



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

6TH MARCH, 2015

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

*Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,
Ellavarkum Ente Namaskaram*

1. I warmly welcome you all to the first session of the Kerala Legislative Assembly for the year 2015. This is my first address to you and let me extend my hearty greetings to all of you. I am indeed very happy to let you know that development activities undertaken by my Government have made Kerala one of the fastest growing States in the entire country. In the 35th National Games which had recently concluded, Kerala has emerged as first among the States in overall championship. This was the best National Games organized so far as per feedback received from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and sports fraternity. My Government congratulates the athletes, coaches and officials who made this National Games a grand success. As a legacy of holding the 35th National Games in Kerala, a Green Field Stadium of international standards was setup at Karyavattom and my Government has created 9 New Stadia across the State and renovated 16 existing stadia with new facilities by incurring an expenditure of around Rs.213 crore.

2. My Government which has come into power on 18th May 2011 has declared that "development and care" is its motto. The development works undertaken in the last 45 months have transformed the State to really "Gods own country". The exponential growth rate which my Government could achieve and the much acclaimed 'Kerala Model of Development' is now attracting world attention. Even the United Nations have appreciated the Good governance initiatives of my Government. The Mass Contact Programme for speedy disposal of public grievances by the Chief Minister has won the UN Public Service Award 2013. The recent McKinsey report on India's Economic geography in 2025 depicts Kerala as one of the top 8 high performing States based on the Gross Domestic Product, per capita income, productivity of workers, literacy and electrified households. My Government has won the IBN Diamond State Award for outstanding performance in the field of Education, Environment, Health and Poverty Alleviation. The official web site of the Chief Minister has won the Web Ratna Award for outstanding public participation initiative. My Government has recently won the CSI Nihilent e-Governance Award 2013-14 for exemplary

performance in e-Governance applications in various departments. On completion of the National Optical Fibre Network by the end of this month, spread of e-governance across the departments, achievement of e-literacy, high mobile penetration and service delivery through "Akshaya Centres" Kerala will emerge as the first Digital State in the country.

3. The grand vision of inclusive growth which my Government has been following has brought in economic growth with equity. The Zero Landless Programme which my Government has launched could benefit more than a lakh landless families. The Smart City Project which was dormant for five years could be revived and the first phase is getting ready for commissioning. The Kochi Metro Rail Project is progressing very fast. The Kannur airport will be completed by May 2016. The Vizhinjam International Sea Port has got the environmental clearance and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) sanction from the Government of India and the works will be started soon. The Start-up Village at Kochi and the Student Entrepreneurship Programme which my Government has launched is a model for the rest of the country.

4. In the welfare side, my Government has increased all the welfare pensions to Rs. 500/- apart from ensuring its timely disposal. Pension has been granted to all dairy farmers and the pension amount has been increased. The Arogyakiran Project could provide comprehensive health care to the common public. More than 25000 patients could get the benefit under Karunya Chikitsa Sahayanidhi. My Government could intervene successfully in getting the nurses released from the custody of terrorists in Iraq. This initiative of my Government was very well appreciated by the Union Government. My Government could get "Shreshta Bhasha" status to our mother tongue Malayalam. The number of Government medical colleges has been increased from 5 to 9. Nirbhaya Project was started for preventing atrocities against women and children. My Government could commission the Ranni-Perinadu and Peechi power projects.

5. My Government could effectively intervene in the market, helping the farmers to get remunerative prices for their produce. For the first time in the country procurement of raw coconut directly from the farmers was done through the Krishi Bhavans. My Government has

brought a new thrust to value addition and agro processing, apart from increasing the productivity and quality of the produce. For the first time license was given to tap 'Neera' – a non-alcoholic drink from coconut inflorescence sap by farmer-producer companies as well as Kerala Agricultural University and Kerala State Coconut Development Corporation.

6. In the wake of declaration of Kerala as Organic by 2016, my Government will take all possible efforts for integrating various State and Central schemes already proposed to popularize organic farming in our State. Special quota will be reserved in undergraduate courses both in Agricultural University and Veterinary and Animal Sciences Universities for the children of farmers who have shown outstanding performance in organic farming. My Government has completed the registration of all farmers in the State. 'Smart Cards' will be issued to 18.77 lakh farmers who are enrolled under Farmers Registration Scheme.

7. The rapid spread of bird-flu in a couple of districts has caused heavy loss to the farmers. However, thanks to the timely intervention of all departments concerned, my Government could

contain the disease in time and the farmers have been compensated adequately. In the light of the devastating outbreak of bird-flu, all efforts will be taken to rejuvenate duck industry in Kuttanad region.

8. The Govardhini Scheme launched by my Government is intended to add one lakh more cattle population in the State and provide them with scientific management. My Government could develop a new farming culture through innovative programmes and schemes in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sectors.

9. 80% of the milk requirement of Kerala is now met through internal milk production. By the end of the 12th plan, my Government is planning to achieve self sufficiency in this sector. My Government could add 3700 Hectares to the existing fodder cultivated area of 18,000 Hectares during the year 2014-2015. Around 2.37 lakh dairy farmers in the State were brought under the purview of insurance scheme of Kerala Dairy Farmers' Welfare Board.

10. In 2013-14 the sub sectors of forestry and fisheries recorded positive growth rates of 3.4 per cent and 5.43 per cent respectively.

Special housing package will be implemented for fishermen under integrated development of fishing village scheme to provide housing to 4000 homeless fishermen. Special drive will be undertaken to protect fish breeding sites and prevent juvenile fishing. Second phase of 'Matsya samruthi' project will be implemented by incorporating new initiatives for enhancing aquaculture production. Cage farming of fishes in open waters and reservoirs will be promoted. My Government will ensure the timely completion of works undertaken in all fishing harbours.

11. My Government is the only State Government in India giving Rs.2 lakh for SC and General category and Rs.2.5 lakh to ST beneficiaries under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). "House for the house less" is an important issue we are facing today. My Government will be giving priority to housing schemes with the help of local governments and other institutions and social organizations. My Government will be implementing "Jawahar Housing Scheme" under which one house in each ward of every Panchayath/Municipality/Corporation will be constructed with the financial assistance from the Plan fund of local bodies.

12. Kerala has not got its due share in the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) rural road scheme. When my Government assumed office in 2011, 303 roads having 715 kms roads were not even started. Since there were no one to take tender of roads as per the present estimate, my Government has decided to give tender excess up to 42% of the estimate and because of this, about 325 kms of road works were started of which 125 kms have been completed by now. In the 8th phase we got 1012 kms roads of which 850 km roads works have already been started. So far my Government has spent Rs.124 crore from the State fund for PMGSY. Under PMGSY phase II we have got only 570 kms roads at the estimate of Rs. 500 crore. This is quite insufficient and my Government has approached the Government of India for an additional 1000 kms roads in PMGSY.

13. My Government has repeatedly taken up the revision of the guidelines of centrally sponsored schemes according to the situation and requirements of the States. In Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the expenditure we

incurred in 2013-14 was Rs.1700 crore, while it was only Rs.701 crore on 2010-11. But due to changes made in the schedule of works by the Government of India, my Government is finding it difficult to give job to the 29 lakh registered families. My Government has demanded inclusion of dairy, coir, khadi and other traditional industries sector in the ambit of NREGS. To consider our request, the Government of India has convened a meeting of Rural Development Ministers in Southern States to discuss the issue.

14. Kerala State Welfare Corporation for Forward Communities was set up by my Government for carrying on the business of promoting the comprehensive development and welfare of the economically backward sections among the forward communities of Kerala. As a pilot project, the Corporation proposes to take over the renovation work of 200 Agraharas which is the traditional settlement of the ethnic Brahmin communities in Kerala.

15. The Kerala State Minority Development Finance Corporation and Kerala State Commission for Minorities have been set up. My Government has launched *Minority e-certificate* to facilitate

reservation to minority students under Central Government.

16. My Government has prepared a Perspective Plan for the State with the technical assistance of National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi. In continuation of the Perspective Plan 2030 document, my Government envisages preparing a vision document - Infrastructure Master Plan 2030- as a more focused study to identify infrastructure gaps in selected sectors of development and prepare a shelf of projects to bridge the identified gaps. My Government proposes to introduce a digitized documentation of the assets created in the Annual Plans and upload photographs of Capital Assets created to avoid the duplication of identical schemes by different agencies and enable effective targeting of scarce budgetary funds to achieve developmental outcomes.

17. Kerala is the first State in the country to implement the "Saankhya", the accrual based double entry software in all the Local Self Government Institutions. The web based "Sulekha" software developed by Information Kerala Mission has won CSI Award 2013-14

under the category Sustenance. The certificates of birth, death and marriage which are registered under the Local Self Government Institutions from 1970 will be made available to the people online. The facility of online property tax payment can be availed by the property tax payers of Grama Panchayaths from 2015-16 onwards.

18. Kudumbashree has started 899 new enterprises in this financial year. It would be starting Anti Human Trafficking Centres in three districts of Kerala - Idukki, Palakkad and Wayanad.

19. An "Investors' Meet" was conducted at Kochi in February 2014 to take up various projects in Public Private Partnership [PPP] mode. Expressions of interest were received for 89 projects showcased by various Urban Local Bodies at the meet. Consequent to this, Partner Kerala Mission was constituted at the state level to facilitate speedy implementation of the project.

20. Hostel facilities will be provided to women in urban areas. Modern multi level parking system will be established in urban

areas. Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project will complete all the ongoing works using ADB financial assistance. Under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM), the Water Supply Scheme of Kochi having a capacity of 100 Million Litres per Day will be commissioned and 400 buses allotted to the Corporation will be operated in different Municipal areas. The e-governance project of the Corporation of Kochi will be launched. The existing street lights of all Urban Local Bodies[ULBs] will be replaced by Energy Efficient LED lighting system under Nagarajyothi Project. Septage Treatment Plants will be constructed in all the districts in the State.

21. Suchitwa Mission is planning to provide sanitary facility for all rural and urban households within a period of 3 years. State Plan Fund, Local Self Government Institution Plan/own funds and Swachh Bharat Mission funds shall be tapped to execute the various projects under sanitation and waste management.

22. A special scheme for completing "Spill-over" houses will be introduced during 2015-16 by the SC Development Department. Due to limited resource base of the beneficiaries and

the escalation in the cost of construction, many houses allotted earlier are remaining unfinished. Hence a special scheme will be initiated in 2015-16 to complete the incomplete houses. Scheduled Castes Development Department has been providing encouragement and awards to SC students for outstanding performance in education and arts.

23. People with entrepreneurial ability belonging to Scheduled Castes need to be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities offered to start industrial units and business enterprises in industrial parks and estates. So a new scheme aimed at providing assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs will be introduced in 2015-16. Formation of Backward Communities Development Department is a major achievement of my Government. My Government is intending to implement a new housing scheme for widows belonging to BPL families and destitutes.

24. To ensure a guaranteed floor level wages per day to all those workers who fall outside the minimum wages safety net, the Labour Department proposes to introduce the Kerala Minimum Guaranteed Wages Bill. My Government

proposes to amend the state labour enactments and the state rules corresponding to central labour enactments to enable the increased participation of women in both public and private sectors of employment and to prepare the labour force to face the challenges of post liberalization scenario.

25. My Government is planning to take up the new schemes/projects with the aim to improve the quality of service delivered by the Department so as to achieve the national goal of 500 million skilled persons by 2022, which will reduce unemployment. A full-fledged Placement Cell in each ITI is proposed and tie ups with industrial giants are to be made for enhancing the exposure of the trainees.

26. Considering the fact that Kerala has one of the highest out-of-pocket expenditure for medical treatment, my Government is proposing to implement the programme 'Karunya Keralam', wherein the entire diagnostic tests in Government hospitals will be offered free of cost in a phased manner. The focus has changed now on to Primary Health Care. A strong Primary Health Care will lessen the burden of Health Care in higher centers. World Health

Organisation has been advocating Universal Health Coverage, which essentially means that a citizen should be able to access quality health care easily and without financial stress. My Government has conceptualized a programme that will reposition the vast network of primary care institutions such as primary health centers and community health centers as centers of comprehensive care, to operationalize Universal Health Coverage.

27. The need to have an efficient healthcare delivery system need not be reiterated. However, what stands in the way of efficient treatment is the unavailability of the data both at the population level and at the personal level. This data incompleteness leads to waste of resources, time and effort of medical practitioners. Hence my Government proposes to develop a huge electronic platform for effective utilization of resources. Kerala e-Health Programme is an ambitious programme for developing Electronic Health Records (EHR) and Electronic Medical Records (EMR) for the people of Kerala. The Kerala University of Health Sciences will establish schools and centres like School of Research in Ayurveda, Centre for

Disability Management Studies etc to make its functioning more effective. In the last four years, my Government has started four new Government Medical Colleges after a lapse of thirty years. This year we plan to start two more new Medical Colleges in Thiruvananthapuram and Konni. With this, 11 out of 14 districts shall have Government Medical Colleges offering advanced health care at affordable costs and medical education for poor students. My Government is happy to inform this august house that we have introduced "Sukritham" which aims at giving free cancer treatment to BPL families in eight medical institutions. My Government also plans to introduce "Subhadram" a free comprehensive cancer awareness, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation scheme for all women in Government Health Institutions.

28. My Government is giving utmost importance for development of tribal areas in the State. All possible measures for their education, health, employment and socio economic development will be undertaken. My Government intends to distribute 7693 Hectares of land, identified on the basis of the Honourable

Supreme Court judgment, to landless tribals. My Government intends to start a new venture enabling Tribal Education from the KG to PG named "Gurukulam" as recommended by the Higher Education Council.

29. My Government has initiated steps for voluntary relocation of tribal farmers residing within forests by payment of adequate compensation. A new Forest Division has been established at Kasaragod District for strengthening forest protection and ensuring smooth management.

30. Concerted measures have been taken to lessen the problems arising from man-animal conflict. To counter the increasing menace of wildlife attacks, an amount of Rs.9.88 crore was expended for taking up various measures to protect life and property. My Government had also accorded sanction for one elephant squad each in Wayanad and Nilambur. Further, Rs.6.44 crore had been provided as compensation for crop damage due to wildlife attacks. The rate of compensation for death due to wildlife attack has been increased from Rs.3.00 lakh to Rs.5.00 lakh.

31. Two new Eco Tourism Projects have been initiated at Konni and at Shendurney. Both will be completed during the current year. The first phase of the Shendurney Eco Tourism Project has been completed during the year 2013-14 and action is underway to complete the second phase of the Project. Action is also underway to train youths from Scheduled Tribe communities living in the forests for equipping them to be engaged as tourism guides in eco-tourism centres.

32. My Government had accorded sanction for a scheme entitled 'Krishi Raksha Padhathi' under Mission 676. My Government accords high priority to the ecosystem services rendered by the biodiversity rich forests of the State. 10 new ecotourism locations will be opened during this financial year.

33. Kerala has been adjudged the best governed State on the basis of excellent law and order situation. The Kerala Police has launched various innovative schemes like Student Police Cadet, Kadalora Jagrata Samithi, Safe Campus Clean Campus, Janamaithri Scheme, Schemes for Senior Citizens, Children and Women. My

Government desires to energise the Police force through annual recruitment.

34. Prevention of crimes against women is one of the priority areas of Kerala Police. "Nirbhaya Keralam Surakshitha Keralam" is a comprehensive scheme launched on 15-2-2014 to ensure safety and protection of women. This project will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will cover 6 districts and the second will cover the remaining 8 districts. At present this project is launched in Corporation of Kochi.

35. In Kerala more than 4000 people die every year in road accidents. Almost 40,000 people are seriously injured in road accidents every year. My Government has planned a comprehensive project named "Subhayathra 2015" to implement Road Safety measures strictly and reduce road accidents. My Government plans to provide speed detection cameras in all important roads. Speed radar and Alchometer will be provided to all Police Stations. My Government also plans to collect fines imposed for traffic violation through Banks and through Credit Cards/Debit Cards. Traffic Training Institute will be established in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi. In co-operation

with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Highway Ambulance services will be introduced in Highways to handle accident cases. Traffic clubs will be formed in all schools for inculcating traffic awareness. Similarly, my Government is planning to form a Special Traffic Law Enforcement Wing to deal with scientific traffic enforcement to reduce the number of accidents in the State.

36. The well planned and well co-ordinated action by my Government known as 'Operation Kubera', against the loan sharks who exploit poor people by charging exorbitant interest on loans, produced desirable results.

37. Another prestigious programme initiated by my Government in 2014 is "Safe Campus Clean Campus" aiming to root out liquor, tobacco products etc. from the premises of Schools and Colleges. By 2016 all School/College campuses and premises will be made drug-tobacco-liquor free zones.

38. My Government plans to establish the National University for Police Science and Internal Security this year. My Government proposes to have an all women India Reserve

Battalion and one India Reserve Battalion for Coastal Security. During the last year, Kerala Fire & Rescue Services Department rescued 8477 human lives and 5347 animal lives in various Fire & Rescue operations. Properties worth around Rs.8508.67 crore were saved in the operations.

39. Speedy, Modern, Assured, Responsible and Transparent (SMART) Revenue Office is being implemented aiming at providing "any time anywhere service" to the citizens. Nearly one crore digitally signed online certificates have been issued by the Revenue Officers in the State. In the Pilot Villages where the RELIS (Revenue Land Information System) Project is running, nearly 17,000 online/Transfer of Registry/Mutation have been carried out in fully automated web-enabled manner.

40. "Zero Landless Project -2015" a unique project of my Government is being implemented with the aim of achieving the target of 100% zero landless families in the State by the end of 2015. Under this project every landless family is assigned 3 cents of land. The 1st phase of distribution of land has already been completed. The second phase is being undertaken with full

vigour aiming at the fulfillment of the project. Institute of Land and Disaster Management will be developed into a National Level Centre of Excellence in Land and Disaster Management.

41. The Department of Legal Metrology, Kerala, started the verification and stamping of BP Apparatus for the 1st time in India. The verification and stamping of Electronic Balance used in jewellery and other firms has been started.

42. Being a consumer oriented State, controlling the price rise is not at all possible without an effective public distribution system. 13 essential items like pulses, spices, rice, sugar and coconut oil are being sold by my Government at 20-35% lower than the open market prices. Hypermarkets at Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam and Thalassery were inaugurated. Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation has procured around 15 lakh MT paddy from about 4 lakh farmers and made payment of Rs.2500 crore which is a rare achievement of my Government.

43. Rice is issued at the rate of Re.1/- per kilogram to 20 lakh of Antyodaya Anna

Yojana [AAY] and BPL households and wheat is issued at a rate of Rs.2/-per kilogram to BPL families. Civil Supplies Department has started the initial stages of End to End computerization in public distribution system. Initial steps are taken to implement the National Food Security Act, 2013 and my Government has started the Ration Card renewal process along with it.

44. The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation outlets will be opened in all Grama Panchayaths by 2015-16. For extending more benefits to the public, more Maveli Stores will be converted to Super Markets with modern facilities based on the sales potential.

45. The State of Kerala is very much indebted to the Non-Resident Keralites for their contribution in the development of Kerala. The total remittance of NRK's to Kerala is more than Rs.90,000 crore over and above the NRK deposits of about Rs.97,400 crore in various financial institutions as on 30-9-2014. Today we are facing very serious problems due to the internal developments in various countries. My Government has taken very effective steps to bring back persons from Libya and Iraq with the help of the Government of India. The

rehabilitation of NRK's returning from various countries has to be taken up very seriously and we have taken effective initiative in this field.

46. Visa cheating and criminal offences against the life and property of NRKs has become a very serious problem today. My Government has decided to establish an NRI Commission to deal with such cases exclusively and effectively. My Government has initiated steps to start the recruitment of persons to various Gulf Countries by Government agencies.

47. The Medium, Small, Micro Enterprises (MSME) sector in the State has consistently registered higher growth rate in respect of enterprises. My Government proposes to conduct District Level Adalats in association of various Industries Associations to sort out issues of the MSME sector. Branding of handloom products under the name and style "Kerala Handloom" will be promoted to project our products and to enhance its national and global demands. In the cashew sector, my Government intends to strengthen the activities of Kerala State Cashew Workers Apex Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd (CAPEX) and Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation through infusion of adequate funds.

and supply of raw material in time which will ensure more working days. The major campaign like Emerging Kerala 2012 and Young Entrepreneurs Summit (YES) 2014 have resulted in a huge surge of technology based enterprises across the State and the movement is ongoing.

48. The availability of the unique mix of tropical fruits, vegetables, meat, milk, poultry and marine products offers immense scope for food processing industries in Kerala. Factoring into this advantage, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation [KSIDC] and Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation [KINFRA] will establish a Mega Food Park with thrust to processing and export of marine products with central assistance. The Malabar Cements has established a cement bulk handling terminal at Kochi for importing coal, limestone, sand and cement. This hub could be utilized for importing raw materials in bulk for other Public Sector Undertakings as well.

49. The expansion of the refining capacity of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) Kochi Refinery from 9.5 Million Metric Ton Per Annum [MMTPA] to 15.5 MMTPA will be completed during 2016 which will result in