



ADDRESS  
TO  
**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
KERALA**

**20<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026**

BY

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ARLEKAR**  
GOVERNOR OF KERALA

**Honourable Speaker, Chief Minister, Ministers, Leader of the Opposition and Honourable Members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly:**

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. It is my honour and privilege to address this august House at the commencement of the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the 15<sup>th</sup> Kerala Legislative Assembly. This Assembly represents the collective will of the people of Kerala and stands as the highest forum for democratic deliberation in the State. I extend my respectful greetings to all Honourable Members as we begin the business of this Session.
2. Kerala enters this year at a decisive moment in its development journey. Over the past decade, the State has consolidated its position as one of India's most socially advanced and institutionally robust States. My Government has effectively eradicated extreme poverty while providing near-universal access to education, healthcare, sanitation and social security. Notably, Kerala's infant mortality rate is now lower than that of several advanced economies and our social welfare architecture remains among the world's most comprehensive,

with over 80 percent of the elderly covered under various pension schemes.

3. My Government has consistently adopted the 'People First' policy and started the novel initiative of presenting in the public domain the yearly progress report of the Government with regard to the implementation of promises made before the electorate in the Election Manifesto. My Government has carried on this practice without fail.
4. My Government has taken bold initiatives in democratic decentralisation. Kerala has recently conducted elections to the three-tier Local Self Governments and newly elected persons have taken charge. The local governments in Kerala are important partners in planned economic development and around 28 percent of the plan funds are earmarked for local governments.
5. It goes to the credit of my Government that it has accorded equal treatment to all local governments and there has been no mention of any differential treatment from any quarter. This evidences my Government's firm belief in decentralised

governance and strengthening grassroot level democracy and true spirit of federalism.

6. The vision envisaged by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, in taking governance to the people is being translated into action by my Government. My Government has made available services to the people in a hassle-free manner through digital apps. Using electronic methods in governance, emphasis on digital literacy and eliminating the digital divide have been accorded pride of place by my Government.
7. My Government has passed the landmark 'The Kerala Right to Public Services Act' by making provision for declaring notified services as made available if no action is taken by officials concerned within a stipulated time period. My Government is working on framing of rules in this regard.
8. Other major legislative initiatives of my Government include protection of single shelter of the lower income groups in the society when faced with recovery action on loans, the repayment of which has fallen into arrears due to reasons beyond the

control of the borrower. Another legislation is making our mother tongue Malayalam the official language of the State, while affording adequate protection to the rights of the linguistic minorities in the State.

9. Kerala has been in the forefront of implementing the demand-based employment scheme, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. The recent amendment to the said scheme, transforming it as VB-GRAM G is a setback for Kerala, as the assistance from the Union has come down from 100 to 60 percent. There are also issues regarding the demand-based nature of the earlier programme. My Government has flagged these concerns before the Union Government. My Government is of the view that the MGNREGS system should continue.

10. My Government has been successful in transforming Kerala into a State with the best investment climate among the States in India. In sunrise sectors of the economy like the Startups, the initiatives of my Government have yielded spectacular results.

11. My Government has a deep commitment to the Constitutional values and the ethos of our Nationalist movement, namely, Democracy, Secularism, Federalism and Socialism. My Government has taken all possible steps to defend these values in the public domain as well as by approaching the Constitutional Courts when warranted.
12. Despite these social and institutional achievements, Kerala continues to face severe fiscal stress arising from a series of adverse Union Government actions that undermine the constitutional principles of fiscal federalism. In the final quarter of the current financial year, from January to March 2026, the State should have had about ₹12,000 crore available to meet expenditure commitments. More than half of this amount has been curtailed, with ₹5,944 crore denied without proper justification. At the same time, amounts due to Kerala from the Government of India under Central schemes—pending up to September 2025, including arrears from previous financial years—stand at ₹5,650.45 crore. These curtailments have placed severe pressure on the State's finances at a critical point in the financial year.

13. Kerala has simultaneously been affected by major revenue-side shocks. Recent rationalisation of GST rates, implemented in the middle of the financial year, is estimated to cause annual revenue loss of ₹8,000 crore during 2026–27. Reciprocal tariff measures imposed by the United States have adversely affected Kerala's export-oriented sectors such as marine products, spices, cashew, coir and rubber, leading to an estimated annual loss of ₹2,500 crore. Making things more challenging, this year alone, the State has been denied ₹17,000 crore due to curtailment of its borrowing limit and IGST adjustment. A further loss of ₹4,250 crore due to GSDP methodology that deviates from the accepted recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
14. Kerala has also borne a disproportionate share of national infrastructure costs, including approximately ₹6,000 crore towards land acquisition for National Highway Projects, which was adjusted against the State's borrowing ceiling. My Government has urged that such expenditure, incurred in furtherance of national infrastructure objectives, be treated as additional capital outlay and kept outside the State's net borrowing limits.

15. These fiscal constraints affect all sections of society by placing pressure on expenditure in health, education, welfare programmes, agriculture and employment. Kerala has also raised concerns regarding excessive centralisation of powers and increasing Union intervention in subjects within the State domain. Bills passed by State legislatures have remained pending for prolonged periods. My Government has approached the Supreme Court on these issues, which have been referred to a Constitution Bench.
16. Kerala's share of tax devolution has steadily declined, despite its social and demographic achievements, including population control, from 3.87 per cent during the tenth Finance Commission period to 1.92 per cent during the fifteenth Finance Commission period. Tax devolution and Finance Commission grants are constitutional entitlements of States and not acts of charity, and any pressure on constitutional bodies entrusted with this task undermines federal principles.
17. My Government has categorically rejected the claim that Kerala's fiscal stress is the result of extravagance. As per the Comptroller and Auditor General's report released in December 2025, 56.29

percent of borrowings in 2023–24 were utilised for capital expenditure. Kerala ranks 18th among States in the growth of market borrowings during 2014–15 to 2023–24, indicating restrained debt growth. The debt-to-GSDP ratio, which rose to 38 percent during the COVID period, declined to around 34 percent by 2024–25. Kerala has strengthened its fiscal position by increasing own revenue and rationalising expenditure, with own revenue constituting around 75 percent of total revenue and own tax revenue constituting around 61 percent, one of the highest in the country.

18. Borrowings undertaken through KIIFB and the Pension Company, which enabled major capital infrastructure development and ensured timely payment of social security pensions, have been cited as reasons for curtailing borrowing limits, thereby constraining infrastructure development and welfare delivery. The open market borrowing limit of my Government was cut back with retrospective effect vide Union Finance Ministry's letter dated March 31, 2022. The retrospective effect given to the cut back in eligible open market

borrowing limit is a highly prejudicial action faced by my Government.

19. Despite these cumulative constraints on revenue and borrowing, Kerala has continued to invest in welfare measures, infrastructure development, industrial promotion and employment generation. My Government has expanded welfare benefits, implemented income-assurance programmes for women, introduced employment-linked initiatives for youth and sanctioned DA and DR arrears to employees and pensioners, while continuing capital investment. My Government has repeatedly placed these matters before the Union Government, including through direct representations to the Union Finance Minister, seeking permission to borrow in lieu of ₹6,000 crore spent on National Highway land acquisition, refund of ₹965.16 crore recovered as IGST, restoration of ₹3,300 crore of borrowing curtailed in connection with guarantee requirements and reconsideration of reductions in borrowing limits.
20. These developments raise fundamental concerns relating to fiscal federalism, democratic functioning

and the Constitutional balance between the Union and the States. My Government has pursued all Constitutional avenues, including legal recourse and remains committed to safeguarding Kerala's fiscal stability, development trajectory and the interests of its people.

21. Yet, even amid sustained fiscal constraints, Kerala has demonstrated that disciplined governance and productive public investment can co-exist with economic dynamism. By strengthening its own revenue base and prioritising human development, the State has ensured that fiscal stress has not translated into stagnation, but has instead laid the foundation for a resilient, inclusive and forward-looking phase of growth.
22. Kerala's economy has entered a phase of accelerated and broad-based growth, with my Government achieving average annual growth of around 12 percent, more than doubling the State's economic output over the last decade. Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product increased from ₹5.26 lakh crore in 2015–16 to ₹12.49 lakh crore in 2024–25, while per capita income nearly doubled,

rising from ₹1,66,246 in 2016 to ₹3,08,338 in 2024. This strong growth trajectory now provides the foundation for the next phase of Kerala's development.

23. This transition is anchored on three mutually reinforcing pillars: infrastructure-led growth that integrates Kerala into the "largest city in the world", as a well-connected, state-wide urban region; innovation-driven industrialisation that deepens value creation and competitiveness; and a world-class higher education system rooted in skills and entrepreneurship and globally connected through diaspora engagement.
24. The Vizhinjam Port will act as a key catalyst for port-led and logistics-driven industrialisation, enabling the development of high-value port-industrial zones and strengthening global market linkages through export-oriented and value-added agriculture and allied sectors.
25. Furthermore, my Government aims to turn demographic change into a unique opportunity by building a new "Silver Economy". By positioning Kerala as a global destination for graceful ageing,

my Government will create new jobs and boost high-end eco-tourism while further strengthening social security. My Government will continue to drive entrepreneurship and investment at the grassroot level, creating more job opportunities for the educated youth.

26. My Government's goal of a Kerala without the landless and the homeless is nearing completion. Within these past 10 years, my Government has handed over 4,10,958 title deeds (Pattayams). Through this, my Government has been able to present one more Kerala Model before the world.
27. Over the last ten years, Kerala has maintained an exemplary law and order situation through effective policing and strong institutions. In a national context marked by increasing social polarisation, Kerala stands out as the best State for social harmony, with a long tradition of peaceful co-existence, respect for diversity and protection of democratic values.
28. Over the last ten years, my Government has ensured uninterrupted power supply across the State, without any power cuts. Kerala has also recorded the highest growth in electric vehicle

adoption in the country. With a clear commitment to sustainability, the State is on course to become India's first carbon-neutral State, supported by concrete action plans now being operationalised at the level of Local Self Governments.

29. This Address outlines my Government's development pathway towards Nava Keralam. The vision of Nava Keralam is aimed at raising the quality of life of the people of Kerala to standards comparable with middle-income and developed economies. The sector-wise policies and programmes placed before this House reflect my Government's commitment to balanced development, social justice and long-term resilience.

## **I. AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED SECTORS**

30. My Government remains steadfast in its vision of a "Modern, Sustainable, Self-reliant Agricultural Kerala 2031", aiming for food self-sufficiency and doubled farm incomes through climate-resilient practices. Central to this transformation is the USD 285 million World Bank-assisted KERA Project, which is scaling up agri-value chains, supporting

plantation crop replanting and developing specialised agro-parks for coconut, honey and vegetables. To bolster agri-marketing and exports, the CIAL-model Kerala Agro Business Company (KABC) has been registered as the apex body to create modern marketing infrastructure and international-standard facilities. This transformation responds directly to the pressures of climate change, soil degradation and changing national policy frameworks. My Government will take necessary steps to address the serious issue of compensation for farmers affected by human-wildlife conflict.

31. Simultaneously, my Government is strengthening the sector at the grassroots by mobilising over 23,000 Krishikoottams and moving toward a target of 250 Farmer-Producer Organisations by 2026. Through the “One Krishi Bhavan – One Value-added Product” initiative, 1,000 products have already been brought under the common brand “Keralagro”, significantly expanding market access and improving price realisation for growers. This physical progress is supported by a robust digital

backbone through the KATHIR platform, which integrates artificial intelligence and remote sensing for over 12.5 lakh registered farmers, ensuring that Kerala's agriculture is both technologically advanced and resilient to climate change.

32. In a major reform to safeguard paddy farmers, the Agriculture Department has examined the existing procurement system through an Expert Committee and formulated comprehensive measures to address delays and procedural gaps. Based on these recommendations, my Government will implement paddy procurement reforms during 2026–27 to ensure that farmers are compensated within one week of procurement, at the enhanced rate of ₹30 per kilogram announced by the Kerala Government, among the highest compensation rates for paddy in the country.
33. Commemorating the United Nations' Declaration of 2026 as the “International Year of the Woman Farmer”, my Government would launch a dedicated ‘Woman in Agriculture’ project to support women farmers across the State. Efforts will also be undertaken to explore the monetisation of carbon

credits for the benefit of farmers, in collaboration with Kerala Agricultural University and international knowledge partners. In parallel, the Kuttanad Development Project Phase-II, estimated at ₹2,400 crore, will be operationalised to strengthen climate resilience, livelihoods and sustainable agriculture in one of Kerala's most vulnerable regions. The Kerala Farmers Welfare Fund Board will also be fully operationalised with adequate financial provisioning to extend social security and welfare support to farmers.

34. My Government is committed to achieve sustainable and inclusive development by integrating technological advancement with agricultural growth. Emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things are being used to strengthen the agricultural sector. My Government is encouraging natural and organic farming practices to improve soil health, reduce input costs and ensure food safety. Special focus is being given to value addition of GI-tagged agricultural products to enhance market access and secure better prices for farmers. To bring unused

land into productive use, Navodhan programmes for fallow land cultivation are being implemented. Modern technologies, including the use of drones in agriculture, are being adopted for precision farming and crop monitoring.

35. My Government proposes to expand the 'Kidari Park' scheme to ensure the availability of high-quality cattle to farmers. To reduce the cost of milk production, commercial fodder cultivation ventures will be encouraged. Furthermore, my Government aims to increase the income of dairy farmers by strengthening dairy co-operative societies and leveraging the potential of Internet of Things (IoT) Startup ventures.
36. Veterinary services will be enhanced by integrating Mobile Veterinary Units with the Emergency Night Veterinary Service. Additionally, the "Gosamrudhi" insurance scheme will continue and Elephant Squads will be revamped to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts.
37. My Government is immensely proud to announce that Kerala has been officially selected as the Best

Marine State in India, with Kollam district distinguished as the Best Marine District.

38. My Government views the upliftment and welfare of the fishermen community as a core responsibility. To this end, secured housing for fishermen families will continue to be a high priority and support for education remains fundamental to the future of our children. Furthermore, we are introducing sailing and surfing schools to diversify coastal livelihoods and tourism. The "Punargeham" project remains a priority, for relocating the families residing within fifty meters of the High Tide Line to safer areas. My Government has already relocated 3,498 families under the project and 788 flats and 1,186 houses are under construction. Moreover, 16,798 houses have been built for the fishermen community under the Life Mission project of my Government.
39. Our focus on empowerment and production has resulted in a nine-year high fish production of 9.28 lakh metric tonnes in 2024-25. Inland aquaculture is showing robust growth, contributing 41,175 tonnes. To significantly augment seafood exports, we will boost aquaculture by bringing 3,000 hectares under

Vannamei culture and strengthening mariculture activities such as sea cages and seaweed farming. Following the success of the Kerala-European Union Conclave, we are moving towards greater co-operation in the Blue Economy. To support this expansion and ensure effective service delivery, 33 new Matsyabhavans are being established in addition to the 67 existing ones.

40. Major fishing harbours at Kasaragod, Koyilandy, Puthiyappa and Ponnani are slated for completion in 2026, while preliminary works have commenced at Pozhiyur and the Arthunkal harbour is targeted for completion in 2027. The extension of the Vizhinjam fishing harbour breakwater, integral to the International Seaport Project, is also being arranged and the Detailed Project Report for the Mahe fishing harbour has been submitted to the Government of Puducherry as part of an expanded consultancy role. My Government is introducing innovative infrastructure, including the State's first floating jetties developed with technical assistance from IIT Madras and State sanction for a floating concrete jetty at Manjeswaram.

## II. HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

41. My Government is committed to transforming every school into a centre of excellence by ensuring quality, equity and inclusiveness in school education. To align our system with global standards, my Government has initiated the “Samagra Gunamenma Vidyabhyasa Padhathi”, which focuses on enhancing classroom practices, revamping assessment systems and providing targeted support to improve learning outcomes. Furthermore, my Government is implementing special academic interventions for the children of guest workers to overcome linguistic and socio-cultural barriers, alongside robust school-based anti-drug campaigns to foster a safe and healthy learning environment through community participation and counselling.
42. Higher education continues to be a defining pillar of Kerala's journey towards becoming an inclusive, knowledge-based and innovation-driven society. My Government considers Higher Education as a priority sector and tries to create a paradigm shift as we are heading towards establishing a

knowledge economy and has led Kerala to achieve notable progress in expanding access, improving quality, strengthening research and aligning education with social and economic needs. With a Gross Enrolment Ratio of over 41 and a strong gender parity index, Kerala is a top performer in the Higher Education sector. My Government has further strengthened its higher education ecosystem in the previous years through academic reforms, infrastructure development, digital transformation and focused investments in research and innovation.

43. A major milestone is the successful implementation of the Four Year Under Graduate Programme, which has enabled multidisciplinary learning, academic flexibility, skill integration and credit mobility. Examination reforms, unified academic calendars, digital evaluation systems and learning management platforms have enhanced transparency and academic efficiency across institutions. The comprehensive ERP platform K-REAP has modernised academic governance, student data management and service delivery in

Universities and colleges. My Government has achieved notable success under RUSA and PM-USHA, securing substantial grants for multidisciplinary Universities, colleges and gender inclusion initiatives. Universities in Kerala have recorded remarkable improvements in NAAC accreditation, NIRF rankings, research output and patent generation. Several institutions have also strengthened their Startup ecosystems, incubation centres and industry partnerships, contributing to research, innovation and entrepreneurship. New Government colleges and technical institutions have been established, additional seats have been sanctioned and new generation courses have been introduced to respond to emerging technological and industrial trends.

44. My Government has accorded priority to public health systems. The Pandemic preparedness plans will be developed across all LSG's to ensure prompt containment and mitigation response. Disease control is being implemented through Janakeeya Arogya Kendram, guided by the Arogya Jagratha Calendar. On January 1st, 2026, Kerala launched a

wellness campaign with the aim of ensuring behaviour change to have a healthy Lifestyle.

45. Kerala continues to lead in disease elimination, with 138 local bodies attaining TB – free status in 2024. Through the Kerala Health Systems Improvement Project, my Government is enhancing care and support for lifestyle diseases, trauma and emergency care and elderly care. The project will do interventions to make climate resilient health infrastructure and will strengthen antimicrobial resistance activities. Access to critical care has been expanded with dialysis in 125 hospitals and Cath labs in 13 districts and in the remaining 1 district Cath lab shall be established in this financial year.
46. Mental health services will be expanded through the Sampoorna Manasika Arogyam Programme, extending coverage to additional Grama Panchayats, with treatment anchored at the primary care level. Diagnostic capacity is being strengthened through upgraded laboratories and quality accreditation. As part of the Navakeralam Karma Padhathi, OPD transformation, upgradation

of Primary Health Centres to Family Health Centres and Community Health Centres to Block Family Health Centres and expansion of LaQshya labour room standards are underway. Infrastructure development is being supported through KIIFB and NABARD, human resources are being strengthened under the Aardram Mission and digital governance has been consolidated through the rollout of e-office systems across health institutions, enhancing efficiency, transparency and quality of service delivery.

47. My Government aims to mainstream AYUSH by upgrading 700 dispensaries as AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres. My Government is strengthening preventive health through 10,000 AYUSH – Yoga Clubs and expanding tele-medicine through E-Sanjeevani. The first phase of the International Research Institute of Ayurveda (IRIA) will be inaugurated at Kalliad, Kannur by February 2026, to scale up the evidence-based integration of Ayurveda into global health and initiate cutting edge research on ageing and cancer.
48. Alongside the strengthening of public health systems, my Government is steadily advancing

towards the goal of universal free healthcare by ensuring financial protection against medical expenses. Under the Karunya Arogya Suraksha Scheme, 42 lakh families are covered, with free treatment up to ₹5 lakh per family per year. The State has so far spent ₹4,541 crore under this scheme, reflecting Kerala's commitment to equitable access to healthcare. To ensure that no eligible family is left uncovered, the Karunya Benevolent Fund Scheme provides free treatment of upto ₹2 lakh per family to households with an annual income upto ₹3 lakh who are not covered under KASP.

49. My Government has strengthened frontline service delivery by significantly enhancing remuneration for care workers, increasing the honorarium of ASHA workers from ₹7,000 to ₹8,000 and raising the wages of Anganwadi workers upto ₹14,000 and helpers upto ₹10,000, reaffirming its commitment to the dignity of labour and human development. At the same time, my Government has been consistently requesting the Union Government to further enhance the incentives and wages of these frontline workers, recognising their critical role in

public service delivery. My Government is aiming to commence the functioning of Kerala – Centre for Disease Control (K-CDC) during the current financial year. The heart transplantation surgery was successfully carried out in General Hospital, Ernakulam, which was the first in India in a District Hospital. The basic indicators to suggest the outcome of the consistent investment in Health and other social infrastructure is evident by the fact that the infant mortality rate (5 out of 1000 live births), neonatal mortality rate and maternal mortality rate in Kerala continue to remain the lowest in the country and are comparable to many developed nations.

### **III. SOCIAL SECTOR**

50. Through the Women and Child Development Department, my Government is implementing child-centric initiatives under the “Balasurakshitha Keralam” framework, including the establishment of Special Need Homes and the “Chuvadukal” programme for early developmental support. To ensure nutrition security, the “Poshaka Balyam” scheme has been expanded to six days a week for

Anganwadi children. My Government is also prioritising workplace safety through the POSH portal and implementing the “Samarambham” project to rehabilitate survivors of violence, while introducing targeted bio-psychosocial interventions like the “Forty-plus” programme for perimenopausal women.

51. My Government is undertaking comprehensive policy revisions to address emerging social challenges through the Social Justice Department. The Senior Citizen Policy is being updated to ensure an integrated care system, while the State Disability and Transgender Policies are being aligned with rights-based frameworks and global guidelines to strengthen protection and inclusivity. To combat the rising use of narcotic substances, my Government is reorganising and strengthening the ‘Nervazhi’ (Corrective Pathway) programme under the probation system to enhance awareness, counselling and rehabilitation services at school and college levels.
52. My Government remains committed to the Scheduled Caste Development sector,

transforming 44 Industrial Training Institutes under the Scheduled Caste Development Department, into modern multi-skill hubs with digital infrastructure and industry linkages. The “Varumana Veedu” programme is converting households into micro-enterprise centres, while the “Samridhi Keralam” scheme provides top-up loan assistance to promote entrepreneurship. Additionally, the “Aiswarya Gramam” initiative is filling infrastructure gaps in habitations.

53. To achieve complete educational parity for Scheduled Tribes, my Government is implementing “Back to School” programmes and special support schemes for professional courses to eliminate dropouts. The “WE Initiative” is being launched to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Tribe women, supported by a newly constituted Labour Bank. Under the Scheduled Tribe Youth Employment Scheme, my Government, in association with Vijnana Keralam, has targeted the provision of employment and internship opportunities to 10,000 Scheduled Tribe youth by

2026, of which 5,000 beneficiaries have already been supported.

54. My Government is driving the empowerment of backward communities through the Backward Classes Development Department by establishing an Innovation Fund for OBC Youth to support ventures in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. Additionally, my Government is promoting green employment through solar and organic farming initiatives and provides self-employment support specifically for OBC women to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

55. For Minority Welfare, my Government has launched the Chief Minister's Research Fellowship to support research scholars from minority communities, providing a total scholarship of ₹7.20 lakh to the eligible research students. A Grant-in-Aid Scheme for students in minority orphanages has also been introduced. Furthermore, my Government is establishing a Minority Research Institute, with the first phase operationalised as a Minority Research Wing at the University of Calicut.

56. My Government is dedicated to the welfare of veterans through the Sainik Welfare Department. To enhance social security, my Government has substantially increased annual grants for non-pensioner ex-servicemen and widows. Progress continues on the War Memorial construction at Thiruvananthapuram.
57. My Government is implementing the KSHB Marine Eco City, a major residential-cum-commercial development project, through the Kerala State Housing Board in collaboration with the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC). Envisaged as a landmark urban development, the project involves construction over an area of 53.22 lakh square feet at an estimated cost of ₹3,394 crore.
58. My Government is also implementing the 'Thaneyidam' project through the Kerala State Housing Board in association with the Women and Child Development Department. This initiative aims to rehabilitate young adults who, through no fault of their own, have spent their childhood in welfare institutions and are required to exit such facilities

upon attaining the age of eighteen. The project seeks to provide them with secure housing, facilitating their integration into society.

59. The 'Ashwas Rental Housing Scheme' has been initiated under the leadership of the Kerala State Housing Board to provide affordable accommodation for bystanders of patients undergoing treatment in medical colleges across Kerala. A comprehensive plan has been formulated to construct 'Ashwas' buildings in connection with all medical colleges in the State within a period of five years.
60. For food security, my Government will construct scientific godowns under the PPP model. My Government is also working towards ISO certification for all offices under the Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department.
61. My Government will roll out a Family Benefit Card (FBC) to provide targeted support and ensure livelihood security for households recently lifted out of extreme poverty.

## IV. LOCAL GOVERNANCE

62. My Government proposes a forward-looking agenda for 2026–27, focusing on the elimination of poverty and the implementation of the Kerala Urban Policy. Initiatives like the State Spatial Perspective Plan will reinforce professionalism in local governance.
63. Kerala became the first State to eliminate extreme poverty through the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP), uplifting 64,006 families out of extreme poverty. My Government has launched EPEP 2.0 to prevent relapse and extend a protective safety net.
64. Another notable example of my Government's commitment to inclusiveness and empowerment is the Digi Keralam Digital Literacy Programme, under which Kerala was declared the first fully digitally literate State in the country, by imparting digital literacy to 21.87 lakh persons. The achievements of Digi Keralam will be further consolidated through Digi Keralam 2.0, along with service delivery reforms under the Kerala Right to Public Services Act.

65. K-SMART has emerged as a comprehensive e-governance platform offering 933 online services. Initiatives such as instant building permits, video-based e-KYC for marriage registration, seamless pension disbursement and technology-enabled waste management solutions—first of their kind in the country—have significantly strengthened citizen-centric governance and improved ease of living.
66. From 2016 to December 31, 2025, a total expenditure of ₹19,127.47 crore was incurred for the construction of 6,00,547 houses. During 2026-27, it is proposed to construct one lakh individual houses and complete 22 housing complexes.
67. My Government is expanding technology-enabled solutions, with Harithamithram 2.0 crossing 90 lakh users. At Brahmapuram, Kochi, a 150-tonne CBG plant has been completed and construction of a 500-tonne Waste-to-Energy plant will commence by May 2026.
68. My Government is on course to achieve total treatment of sanitary waste. An application named

KLOO has been launched to locate public toilets. Under the Suchitwa Mission, scholarships have been provided to 50,000 students and an internship programme has been implemented for college students to promote awareness, innovation and participation in environmental management.

69. During 2026–27, my Government will intensify its focus on bio-waste and liquid waste through advanced treatment systems. Digital monitoring tools and green rating systems will further strengthen Kerala's transition towards a technology-enabled waste management system.
70. Kudumbashree has evolved into one of the world's largest missions with over 46 lakh members, achieving ISO certification for 617 Community Development Societies. In 2026–27, the Mission proposes to prioritise leadership development, enterprise upgradation, facilitation of wage employment and expansion of the care economy.
71. The Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) continues to strengthen decentralised governance,

while the Haritha Keralam Mission remains the flagship environmental initiative.

72. To promote ease of living and people-friendly local governance, my Government has introduced major amendments to the Panchayat and Municipality Acts, Panchayat and Municipality Building Rules and other rules, also including new licensing of Enterprises Rules, 2025.

## **V. INDUSTRIES, IT, LABOUR AND COMMERCE**

73. My Government has made significant strides in strengthening Kerala's industrial sector through a strong focus on enterprise creation, employment generation and MSME support. Under the "Year of Enterprises" initiative, 3.53 lakh enterprises have been established across the State, generating nearly 7.5 lakh employment opportunities and attracting investments of about ₹22,000 crore. Building on this momentum, the Mission 1000 scheme is supporting the scaling up of enterprises with the potential to achieve a turnover of ₹100 crore, while the proposed Mission 1 Lakh scheme

will focus on nurturing and scaling micro and nano enterprises.

74. My Government has also ensured effective and judicious utilisation of funds under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme through initiatives such as Women Conclaves, Bankers' Meets, Investors' Meets and other capacity-building and facilitation programmes.

75. Kerala's sustained improvements in the Ease of Doing Business are reflected in its recognition as a Top Achiever under the State Business Reform Action Plan. The K-SWIFT single-window platform, integrating more than 22 departments, has significantly reduced regulatory friction while improving transparency, predictability and investor confidence. These reforms are aligned with flagship initiatives such as the Invest Kerala Global Summit, through which 104 Expressions of Interest were received; 69 projects have already commenced operations, attracting investments of ₹12,120 crore and generating 18,414 jobs.

76. To strengthen industrial infrastructure, construction of the Kochi–Bangalore Industrial Corridor will commence shortly, making Kerala the first State to complete preparatory procedures among the industrial corridor–smart city projects approved nationally. In addition, the Unity Mall, designed to promote traditional and GI-tagged products, is nearing completion.
77. My Government is undertaking strategic and inclusive measures to strengthen public sector undertakings and traditional industries while preparing the industrial ecosystem for future challenges. Based on PSU Vision 2031, a comprehensive action plan has been prepared to double turnover, enhance profitability and strengthen collaborations with Central PSUs and reputed firms to facilitate technology transfer and market expansion.
78. The coir sector is being modernised through diversification, regulated mechanisation, the Fiber Bank project and a Coir Revolving Fund Scheme, alongside efforts to expand the use of coir geotextiles. Initiatives are also underway to revitalise

khadi, handloom, cashew, rubber, textile and plantation sectors through modernisation, value addition, market expansion, skill development and improved worker welfare. In the mining sector, advanced technologies such as drone-based LiDAR surveys are being introduced, reconnaissance and drilling programmes are being undertaken and services are being made fully online through the COMPASS 2.0 portal.

79. My Government is introducing the “Chief Minister’s Connect to Work Scheme” for the Young Generation to support youth aged 18 to 30 years from low-income families. The scheme provides financial assistance of ₹1,000 per month for upto one year for beneficiaries pursuing skill development after Plus Two, ITI, Diploma or Degree courses.
80. My Government, through the NORKA Department, is conceptualising a dedicated Women’s Cell to provide support and counselling for women of Kerala working abroad. Additionally, the Loka Keralam Online Portal will be launched to

strengthen the engagement of the Non-Resident Keralite community with the State's development.

81. My Government attaches the highest priority to the Sabarimala Greenfield International Airport, which has secured Site, Defence and Security Clearances from the Government of India. Construction is expected to commence in 2026, with commissioning targeted for 2029–30.
82. My Government will advance the next phase of Kerala's technology-led growth by expanding IT infrastructure. Planned initiatives include major expansions across Technopark and Technocity, the development of an AI City at Infopark through land pooling and the establishment of a new phase of Infopark on the land of TRACO Cables Limited. New Parks will be established in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode under the IT Corridor Project. Private IT Park Promotion Scheme will be implemented to promote Private IT parks so as to meet the growing demand for tech space. Furthermore, innovation will be democratised through Distributed Innovation Infrastructure – first of its kind in India. Fund of

Funds will be expanded and a new Feeder Fund will be promoted to attract funding from prominent global Kerala diaspora to ensure scale-up funding for Startups.

83. Future-ready initiatives include the Kerala Artificial Intelligence Mission (K-AIM) targeting global leadership by 2030 and Accelerate Kerala, a statewide skilling programme. These will be complemented by citizen-centric digital governance under the Nammude Keralam – Digital Kerala Initiatives.
84. In 2026, my Government will strengthen the 38th Kerala Science Congress as a national platform. Human resource development will continue through fellowships, with a special focus on the Back-to-Lab Programme for Women Scientists. Infrastructure development includes the establishment of three Science Parks, beginning with Kannur.

## **VI. INFRASTRUCTURE**

85. My Government has accelerated infrastructure development through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), with projects worth

₹93,749 crore taken up across key sectors. As of September 2025, 104 projects have been completed, with an expenditure of ₹21,881 crore, while total disbursements under KIIFB amount to ₹37,564 crore, enabling timely creation of critical public infrastructure across the State.

86. In the coming year, my Government will upgrade 1,200 km of Major District Roads to BM&BC standards and widen State Highways. Sustainable construction is being promoted through a Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) pilot project implemented with IIT Madras, which will be scaled up across the State to reduce the carbon footprint.
87. Digital initiatives include the Road Maintenance Management System (RMMS), digitising 31,000 km of roads. Administrative infrastructure will be strengthened through women-friendly civil stations and “Take a Break” facilities, while smart bus stops and pothole-free roads remain a focus to achieve Vision Zero in road safety.
88. Sustaining the standards of power-cut free Kerala, my Government has envisioned a plan to ensure

sustainable power through hydro development, distribution upgrades under Dyuthi-2 and large-scale battery energy storage. My Government aims for 100% renewable energy by 2040 and carbon neutrality by 2050, encouraging private investment in storage and wind energy.

89. Kerala continues its renewable leadership through ANERT, with achievements including solarisation of agricultural pumps and the Green Income Scheme for weaker households. Innovative initiatives like floating solar and a proposed Centre of Excellence in Renewable Energy would further strengthen the ecosystem.
90. In view of the Central Government's declaration of a National Water Policy, the State Water Policy assumes considerable importance. A comprehensive water policy is required to address the domestic and commercial water requirements of all citizens. My Government will take all necessary steps in this regard.
91. My Government maintains a steadfast position regarding the Mullaperiyar Dam, anchored on the principle of "Water for Tamil Nadu and Safety for

Kerala", and asserts that an expert committee must be appointed immediately to inspect the structural strength of the century-old dam to ensure its safety.

92. The Pattiserry Dam in Idukki district is the largest dam that Kerala is going to make operational in the near future. The project involves the utilisation of water to which Kerala is entitled, as per the decision of the Cauvery Inter-State River Water Dispute. After sustained efforts, my Government aims to commission this dam by February 15, 2026. Other major irrigation projects are nearing completion, with the Banasura Sagar main canal expected by May 2026 and the Karappuzha project by December 2026.

93. In addition, projects under the Irrigation Department have been integrated to provide improved public services and tourism-related facilities. My Government has implemented Irrigation Tourism, which is being expanded to additional locations across the State.

94. With the objective of creating income opportunities for the youth of Kerala, micro-irrigation schemes have been launched in memory of late Shri K. M. Mani. My Government has commenced

implementation of the 'K. M. Mani Community Micro-Irrigation Scheme' in the State. The project aims to expand its scope to cover all cash crops, in addition to regular crops, thereby creating additional income-generating opportunities for the youth.

95. Digital governance in the Kerala Water Authority is being strengthened through platforms such as e-Tapp and Aqualoom, enabling online applications for drinking water and sewer connections and providing an effective public grievance redressal mechanism.
96. My Government is implementing the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II and initiating action for Phase III. In collaboration with ICFOSS, my Government is proposing Flood Early Warning and Real-Time Data Acquisition Systems. Furthermore, my Government proposes flood control works for the remaining 38,635 hectares under the Kuttanad Package.
97. The development of the Kovalam–Bekal inland waterway has been envisaged by my Government

in three phases and is progressing rapidly to enhance the State's logistics and tourism potential.

98. Major development works are proposed at Kollam, Beypore and Azheekal, with Kollam and Beypore proposed for development through private sector participation. My Government will construct two medium-sized cruise vessels and will start coastal cruise services from Kollam and Azheekal connecting Kochi, Beypore and Vizhinjam.
99. With the next phase of Vizhinjam International Seaport, coastal cargo movement is expected to improve, enabling four non-major ports in the State to handle medium-sized cargo vessels.
100. To engage emerging travel trends, Gen Z Tourism Hubs are being developed with a focus on experiential travel. The Destination Challenge Programme has already sanctioned 46 projects, strengthening grassroot participation. Innovative initiatives like budget accommodations under K-Home and the launch of She Tourism will further expand economic inclusion.
101. The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation has continued its steady resurgence, achieving

remarkable gains in passenger mobility and fiscal consolidation, including the closure of outstanding liabilities. Over the last nine and a half years, an amount of ₹13,029 crore has been provided to KSRTC to ensure reliable and affordable public transport services across the State.

102. KSRTC recorded its highest-ever single-day revenue of ₹13.02 crore in January 2026, reflecting improved operational efficiency, better fleet utilisation and the timely induction of new buses of different categories across all routes. The Corporation has made significant strides in digital transformation by introducing UPI-enabled ticketing, smart travel cards and upgraded electronic ticketing machines that ensure faster, more transparent transactions.
103. To expand its operational reach, a new Supplementary Interstate Agreement will be entered into with Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. KSRTC also plans to install solar power plants in major depots, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and cost efficiency.
104. The Motor Vehicles Department has implemented major reforms to promote safer roads and stronger

regulatory compliance across the State. The emphasis on stringent and technology-enabled driving tests has helped to cultivate a responsible driving culture and ensured that only qualified drivers are licensed. As a pioneering initiative, KSRTC Driving Schools have been established to provide professionally trained drivers equipped with modern safety standards. The complete digitalisation of core services, including the issuance of Driving Licences and Registration Certificates, has significantly reduced processing delays and improved accessibility for citizens. Enforcement has been strengthened through contemporary digital tools and mobile applications, contributing to more effective monitoring of violations and a measurable reduction in accident severity in several regions. Public participation has been actively encouraged through systems that allow citizens to report violations and unsafe road conditions, reflecting a collective commitment to make Kerala's roads safer.

105. Kerala's Water Transport sector continues to evolve as a vital pillar of the State's mobility ecosystem. Modern watercraft and upgraded operational systems have been introduced to

enhance passenger safety, reliability and energy efficiency. The integrated development initiatives at Pathiramanal demonstrate how water transport and tourism can be harmonised to create sustainable, nature-aligned experiences for residents and visitors.

106. My Government is charting a green transition by introducing solar and electric vessels, with a goal of replacing fifty percent of the diesel fleet by 2030. My Government has expanded inland navigation through the launch of the Kuttanad Safari Service, connecting key destinations in the region.
107. A key priority of my Government is the implementation of a semi-high-speed rail project in mission mode. To enhance inter-State connectivity, new railway links such as Thalassery–Mysuru and Nilambur–Nanjangud are being pursued at the DPR stage. In the interest of passenger safety, my Government is advancing the “Level-Cross-Free Kerala” mission.
108. My Government is accelerating metro expansion; Phase II of the Kochi Metro is progressing steadily,

while planning for Phase III via Nedumbassery Airport is underway. My Government has approved the Thiruvananthapuram Metro Phase I alignment and entrusted the DPRs for the Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode projects. Steps are also underway to establish a captive solar power plant at Kasaragod for metro energy neutrality.

109. My Government has taken a pioneering step in integrated transport through the Kochi Water Metro. Furthermore, my Government has entrusted Kochi Metro Rail Limited with the Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System to rejuvenate city canals and improve urban amenities. Last-mile connectivity has been enhanced through electric feeder buses and e-autos.

## **VII. NATURAL RESOURCES, FOREST AND WILDLIFE, ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

110. My Government is committed to the sustainable management of our natural resources and the protection of the environment as vital pillars in

realising a resilient Nava Keralam. In collaboration with UNICEF, my Government has launched a programme to empower youth and women for sustainable lifestyles and climate action. Under the “Malinya Muktham Navakeralam” campaign, auditing of waste facilities through student clubs has been initiated in partnership with local bodies.

111. In the coming year, my Government will formulate a pathway for carbon neutrality by 2050, launch an online climate literacy platform and propose four more wetlands for Ramsar designation. Additionally, the Climate Change Adaptation Mission will initiate a World Bank-backed climate dialogue series and promote the “Every Child a Scientist and Artist” programme.
112. My Government prioritises forest and wildlife conservation, with a specific focus on human-wildlife conflict mitigation and green expansion. In 2026–27, landscape-level macro-plans and Panchayat micro-plans will be implemented to address conflict hotspots. To fund these efforts, my Government is implementing decentralised resource mobilisation from commercial biological

users in collaboration with local bodies. A major initiative is the transformation of the Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary into the “Aaralam Butterfly Village” as a hub for knowledge and local employment.

113. My Government will also expand forest knowledge dissemination through partnership with the Library and Historical Research Councils.
114. To enhance disaster preparedness, an alternate emergency operations centre is being established in Thiruvananthapuram and advanced risk modelling is being implemented for the Pamba and Chaliyar basins. Future measures include IoT-based landslide monitoring in Pathanamthitta and the establishment of pilgrimage crowd management systems.

## **VIII. FINANCE, TAXES AND EXCISE**

115. My Government remains steadfast in its commitment to providing a robust social security net for the most vulnerable sections of our society. During the current financial year, all outstanding arrears related to Social Security Pensions and Welfare Fund Board pensions have been fully

settled. From May 2021 through November 2025, a substantial sum of ₹45,500 crore has been disbursed to support these vital welfare measures, while the monthly pension rate was increased to ₹2,000. This sustained policy approach has enabled the expansion of welfare pension coverage to 62 lakh beneficiaries across the State.

116. To further the financial independence of women from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, my Government is implementing the 'Sthree Suraksha Scheme'. This initiative provides monthly financial assistance of ₹1,000 to approximately 31.34 lakh beneficiaries, including trans women, between the ages of 35 and 60 who belong to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Priority House Holds (PHH) and are not benefited from any other social welfare schemes.
117. The MEDISEP health insurance scheme continues to be a national model for inclusive coverage, providing cashless treatment to over 30 lakh individuals, including government employees and pensioners. Insurance benefits exceeding ₹2,184 crore for over 12 lakh claims have been sanctioned

as of December 2025 and will implement the second phase of MEDISEP starting from this financial year itself, ensuring continued access to superior healthcare for catastrophic illnesses.

118. To safeguard agricultural livelihoods, my Government has enhanced the support price for rubber from ₹150 per kg to ₹200 per kg, effective from November 2025. This flagship incentive provides direct and transparent price-support assistance to nearly five lakh farmers. My Government has also requested the Union Government to further enhance the support price to ₹250 per kg, in view of rising input costs and market volatility.
119. My Government will enhance the capital base of the Kerala Financial Corporation to ₹1,000 Crore to bolster tourism development and the Startup ecosystem. This enhancement will allow for raising collateral-free loan limits for new ventures to ₹15 crore, thereby stimulating industrial growth and entrepreneurship across the State.
120. My Government is proud that Kerala State Financial Enterprises (KSFE) has become the first company

in India's Miscellaneous Non-Banking category in the public sector to achieve a business turnover of ₹1 lakh crore, with volumes reaching ₹1,07,580 crore by November 2025. For the 2026–27 financial year, my Government aims to expand the customer base to 1 crore and achieve a turnover of ₹1,25,000 crore, driven by accelerated digitisation and strict adherence to the green protocol.

121. My Government is executing a three-pronged action plan against substance abuse via enforcement, the Vimukthi Mission and rehabilitation. To overcome structural limitations and digital challenges, my Government will establish a dedicated State Narcotic Enforcement Bureau (SNEB) and a specialised Cyber Cell for advanced technical surveillance.
122. My Government has emerged as the first State in India to implement a system-driven, Faceless Adjudication framework in GST, operationalised as a pilot project in two districts with effect from August 1, 2025. This initiative ensures bias-free, technology-enabled statutory processes. Furthermore, the establishment of the Centralised

Refund Processing Formation (CRPF) on a pilot basis at the GST Department Headquarters ensures the timely disbursal of refund claims.

123. To safeguard State revenue, my Government is undertaking focused enforcement initiatives to curb fake GST registrations and prevent fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) claims using advanced data analytics. The State GST Intelligence Wing has carried out a series of targeted intelligence operations across multiple sectors, including ready-mix concrete units, textiles, illegal diesel manufacturing and distribution, jewellery and food sectors. Simultaneously, my Government has extended the General Amnesty Scheme 2025, providing an opportunity to settle long-pending arrears under legacy Acts.
124. My Government is prioritising structural efficiency in the Lotteries Department with the construction of a dedicated headquarters building, "Bhagya Bhavan". To foster financial responsibility among lottery winners, training programs will be strengthened to include modules on financial

investments. Furthermore, a specific share of the Department's publicity budget will be dedicated to welfare initiatives, such as sponsorships for sports meets of the differently-abled.

125. Advanced technological solutions are being implemented to ensure the highest standards of transparency, including the installation of prize-counting machines in all offices and ePOS machines for secure transactions. The LOTIS application is being redeveloped with an upgraded framework, while the security features of lottery tickets are being enhanced to safeguard against fraud.
126. My Government aims to transform the Registration Department into a transparent, citizen-centric provider of services by digitising the process to ensure data security. This involves revamping software for partnership registrations and formulating rules under the Kerala Societies Registration Act, 2025. Furthermore, sub-registrar offices will be modernised to target ISO certification for enhanced public service delivery.

## IX. REGULATORY SECTOR

127. In a historic decision, my Government issued orders to convert forest villages—where Scheduled Tribe communities reside and hold rights under the Forest Rights Act—into Revenue Villages. This enables them to pay land tax on the land in their possession, strengthening tenure security and access to public services.
128. To ensure the accuracy and transparency of land records, my Government is nearing completion of the Digital Re-survey project, aimed at comprehensive digitisation. Survey procedures covering 10 lakh hectares of land have already been completed and the Integrated Land Information Management System, a single-window platform, has been implemented. My Government is the first in the country to introduce a system in which survey records are made available prior to land transfer, enabling seamless registration and mutation. Through this initiative, my Government seeks to provide landowners with conclusive titles by issuing the most accurate and reliable survey records for owned land.

129. To foster a sense of pride in being a Keralite alongside being an Indian, my Government has devised a plan to distribute a “Nativity Card”. The legislative procedures for this initiative are in their final stages.
130. My Government has been able to coordinate and complete efforts to rehabilitate the victims of the Mundakkai Chooralmala disaster, one of the gravest tragedies witnessed by Kerala. Recognising the aspiration of survivors to be rehabilitated within the same locality, my Government intends to make this a reality through the Wayanad Township. The Wayanad Township will be dedicated to the disaster-affected families and realised within the tenure of this Government.
131. My Government has succeeded in making all services of the Revenue Department “smart”. All services, including the issuance of certificates, are now provided online. It is a notable achievement that Keralites residing in ten different countries can access revenue services from their place of residence. Along with making services smart, my Government has also succeeded in upgrading

Village Offices, with two-thirds of all Village Offices already transformed into “Smart Village Offices”.

132. My Government is advancing a regionally balanced and innovation-led development strategy through focused district development packages and strengthened planning institutions. Special development initiatives are being implemented in Kasaragod, Idukki and Wayanad, with priority given to education, healthcare, livelihood support, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture and the welfare of vulnerable communities, including tribal populations and victims of environmental and health hazards. These programmes emphasise completion of critical infrastructure, mitigation of human–animal conflict, improved access to essential services in remote areas and convergence with State and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to maximise development outcomes.
133. Through the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC), my Government will expand the Work Near Home initiative to 25 centres, strengthen Vijnana Keralam to deliver community-owned skilling and employment and set

up Block Innovation Clusters in 100 blocks. Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI), my Government is implementing a comprehensive Shoreline Management Plan for the entire coastline of Kerala and river basin restoration works along the Pamba basin.

134. My Government has made significant strides in security through technological modernisation, establishing an AI-enabled Security Operation Centre (SOC) and a dedicated Cyber Division. To further strengthen investigation, a Drone Forensic Lab and advanced surveillance have been deployed across the State. My Government continues to nurture the next generation through the "Student Police Cadet" initiative.
135. In the Fire and Rescue Services, an Aerial Ladder Platform will be commissioned in 2026. Additionally, drones will be procured for emergency delivery and a specialized Women's Scuba Team has been formed. My Government also remains focused on the modernisation of prisons and the rehabilitation of inmates.

136. My Government is spearheading a digital revolution in the Judiciary, with sanction for Digital District Courts in all 14 districts, replacing the existing Fast Track Special Courts. A Centre of Excellence for AI in Judiciary will be set up to deploy advanced models for document classification and predictive analytics.
137. My Government remains resolute in its policy of “Zero Tolerance to Corruption”. In 2026–27, the Vigilance Cases and Enquiries Management System (VCEMS) will be implemented to digitise case processing. Construction of new office complexes in Muttathara, Pathanamthitta and Wayanad will also be completed. My Government will continue to train internal vigilance officials to prevent corruption at the department level.
138. My Government attaches priority to legal literacy and justice delivery. The Kerala State Legal Services Authority launched “SAMAYAM”, a scheme to settle civil and compoundable criminal matters at the Police Station level. The “SAMANVAYA” scheme has been introduced to

address the emotional needs of litigants in matrimonial disputes.

139. My Government is committed in bringing judicial institutions closer to the people. As a significant step, in-principle approval has been accorded for the establishment of an Additional Bench of the Kerala Administrative Tribunal (KAT) at Thalassery, Kannur. This will be in addition to the existing benches at Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam, ensuring timely adjudication of service matters for the northern districts.
140. My Government continues to demonstrate national leadership in sustainable development, securing the first rank in the NITI Aayog SDG India Index 2024 for the fourth consecutive year with a composite score of 79. Kerala leads the nation in Zero Hunger and Quality Education while recording the country's lowest multidimensional poverty headcount ratio at 0.55 percent and the lowest proportion of households in kachha dwellings at 0.3 percent. As an 'Achiever State' in Affordable and Clean Energy, Kerala has attained 100 percent household electrification and 100.18 percent

coverage of LPG and PNG connections. Furthermore, the State has met the United Nations SDG targets relating to maternal, under-five and neonatal mortality, placing Kerala among global frontrunners in maternal and child health outcomes.

141. To strengthen transparency and accountability, my Government has advanced significantly in data-driven governance through the launch of a real-time SDG Dashboard and a State Indicator Framework comprising 191 tailored indicators. This model of SDG localisation, identified by the Economic Survey 2024-25 as replicable at the national level, will be furthered by the introduction of a Kerala SDG Index to facilitate district-wise ranking and promote decentralised competitiveness. Moving forward, my Government will expand automated analytics and institutional partnerships to ensure that Kerala continues to set high standards in sustainable development.

## **X. SPORTS, ARTS AND CULTURE**

142. My Government places emphasis on promoting sports, arts and culture as essential elements for

holistic development. Recognising their role in nurturing talent, social cohesion and a healthy society, my Government is strengthening institutional support, improving infrastructure and expanding opportunities for participation at all levels.

143. For 2026–27, my Government will enhance digital communication using AI tools for content monitoring and translation. Media outreach will be modernised through digital campaigns and expanded social media engagement.
144. My Government is taking sustained steps to strengthen Kerala’s cultural ecosystem while ensuring livelihoods for artists and craftsmen. The Diamond Jubilee Fellowship Scheme, implemented with the participation of Local Self Government Institutions, has engaged 1,000 young artists in art and training centres across the State, fostering cultural creativity among younger generations.
145. To preserve, develop and market Kerala’s cultural inheritance, the Rural Art Hub Scheme has registered 56 self-help groups, with expansion to

100 groups planned. Through the Nattarangu project, cultural spaces are being created in villages and small towns, with works completed at Vadakkanchery, Chengannur, Vallikkunnu and Annamanada and additional centres progressing in other locations.

146. Significant progress has been made in establishing Cultural Complexes in all 14 districts in the names of eminent renaissance leaders, with complexes inaugurated at Kollam (2023) and Palakkad (2025), construction underway at Kasaragod and land identified in the remaining districts.
147. My Government is also advancing digital preservation through the E-Arts project, in partnership with the Digital University, to digitise museums and endangered art forms and enable online learning. Further, the Cultural Kerala Smriti Mandiram will be established as a state-level memorial to honour eminent artists across diverse art forms, ensuring Kerala's rich artistic heritage is preserved for future generations.

148. To ensure grassroot infrastructure, the “One Panchayat One Playground” programme aims to develop a playground in every panchayat, pooling the State Plan fund, MLA funds and CSR contributions.
149. My Government has launched the Kerala Olympic Talent Pathway (KOTP) across all 14 districts with the goal of winning medals at the 2036 Olympics. My Government is professionalising campus sports through the College Sports League (CSL) and expanding the format to include Volleyball.
150. My Government has taken sustained steps to empower youth through structured engagement, volunteerism and social responsibility. Through the Kerala State Youth Commission and the Kerala State Youth Welfare Board, youth awareness programmes, counselling services in colleges, adalats and campaigns against dowry and drug abuse have been implemented across the State. Youth volunteerism has been institutionalised through Team Kerala – the Kerala Youth Force, which has played a significant role in disaster response, public health initiatives and social

campaigns, including anti-drug efforts. Scientific temper has been promoted through the Brain Battle science quiz, which recorded participation of 47,773 students from 1,545 schools. Youth engagement has also been strengthened through a wide network of clubs, including over 1,000 'Avalidam' clubs in local self-government institutions and 'Marivillu' clubs for transgender youth, alongside support to affiliated youth clubs for sports and community activities.

151. During 2026–27, my Government will implement focused initiatives to strengthen youth entrepreneurship, social engagement and cultural participation. A Youth Startup Festival will be organised to promote innovation, new technologies, mentoring, pitching opportunities and placement drives. Financial assistance will be extended to Yuva Clubs for the purchase of sports equipment to expand activities and promote sportsmanship, while the Performance City initiative will create platforms for performing arts, theatre festivals, book and cultural festivals and young writers, supporting livelihoods and cultural expression among the youth.

## CONCLUSION

Honourable Members,

152. My Government is implementing the vision of a Nava Keralam with safe and clean cities, founded on a fully digital economy (zero cash), congestion-free mobility (zero congestion), emission-free development (zero emissions), waste-free systems (zero waste) and zero accidents (Vision Zero). To realise this vision, an integrated and unified urban transport system is envisaged, aligning city development plans with transport plans.
153. Key initiatives proposed under the Nava Keralam vision for funding by the Union Government include a Defence Research and Development corridor leveraging national assets such as the Naval Academy, DRDO–NPOL, Cochin Shipyard and BrahMos Aerospace; a Global Skilling Centre; low-interest scale-up funding for MSMEs; mothership-building facilities in Kerala; integration of Vizhinjam Port with the Bharatmala programme and dedicated freight corridors; strategic Rare Earth Corridor for the production of permanent magnets for defence,

aerospace, electric vehicles, wind turbines and advanced electronics.

154. As I conclude, I reaffirm my Government's unwavering commitment to the Constitution of India and to the principles that have shaped Kerala's distinctive development path—equity, social justice, democratic decentralisation and sustainable progress. The wide-ranging initiatives presented to this House reflect a comprehensive vision for a resilient, inclusive and forward-looking Kerala, grounded in the aspirations of its people.
155. My Government has a deep commitment to the Constitutional values and the ethos of our Nationalist movement, namely, Democracy, Secularism, Federalism and Socialism. My Government has taken all possible steps to defend these values which form the basic structure of our Constitution.
156. The challenges before us demand collective responsibility, informed decision-making and co-operation across all institutions and levels of governance. Kerala's strength lies in its people, its

robust public institutions and its long tradition of enlightened public discourse. My Government is confident that the deliberations of this House will contribute meaningfully to policy formulation and effective governance.

157. Let this Session serve as a platform for constructive engagement and purposeful action, guided by the shared objective of ensuring dignity, opportunity and security for every citizen. I wish the Honourable Members a productive and fruitful Session of the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

**JAI HIND**

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