art Gallery and complete setting up of the Vaikom Šatyagraha Memorial Museum.

80. Thrissur Zoo would be shifted to the new campus at the earliest.

81. The functioning of academies would be augmented and financial support provided.

82. Considering the role of Biennale in positioning Kerala in the global cultural landscape, my Government will continue to extend support to this initiative.

83. A Film City in tune with the requirements of modern cinema would be developed in the Chitranjali Studio Complex.

FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES

84. My Government is committed to ensure that prices of essential commodities are kept under check. There will be no hike in price of the thirteen subsidized commodities sold through Maveli stores. Market intervention will be strengthened through Supplyco. One of the first decisions that my Government took was to double the budgetary allocation for Supplyco to Rs.150 cr.

85. More Maveli medicals, petrol bunks and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) outlets will be

opened during this financial year. New Supplyco outlets will be opened in all the 38 Grama Panchayats without Maveli stores and existing Maveli stores will be upgraded into supermarkets based on their operational performance. New peoples bazars will be opened in selected district centres to make available all consumables under one umbrella.

86. My Government shall endeavour to make the Public Distribution System (PDS) system more effective and steps will be taken to eradicate corruption. Stringent steps will be taken to stop black marketing, hoarding, artificial inflation of prices and deception. Government will effectively intervene in irregularities reported in cooking gas distribution.

87. My Government will implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) ensuring that all the households availing subsidized ration at present will continue to get it.

88. The existing Below Poverty Line (BPL) demarcation exempts a considerable section of poor people from the public distribution system. Rice will be distributed to the BPL- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families free of cost. My Government

will devise schemes to include various unorganized labourers and workers included in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme [MGNREGS] in the BPL category so as to ensure free ration for them also.

89. My Government shall lay stress on modernising ration shops, completing the distribution of ration cards, and diversifying the range of activities in the existing ration shop network.

90. My Government hopes to transform Kerala into a 'hunger free state' and to this end will introduce a scheme to provide 'One time free meals for the needy' with the involvement of the private sector and Kudumbasree.

INDUSTRIES

91. The thrust of my Government will be to ensure that new enterprises are set up for generating more employment opportunities for the workforce of the State. Steps will be taken to encourage investments in the State. The delay faced by entrepreneurs for starting new enterprises will be eliminated.

92. One of the notable achievements of the last LDF Government was its success in rejuvenating the public sector and turning them around. Most of them are now in the red and are sick. My Government will give special priority to the revival and revitalization of the Public Sector Units adopting the time tested approach of the previous LDF Government.

93. A slew of measures will be adopted to build an effective and conducive environment to facilitate fast and dynamic growth of the industrial and handicrafts sectors.

- ◆ Procedures for starting small scale industries will be simplified by introducing a self-certification scheme and a single window clearance system.

- ◆ Efforts will be taken for promoting value added products of coconut, banana, jackfruit, pineapple, etc. based on local availability.

- ◆ Necessary technological inputs for fostering industrial sector will be ensured through strengthening of the linkage between Industrial Units and Research & Development (R&D) institutions.

◆ Entrepreneurs will be provided online services by linking District Industries Centres and Taluk Industries Centres through Kerala State Wide Area Network (KSWAN).

◆ Industrial Estates will be started in association with Local Self Government Institutions as well as co-operative institutions.

◆ Financial assistance will be extended to artisans for starting enterprises.

◆ A brand building campaign in association with the tourism sector will be launched to enhance the marketing of handicraft products.

◆ Scientific marketing of 'Ethnic Kerala' handicraft products.

◆ Sick Industrial Co-operative Societies in the State will be revitalised after conducting proper study.

◆ Financial assistance will be extended to Co-operative Spinning Mills.

◆ Interventions will be made to rejuvenate the Textile sector.

94. My Government intends to extend financial assistance through Kerala State Industries Development Corporation (KSIDC) to innovative start-ups to encourage budding entrepreneurs. Financial assistance will be provided to women entrepreneurship by KSIDC as part of promoting Women Entrepreneurship. The Natural Gas Pipe Line Project will be completed in a definite time frame.

95. My Government will take steps to enhance the efficiency and transparency of PSUs through timely review of their functioning. Effective steps will be taken to turn around loss making units in a step by step manner. Modernisation and revival projects of various PSUs will be reviewed and those found to be imperative shall be proceeded further.

96. Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) will be made more transparent and entrepreneur friendly. The Life Science Park at Thonnakkal will be completed and the opportunities available in Life Science sector will be fruitfully utilized. Keltron would be revitalized.

97. My Government will pursue setting up of Defence Park at Ottapalam in Palakkad district as

a major manufacturing facility for defence products, under the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India.

98. My Government intends to restrict mining of iron ore, rare earths, etc. to the public sector. Possibility of starting mineral based industries will be explored and all unauthorised mining activities will be regulated. Steps will be taken for the diversification of PSUs which have been closed down due to mining related issues.

99. e-Pass system will be adopted to enhance the transparency of issuance of permits by Directorate of Mining & Geology. Industries which have become sick due to shortage of clay will be protected.

CASHEW

100. My Government will strengthen the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation and Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Industrial Co-operative Society Limited (CAPEX) through infusion of adequate funds for ensuring supply of raw material in time to the factories. Thrust will be given to modernisation and partial mechanisation of factories of the Cashew Development Corporation and CAPEX

and more value added production. The Kerala State Agency for Expansion of Cashew Cultivation will take up the work of expanding the area under cashew cultivation in the State. Emphasis will be given to organic cashew cultivation and establishment of Raw Nut Bank.

101. My Government will also examine the feasibility of taking land on lease in other states for developing cashew plantations to tackle the shortage of raw cashew nuts. Also, Government will examine the possibility of according plantation status to cashew.

COIR

102. Coir sector that supports the livelihood, though at subsistence levels, of tens of thousands of workers, is today facing severe challenges from alternative materials and competing states and countries. My Government shall ensure minimum wages and employment to the traditional workers, and at the same time, promote rapid modernisation of the coir industry. Government will ensure infusion of funds through Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) at reasonable interest rates and soft terms and also offer investment subsidy to private entrepreneurs.

103. Coconut producer companies will be encouraged to undertake collection and de-fibering of coconut husk thereby contributing to the profit of both the farmers and companies alike. Kudumbasree units will also be incentivised for the collection of husk and de-fibering. The fibre so produced will be purchased by Coir Fed and supplied to coir spinning co-operatives with guaranteed procurement of the yarn produced. The yarn will be supplied to small scale producers whose coir products will be procured by Coir Corporation at agreed purchase price. My Government will introduce rebate on coir products so that the products are successfully marketed.

HANDLOOM, KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES

104. Steps will be taken to provide yarn at concessional rates to Handloom Co-operatives and also to modernize looms. The handloom co-operative sector would be re-organized to ensure higher job creation. Handloom clusters would be set up in selected Block Panchayats. Handloom-based uniform would be promoted. Production of Hantex and Hanveev would be increased.

105. Cluster programmes of Khadi and Village Industries would be strengthened and the conditions of workers improved, including revision of Minimum Wages. Solar powered charka would be popularized. Special support would be extended to clay and lime shell co-operatives. Hybrid coconut trees would be promoted to help toddy-tapping. Activities of Artisan Corporations would be diversified.

106. Existing income generation programmes in Handloom, Khadi and Bamboo would be expanded to provide at least hundred days employment.

107. My Government would proactively promote the marketing of the products of all traditional industries. Also efforts to modernize the Toddy Industry would be actively pursued.

TOURISM

108. My Government will accord priority to employment creation in tourism. A new scheme will be introduced for creating job oriented skills to the youths, especially from the rural area. Principles of Responsible Tourism (RT) ensuring

benefits to local community will be broad based to entire destinations and an RT Classification for tourism units will be introduced. Corrective measures will be taken to arrest the fall of tourist arrivals to Kerala and to double the foreign tourist arrivals in Kerala within the next five years.

109. Thrust of my Government will be on strengthening the tourism infrastructure through comprehensive waste management programmes, construction of basic infrastructure at all major tourist destinations and improvement of wayside facilities including signages and information centres. Upkeep and maintenance of the destination will be institutionalised. Conservation and preservation of heritage will be a focal area. Alappuzha Heritage Conservation initiative will be taken up in line with Muziris Heritage Project. Spice Route Circuit will be conceived as the next major international tourism product.

110. My Government lays prime importance on ensuring the safety and security of the tourists and will be forming contingency response cells. Service of lifeguards and tourist wardens will be extended to more destinations.

111. Leading manpower institutes in the State such as Kerala Institute of Tourism & Travel Studies (KITTS), State Institute of Hospitality Management (SIHM), Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (IHMCT), Kerala Institute of Hospitality Management Studies (KIHMS) etc will be strengthened and KITTS will be developed into a centre of excellence.

112. My Government intends to formulate a Pilgrim Tourism Policy connecting the pilgrim and cultural centres in Kerala. An annual calendar of major festivals in Kerala will be prepared. Handicrafts Festivals will be organized as part of linking the industry with Tourism sector.

FOREST

113. My Government is committed to conservation, protection and upgradation of existing forests. No encroachment would be tolerated.

114. In the context of global warming and climate change apart from conservation of existing forests, special emphasis will be given to social afforestation. Also planting of timber, fruits and medicinal trees would be encouraged.

115. My Government accords importance to Community based ecotourism in the forests with special emphasis on environmental education and visitor security. 500 youth from forest dependant communities, especially tribals would be trained as ecotourism guides. Scientific study on environment impact of visits to forest areas in connection with ecotourism will be conducted. Schemes and programmes in this field would be systematically implemented to enhance the employment potential in this field to a minimum of 1500 mandays per day in the coming five years.

116. My Government will extend Forest Stations to the remaining forest areas also, over the period of next five years. My Government is committed to complete the task of demarcating the Forest Boundary in the State and will complete the process for the 3000 km. remaining to be demarcated.

117. Camera traps in forests throughout the State helps keep a constant vigil over the forest area. 1000 more cameras will be installed soon. My Government intends to strengthen the communication network in forest areas for the protection of forest areas and wildlife.

ENVIRONMENT

118. My Government is committed to the State's development without damaging or compromising on its environment and will strive to find a balance between Environment Protection, Conservation and Development. A White paper on the status of the environment in Kerala will be published within six months. Given the importance of the Western Ghats in the ecology of Kerala, my Government intends to devise a conservation strategy for Western Ghats in consultation with the farmers and local public. Environmental clearances will be given only after diligent and stringent appraisal and impact assessment.

119. My Government intends to prepare a comprehensive policy for reducing pollution on the basis of a study and shall enforce the regulations with the active participation of the Local Self Governments. Mining activities including river sand mining will be regulated based on scientific studies. Mining in the State especially Black Sand mining will be brought under Public Sector, ensuring necessary ecological safeguards and value addition. A database, as envisaged in the Kerala Conservation

of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008 will be prepared with the help of satellite imagery and published within one year. My Government intends to promote rainwater harvesting and reuse of water in the State. The newly constituted Wetland Authority will be strengthened to regulate and conserve wetlands in the State. Biodiversity register at Panchayath/Municipality Level will be prepared and updated scientifically.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

120. My Government realizes that even though we have a host of institutions in the state doing commendable work, the benefits of their research work have not yet trickled down to the community at large. The answers to many of the problems faced by Kerala as a society can be derived from channelising effectively the research areas of these institutions and my government would give utmost priority to this aspect.

FISHERIES

121. My Government recognizes the vital importance of the fishing sector that provides occupation and livelihood for the coastal population.

My Government is of the view that the recommendations of the Meena Kumari Committee Report constituted for the reviewing of the deep sea fishing and existing policy are detrimental to the interests of the fishermen of the State. My Government seeks the early implementation of the recommendations of the Committee led by Dr. S. Ayyappan.

122. My Government accords prime importance to protecting the traditional rights of the fishermen over fishery resources and coastal areas. Fishermen vulnerable to sea erosion will be rehabilitated to safe locations on priority basis over the next three years.

123. Thrust will be given for ensuring basic amenities such as pure drinking water, sanitary toilets and waste management systems in all fishing villages with the support of Suchitwa Mission.

124. Concerted efforts will be made for empowering traditional fishermen for deep sea fishing by providing resource-specific fishing vessels and skill upgradation of traditional fishermen. My Government shall endeavour to make the State

self-sufficient in fish seed production by augmenting existing production capacity of fish seed farms and hatcheries and establishing new seed farms.

125. Apart from the initiatives in marine fisheries sector, my Government will come with a set of practical schemes to increase the inland fisheries sector.

126. A comprehensive data bank of fishermen of the state will be prepared and family cards will be provided to all registered fishermen to channelize assistance to them more effectively. Matsyabhavans will be made more functional by providing basic infrastructure facilities and manpower. Kerosene will be supplied to all eligible fishermen at subsidised rate. Steps will also be taken to provide diesel subsidy to fishing crafts.

127. My Government intends to enact a comprehensive Aquarian Reforms Act to protect the rights of the active fishermen in the ownership of the fishing implements, entry to sea and access to marine resources. The Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1980 (KMFR Act, 1980) will be amended for addressing the present challenges in maritime fisheries resource conservation.

128. My Government will seek the support of the Union Government in curbing the encroachment of Foreign fishing vessels/Letter of Permission (LOP) vessels in the territorial sea of the Kerala coast and also to implement the Murari Committee recommendations in its letter and spirit. Fishermen Welfare and Development Societies will be strengthened and reorganised and the activities of the Kerala Fishermen Debt Relief Commission will be revamped. My Government will draw up a special package for the integrated development of the coastal area of the State as a whole.

HOUSING

129. My Government will launch a scheme for providing universal housing for the homeless and landless in a time bound manner. An immediate enumeration of the exact number of homeless families in the State will be done as the first step and beneficiaries prioritized using transparent criteria to be laid down by Government. The scheme will be launched this year itself. Also a separate scheme will be drawn up to complete unfinished houses in Government schemes and disburse the arrears in subsidy.

130. Prefab technology will be popularised to realise the goal of providing affordable houses to all. A programme to train youth in construction will be taken up across the State.

131. This is the centenary year of late Dr. Laurie Baker, a people's architect. The best memorial to him would be to mainstream his building techniques into the public works system. This, my Government shall endeavour to do in the current year. An institution will be nurtured in his honour as the Laurie Baker International School of Habitat Studies to promote his cost effective and green construction technologies.

CO-OPERATION

132. My Government intends to strengthen existing SC/ST and Vanitha Co-operative Societies and Marketing Co-operatives. "Suvarnam Shops" will be opened as part of the Organic Vegetable Farming Scheme introduced by the Co-operative Department. To help the rubber farmers in the State, Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation Limited (RUBBERMARK) will diversify into other products and increase production of existing products.

133. Apex Federations in the Co-operative sector will be strengthened. Co-operative Societies will be equipped for starting e-commerce. Special efforts will be taken to make all viable registered co-operative societies functioning and liquidate dormant societies.

134. My Government will initiate action to integrate the State and District Co-operative Banks into a single apex institution of Primary Agricultural Co-operatives (PACs). This will help foster investment and credit creation in the State and boost infrastructure and local development significantly. Core banking network of Co-operative Banks will be implemented. An extensive distribution and collection network will be implemented with the help of Kudumbasree Mission for insulating the poor from the stranglehold of private money lenders.

135. The activities of Consumerfed which have been plagued by inefficiency and corruption shall be restructured and the chain of retail networks shall be made meaningful instruments in containing the hardships caused to the poorer sections of society on account of price rises.

LABOUR AND SKILLS

136. My Government will initiate steps to identify and register interstate migrant workers who now are an important section of the workforce in the State. Government now intends to introduce a new scheme AAWAZ, a Health Insurance Scheme for them. Thrust will be given to skill development schemes for the youth and a Placement Linked Employability Programme will be introduced. My Government will draw up a comprehensive legislation for the welfare and regulation of migrant workers.

137. My Government intends to upgrade infrastructure and amenities of the Industrial Training Institutes to international standards. Web Enabled Risk Weighted Inspection Scheme will be introduced in factories to prioritize inspections and ensure that infringements are detected and corrected promptly. An Occupational Health and Industrial Hygiene Survey will be conducted to provide Occupational Health Services to workers employed in the factories of Kerala. "Kaivalya" scheme will be introduced for empowering the differently abled persons who possess aptitude in entrepreneurship by providing them with necessary

financial assistance and training. More workers would be brought into the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees State Insurance(ESI) schemes.

PUBLIC WORKS

138. The focus of the Public Works Department(PWD) will be on promoting an hitherto unparalleled impetus to the scale of capital investment in public works in the State while simultaneously bringing in innovation, increasing work efficiency, eliminating delays and ensuring quality of public works.

139. Let me emphasise the policy orientation of my Government in the sphere of public works centred on quality assurance. The PRICE software (Project Information and Cost Estimation) created by PWD and National Informatics Centre(NIC) for estimate preparation and online approval, acclaimed widely, will be developed further with the second phase of development covering computerised bill preparation (e-bill), e-measurement book, progress monitoring and digitisation of assets.

140. My Government will ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the new Quality Manual and Laboratory Manual for PWD. These

measures will be enhanced with a third tier quality auditing by independent agency for works under PWD from this year. Quality Control labs will obtain certifications from Central Government Quality Control Organisations. "Green Building Concepts" will be adopted in design of all new building constructions to be taken up by PWD during the coming years in line with the concept of sustainable energy efficient and environment friendly building construction that is gaining prominence worldwide.

141. During this year, Public Works Department will take up and execute at least 100 Km of roads using waste shredded plastic in the State for road surfacing / resurfacing. This will also, to a certain extent, help address the ecological problems of disposal of plastic waste and will be in line with the recommendations of the Indian Road Congress on the use of waste plastic in hot bituminous mixes for road works.

142. My Government proposes to encourage the use of NRMB (Natural Rubber Modified Bitumen) produced by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for resurfacing about 500 km length of road this year.

143. To hasten the pace of development, my Government will extensively adopt cost-effective technologies, which use local materials and, which are eco-friendly. This would include use of rubber, plastics and coir geotextiles in road construction, use of green technologies in public buildings and so on. My Government shall ensure time-bound identification and adoption of such technologies in different construction practices in the first six months itself.

144. This year PWD will update all data of existing Roads & Bridges and complete GIS mapping of all roads owned and maintained by the Department. Action will be taken to erect boards showing the details of the roads maintained and owned by PWD and local governments.

145. My Government will proceed with the light metro works in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode on the basis of DPR already prepared. As an immediate measure, works on the four flyovers in Thiruvananthapuram at Sreekaryam, Ulloor, Pattom and Thampanoor would commence during the current year itself.

146. Social Auditing will be adopted in PWD works.

147. My Government believes that the Public Works Department in Kerala has a very rich and bright talent pool of Engineers. This 'Engineer' force shall be transformed into an eminently well respected "Nation Building Cadre".

TRANSPORT

148. In the Motor Vehicles Department, the thrust shall be on modernization. Driver Testing Tracks and Vehicle Testing Stations will be set up in seven more locations following a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. Smart card based driving licences and registration certificates will be issued. A Road Safety Corps for training school children in road safety activities will be constituted. More e-Services will be offered to ensure a faster service to citizens. Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking system in the public transport services will be installed for better road safety and ensuring security, particularly of women. A centralized system for monitoring of Pollution Testing Centres and pollution certificates as a part of reducing the environmental impact caused by automobiles is under consideration.

149. In the aftermath of the Fort Kochi boat mishap, my Government proposes to procure nine Catamaran Vessels with double hull and double engine and five Catamaran Vessels with Single hull for the Water Transport Department. Five rescue boats will be added to tackle emergency stations. Modern equipments like GPS Vessel Tracking System and display system on vessels will be installed to educate passengers regarding use of various safety equipments in Vessels and Stations during emergencies.

150. My Government shall consider a proposal of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) for introduction of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses in major cities in the state as well as evaluate the feasibility of operating electric buses using batteries. Public transportation facilities will be improved with modern facilities through the Kerala Urban Road Transport Corporation (KURTC). Electric and CNG bus services connecting the Metro Rail Project will be introduced.

151. My Government proposes to commence the actual implementation of the Integrated Water Transportation Project for providing 78 fast and modern boats, constructing 38 new jetties, and

building access infrastructure along the lagoon and waterways in the Greater Kochi area to be implemented by the Kochi Metro Rail Corporation. Work on the extension of the Kochi Metro Rail line to Kakkanad at an estimated cost of Rs. 2024 cr. will be commenced this year, after obtaining due approvals from the Government of India. Commercial operation of the first phase of the Kochi Metro Rail Project is scheduled to partially commence in the first half of the year 2017.

152. The dream Greenfield Airport Project at Kannur will be completed by February, 2017 and the flight operations can be started from there during this financial year itself.

153. Cochin International Airport Limited is in the process of completing its third terminal of about 15 lakh sq. feet area. It is expected that by September, 2016 flight operations can be made from the new terminal which is about 15 lakh sq. feet in area.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

154. My Government shall aim to optimally utilize the excellent network of canal systems, backwaters and water bodies that the State has

been endowed with. The focus shall be on developing the inland waterways aimed at promoting both water transport and tourism development along the waterways in the future.

155. Steps shall be taken to progressively extend the West Coast National Waterway Canal beyond Kollam in the south and Kottapuram in the north such that the entire north-south corridor of inland waterways stretching from Hosdurg in the north to Kovalam in the south can be declared a National Waterway within three years. The Vadakara-Mahe stretch of the West Coast canal, the Kollam-Kovalam stretch and the Kollamthodu widening and cross- structures shall be completed. Detailed investigation of the Mahe-Valapattanam stretch shall also be carried out.

WATER RESOURCES

156. My Government will focus on Integrated Water Resources Conservation and Management, River Rejuvenation and widening the reach of Water Supply Schemes. Watersheds as the basic units of water conservation and integration of the watersheds into river basins shall be the strategic focus for conservation and management efforts.

157. My Government will promote rejuvenation of ponds and wells and rainwater harvesting for water conservation and recharge, with the support of LSGIs. The possibility of linking series of ponds to address local water requirements shall be explored. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) will be put to good use in developing ponds as irrigation sources. A series of water storage structures such as regulators, mini-dams and check dams would be constructed at appropriate locations along the length of the rivers.

158. My Government intends to adopt groundwater management through scientific principles involving aquifer mapping and groundwater recharge. Conjunctive use of ground and surface water shall be promoted. A participatory approach in association with local bodies will be adopted to address pollution of water bodies.

159. The Kerala Water Resources Information System shall be developed as a tool to facilitate water management decisions. Water conservation measures at the watershed and basin levels along with construction of water storage structures like regulators, mini dams and check dams along the length of the rivers shall be thrust areas.

160. My Government intends to widen the reach of Water Supply Schemes to provide universal coverage of drinking water of assured quality. The strategy for this will be based on rehabilitation/ augmentation of available water supply infrastructure. By completing and commissioning the ongoing schemes of Kerala Water Authority, 60% of Kerala's population will gain access to safe, piped drinking water supply. New projects shall be taken up to cover the remaining population with protected water supply with priority to local governments not covered by any scheme.

161. To combat the severe problems of coastal erosion, measures, utilizing a mix of local appropriate and cost-effective 'green' technologies would be taken.

INTERSTATE WATERS

162. My Government stands by the resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly regarding Mullapperiyar dam. However, considering the legal position arising out of the Supreme Court judgment, my Government legally would focus on establishing the need to get a new multi-disciplinary team consisting of the best available experts to assess

the safety, strength and durability of the dam structure as well as remedial measures in this regard.

POWER

163. My Government is committed to follow a sustainable development model while pursuing energy security of the State to provide power for all, at affordable cost and will electrify all households in the State by 2017 to become the first State in the country to achieve this milestone.

164. My Government is of the firm view that conventional power sources cannot be neglected while pursuing the goal of energy security and will therefore continue to engage with stakeholders to see how more hydel power projects and at least a new Thermal Power Plant can be taken up with minimal adverse impact on the environment. Power generation from renewable energy sources will be enhanced at a rapid pace to ensure that at least 10% of the total consumption shall be met from renewable sources by 2020. The immediate major initiative will be the 200 MW Solar Park at Kasaragod. Also utilizing canals to promote solar power would be explored.

165. Kerala's transmission system is characterized by heavy dependence on energy import. My Government intends to take up time-bound execution of the 400 KV Edamon-Kochi transmission line, crucial for our import of power. KSEBL is working on an innovative project, Transgrid 2.0, to convey more power through the same Right of Way (ROW) by improving the equipment deployed. The High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) project will be implemented through the Power Grid Corporation to augment the State's transmission capacity for importing power.

166. My Government is committed to improving the quality of power supply in the State by revamping the distribution network and phased introduction of smart grid. This will also facilitate integration of renewable energy at consumer premises. The IT infrastructure of KSEBL will be leveraged to provide newer services for customers. My Government also intends to set up the Advanced Research and Development Centre in Electrical Power Systems (AR & DCE).

167. To inculcate energy conservation culture in children, Energy Smart School Programme will be extended through the Energy Management Centre to all UP Schools and High Schools.

168. Grid interactive Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) power plants of capacities ranging from 2 to 100 M will be set up through Agency for Non-Conventional Energy and Rural Technology (ANERT). Installation of institutional and domestic biogas plants to achieve biogas generation of 9,000 cubic meters per day along with disposal of organic waste in a decentralized manner will also be taken up.

HARBOUR

169. The thrust of the Harbour Engineering Department will be to complete the works on fishing harbours and other ongoing infrastructure works. New fishing harbours will be considered to be taken up this year with the concurrence of the Government of India after carefully assessing the ecological impact. The construction of a breakwater in Veli will be taken up. Upgradation of Coastal Roads will also be initiated this year.

PORTS

170. My Government realises the vital importance of the Ports sector for the economic development of the State. Several strategic

measures are being planned for the growth of this sector. Vizhinjam Port will be completed on time. Container transportation of cargo through Azheekkal will be started soon. Container transportation will be diverted through coastal shipping yielding significant savings in transportation costs and positive environmental effects.

171. My Government also proposes new initiatives to develop Non-major Ports at Kollam, Vizhinjam, Azhikkal, Beypore for serving industries like Cement, Steel, Tiles and other consumables. Maritime Courses will commence in Kerala Maritime Institute Neendakara and Kodungallur. The Sand Purification project at Ponnani and the construction of Dry Dock at Alappuzha for inland vessel, both under PPP model, will be completed. My Government is actively considering opening passenger vessel service along the Kerala Coast.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

172. My Government will take time bound steps to construct buildings for all Anganawadis, not having buildings of their own, by locating land and

converging with MGNREGS. Thrust will be given for training programmes of Anganawadi workers/helpers.

173. Integrated 24 hours One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) will be set up in the State for the protection of women by coordinating all state level agencies like Police, Law, Health and counselling will be provided for needy women. Nirbhaya Shelter Homes, that will provide protection to women and girls who are victims of sex violence and sex trafficking will be established in all the districts.

174. A programme would be designed for transgenders.

175. My Government will introduce a scheme "Balasuraksha" with the partnership of the whole society, to protect the rights and to prevent the atrocities against children. Focused efforts will be taken to prevent malnutrition and infant deaths in the tribal areas. A quick response team will be constituted to address emergency situations. A special scheme would be put in place for Street Children.

176. My Government will coordinate all social security schemes in various sectors to eliminate duplication so that assistance can be extended to more beneficiaries. Existing policies in the Social Justice Department will be reviewed and timely action will be taken to frame new policies focusing on the upliftment of the weaker sections. District level offices under the Social Justice Department will be functionally realigned to meet their emerging roles. A database will be developed through e-kshema software for effective monitoring of various social security schemes.

177. My Government will take steps to conduct social audit to evaluate various schemes implemented for women, children, physically challenged and old age people. An Act for registering the homeless will be framed. National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (NIPMR) will be developed as a national level institute for the clinical services, research and education.

178. Kerala is the first State in India, which has conducted the disability census. This data will be made available to local bodies and various agencies in the State for coordinating care efforts for the

disabled. Apart from this, UDID (Unified Disabled Identity Card) will be provided to all the above persons.

179. Action will be taken to fill up the vacancies reserved for the physically disabled persons. My Government will put in place a mechanism to protect the mentally challenged persons in the State numbering over a lakh. An integrated project will be set up to identify learning disability in children in the initial stage itself and take necessary corrective measures. Early Identification and Intervention Centres for disabilities will be established in all districts.

180. My Government will consider constituting of a Special Tribunal for implementation of the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. Kerala will be transformed into an old age friendly State. An effective social care corps, "We Care Voluntary Corps", will be constituted under Kerala Social Security Mission (KSSM) for extending support to needy individuals.

181. My Government proposes to start Dementia Care Centres to assist persons with Dementia. The 'Pakal Veedu' running in the State

will be revamped. Special attention will be given to the social security of workers particularly women in the un-organised sectors.

SCHEDULED CASTES

182. It will be my Government's endeavour to work for the holistic development of the Scheduled Caste population of our State. My Government will enact a legislation to ensure accelerated development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and to see that the funds allocated for their development are spent for the purpose envisaged, and the reservation earmarked to persons belonging to the SC/ST categories is given to them. My Government intends to increase the rate of financial assistance given under various welfare schemes like marriage assistance, inter caste marriage, educational allowance, self-employment subsidy etc.

183. Definitive standards for facilities and services in Model Residential Schools and SC/ST hostels will be laid down and a time-bound plan initiated to fill up gaps. Special Courts will be established to handle the cases under atrocities against Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes.

184. My Government proposes to formulate a scheme for the holistic development of SC girl child namely 'Valsalyanidhi' this year. The 44 ITIs under the Department will be strengthened as special finishing schools to address the low level of employability among scheduled castes.

SCHEDULED TRIBES

185. My Government is aware of the painful reality that the incidence of poverty among Scheduled Tribes in Kerala is two-and-a-half fold that of the rest of Kerala's rural BPL population. Most of the tribes have not benefited from the Land Reforms Act of Kerala though the legislation itself was designed to reduce landlessness. The State has witnessed several harrowing struggles clamouring for land for the tribal people – a blot on the conscience of any democratic society. Let me emphasise here that the projects and policies of my Government will focus on provision of land for the landless tribal population, progressive reduction in poverty and creation of employment, improving standard of living and quality of life and developing and strengthening infrastructure for further economic growth.

186. Development Rights will be ensured for Tribes residing in forests. My Government intends to provide financial assistance for improving the existing shelters and construction of new houses for houseless families and those living in dilapidated houses beyond renovation or repair.

187. My Government proposes to provide electricity and drinking water to all ST families converging available resources. Priority will be given for the revival of existing schemes like 'Swajaldhara', 'Jalanidhi' and existing schemes of Water Authority and Ground Water Department. New projects will be taken up wherever essential. Eco-development of Tribal habitats would be given special importance.

188. My Government shall address the vexing maladies of malnutrition, hunger and poverty among tribals by giving them wages in terms of cash and food grains through Food Support Programme and supply of food items conforming to their tastes and preferences. Land based activities in agriculture and allied sectors will be encouraged to increase food production and ensure food security. Specific schemes will be devised for providing nutritional meals to all Paniyas/Adiyas/

Malapandaram/Aranadan/Hill Pulaya and PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) living in remote forest areas for addressing their malnutrition problem. In addition to the above, food kits will be distributed to the tribal families during Onam and special occasions. Community Kitchens and Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres will be provided in all the settlements where there is chronic malnutrition.

189. My Government shall launch a Tribal Girl Child Endowment Scheme to ensure proper education to girl children backed by a long term insurance linked deposit scheme encashable only after the child attains 18 years of age and has at least passed 10th standard.

190. My Government proposes to accord high priority for ensuring high quality educational opportunities to all tribal communities. Specific interventions to arrest the high rate of dropout among tribal students including teacher training, language training and transportation facilities to educational institutions coupled with measures like improving infrastructure in Model Residential Schools and Ashram Schools, career guidance, support and follow up, extending more vocational

education facilities and enhancing employability of the educated unemployed ST youth will be incorporated as part of a multi-pronged strategy.

191. My Government shall take special efforts to promote sports and arts among tribal students. The vibrancy and diversity of tribal culture will be nurtured with the support of Kerala Kala Mandalam, Folklore Academy and Lalitha Kala Academy.

BACKWARD COMMUNITIES

192. My Government shall give priority for educational development of the Backward Communities recognizing that backwardness in education is the foremost hurdle that impedes their speedy socio-economic development. The Backward Classes Development Department will be operating ten programmes including Scholarships and assistance to Other Backward Class (OBC) and Other Eligibility Class (OEC) students, Employability Enhancement Programmes and Skill Development. My Government intends to formulate a policy for their comprehensive development. Assistance extended through the Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation and the Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Converts and Recommended Communities will be expanded further in scope.

MINORITY WELFARE

193. My Government is committed to fully implementing the recommendations of Paloli Committee Report. Regular grant will be sanctioned for the Haj Committee and the financial assistance to Waqf Board will be increased. Concerted efforts will be made to recover alienated Waqf properties through a special survey. Waqf properties will be utilised for income generation to strengthen the Board financially. Recruitment to the posts under the Waqf Board would be entrusted to Public Service Commission (PSC), which would ensure that meritorious candidates from the Muslim community get selected. Emphasis will be given on providing e-literacy and computer training for minorities.

FORWARD COMMUNITIES

194. My Government will empower the Kerala State Welfare Corporation for Forward Communities by providing adequate funds for the projects formulated by the Corporation.

SAINIK WELFARE

195. Considering the large number of Keralites in the armed forces, my Government will place thrust on ensuring that the sainik welfare activities are streamlined.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

196. The capacity of Government Presses will be optimally utilized and procurement systems in Stationery Department shall be overhauled to ensure transparency.

NON RESIDENT KERALITES

197. My Government acknowledges the invaluable contribution of the large number of Non Resident Keralites working abroad in different countries across the globe to the social and economic development of the State.

198. My Government intends to make the Skill Upgradation Programme of Non Resident Keralites Affairs (NORKA) Department comprehensive to impart multiple skills to prospective emigrants to enable them to gain employment in foreign countries. Thrust shall be given to organize country

specific pre-departure orientation programmes and proactive steps will be taken to ensure the rehabilitation of returnee migrants. My Government intends to channelize the savings of NRKs productively and shall set up a Business Facilitation Centre to promote investment of Non Resident Keralites in the State.

HOME

199. Effective law enforcement through an efficient police force is a sine-qua-non for good governance and socio-economic development. My Government will make all efforts to take all steps to give a clean, transparent and efficient service-oriented police administration to the people of Kerala. The Government will bring in a proper Human Resources Development Policy in the Police Department, which will cover recruitment, training and promotion in a structured manner.

200. Police modernization will be a structured exercise and will envisage application of appropriate technology. Infrastructure development will be taken up for traffic regulation and enforcement, which will include a State Level Traffic Control and Monitoring Centre. Considering the increase in the

abuse of Cyberspace in the state, Cybercrime investigation, training and infrastructure development will be given priority. A progressive scheme to upgrade all police stations to make them Smart Police Stations will be implemented. A Public Web Portal Facility in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) Project will be rolled out to benefit the public.

201. My Government will take up the matter with the Central Government to sanction one India Reserve (IR) Marine Battalion for handling Coastal Security and one more IR Battalion, which will help in handling insurgency and terrorism related issues in the state. A new robust women safety and security scheme will be introduced. We will also examine the feasibility of bringing in an all women battalion. My Government will also increase the representation of women officers at the cutting edge level. A robust women safety and security scheme will be introduced.

202. My Government will step-up the resources of the Fire and Rescue Department by increasing the number of fire stations and procuring modern fire-fighting and rescue equipments. The feasibility of starting fire stations for the Secretariat and

Padmanabhaswamy Temple will be examined. My Government intends to enact a new Fire Force Act and Rules to reflect the emerging challenges in fire and rescue services. The training academy at Viyyur will be restructured and strengthened. The Civil Defence Academy will also be strengthened with the optimum use of human resources.

203. The thrust of the Prisons Department will be in the two key areas, viz., Modernisation of Prisons and Welfare of Prisoners. Infrastructure works in the High Security Prison, Viyyur and District Jails will be expedited. Wireless communication facilities will be expedited. Vocational centres, yoga and training centres in selected prisons and multi-storeyed prayer halls for different religions will be set up. My Government will ensure that video-conferencing facility, connecting major prisons with the courts will be taken up and completed at the earliest.

204. My Government will take every step possible to weed out corruption. The Vigilance machinery will be strengthened. We will ensure that awareness is created using modern technology, including social media. We will also enlist the support and participation of youth through

educational institutions, non-governmental organizations and other citizen groups for marching towards good governance. Vulnerable people, processes, places, plans and projects will be identified to focus activities of the vigilance machinery.

LAW

205. My Government intends to repeal certain obsolete laws and unify the remaining Acts which are applicable to the erstwhile Travancore, Kochi and Malabar areas. The range of services provided by Legal Services Authorities will be strengthened in line with the National Plan of Action of National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) 2016-17. My Government would extend all support for strengthening the functioning of the State Human Rights Commission.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

206. Facilities in Courts would be expanded in a planned manner so that optimal standards are attained.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

207. Despite the Official Languages Act, 1969, Government has not succeeded completely in implementing the Official Language Policy and adopting Malayalam as the primary medium of our administration. The status of 'Shreshta Bhasha' has been granted to Malayalam and the Malayalam Language (Dissemination and Enrichment) Bill, 2015 has been passed. Nevertheless, Governments over time, have been slow to embrace Malayalam for official work. On the eve of the 60th Anniversary of Kerala, my Government shall endeavour to universalize the use of Malayalam as official language in Kerala.

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

208. My Government realises that there is large scale erosion of secular credentials in the parliamentary democratic setup of the country and shall undertake massive awareness campaigns that focus on the critical role of secular values, for a robust and vibrant parliamentary democracy to thrive. The programme will be implemented targeting students and youth of the State through the Institute of Parliamentary Affairs.

REVENUE

209. My Government proposes to implement a time-bound flagship programme for providing land to the landless. The Kerala Land Reforms Act will be implemented effectively in letter and spirit without diluting any of its aims and objectives. My Government intends to draw up a time frame to complete the re-survey process in the State and redress petitions related to resurvey. Data bank of cultivable wet lands and paddy lands would be finalized this year itself using the latest technology. Modernisation of land records will be completed on priority. Strong action will be initiated to prevent encroachment of Government land. My Government intends to assign marginal extents of land in individual possession over a long period in Malabar.

DEVASWOM

210. My Government will take adequate steps to implement the Sabarimala Master Plan in a time bound manner to enhance the facilities available to the pilgrims. Effective steps would be taken to achieve the goal of plastic-free Sabarimala.

211. 'Kavus' and 'Altharas' have great significance in the socio-cultural life of villages as well as huge ecological relevance. My Government would endeavour to conserve these spaces. Special survey of Devaswom lands would be arranged.

COMMERCIAL TAXES DEPARTMENT

212. My Government shall take various measures to augment revenue generation by modernizing the Tax Administration. e-Governance initiatives for upgradation of hardware and improvement in Kerala Value Added Tax Information System will be implemented. System scrutiny for assessments will be computerized. Soon the State will move into an integrated check post involving all departments. They will be more in the nature of data collection and facilitation centres using technology for automation and surveillance.

EXCISE

213. My Government intends to constitute an Awareness Mission to strengthen the awareness of alcohol abstinence and anti-narcotic activities. The Mission will coordinate the work of Student Police

Cadets, anti-narcotic clubs in schools and colleges, NSS, Kudumbashree, State Library Council, various NGOs including Madya Varjana Samithi, Students and Youth Organisations. A detailed scientific study will be conducted on the social, economic and health problems arising from the consumption of liquor and widespread availability of substances.

214. My Government is of the view that restrictions on consumption of liquor have not yielded the desired positive impact. The increase in the use and availability of drugs in the State is disturbing. The opinion of people of all sections of the society will be taken into account before my Government formulates its policy stand.

215. Other initiatives that will be undertaken include setting up a state-of-the-art-Laboratory to combat substance abuse. De-addiction centres will be established in all District Centres. My Government will establish Janamaithri Excise Offices to strengthen enforcement activities in Nilambur of Malappuram District and Devikulam of Idukki District where tribal people and estate workers reside predominantly. The Excise Academy and Research Centre at Thrissur will be upgraded to a National Academy.

REGISTRATION

216. My Government will modernise the Registration Department through the effective use of Information Technology. Facility for e-payment of registration fee for document registration will be introduced. It will be my Government's endeavour to ensure that Encumbrance Certificates are issued within a day. Facility for getting the Encumbrance Certificate online will be implemented in all Sub Registrar Offices of the State.

LOTTERIES

217. My Government expects Lotteries to achieve a turnover of Rs. 10,000 cr. and garner resources of Rs. 2,500 cr. as net profit in the current year. The present practice of organizing Lottery for specific purposes such as Karunya will be continued. My Government will pursue novel supportive measures for Lottery Agents/Sellers who are socially deprived such as the destitute and differently abled, through Lottery Agents and Sellers Welfare Fund Board.

CONCLUSION

218. Our State needs to grow and prosper. The tasks ahead are indeed daunting and the legacy that my Government has inherited is dismal. But nevertheless, the development vision for our State has to be realised and no sacrifice will be too big for this. The engine of social and economic development has to be geared up rapidly, if our State has to realise its goals. The promises that have been made to the people have to be fulfilled. My Government will not be deterred. We shall overcome the challenges, daunting as they are. My Government shall move forward diligently and steadily to take Kerala into the forefront of social and economic progress. Let us all unite in our efforts for this.

JAI HIND