



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

1ST MARCH, 2012

By

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ

GOVERNOR OF KERALA

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

1. I cordially welcome all of you to the first session of the Thirteenth Kerala State Legislative Assembly for the year 2012. I assumed office as the Governor of this State in unfortunate circumstances consequent to the illness of my illustrious predecessor Shri. M.O.H. Farook and his sad demise subsequently. I join you in paying homage to the departed soul of this noble friend and honour him for the love that he bore this State and his dedicated efforts for the weal and welfare of its people.

2. The UDF Government had, from 2001 to 2006 charted out several projects on priority basis to give an impetus to development of the State. Unfortunately, several of these vital projects were shelved or ignored for little reason subsequently. In the process, the development of the State lost momentum. The Smart City, Kochi Metro and Vizhinjom are but a few examples of critical projects that suffered from this neglect. Invaluable opportunities were lost in implementing even Centrally Sponsored Schemes that could have improved the face of our villages and towns and made a significant difference to the people of our State. Not only did Central Funds remain unutilised, even packages specially meant for Idukki, Wayanad and Kuttanadu were left to languish.

3. It was at this juncture, when the development of the State had virtually been stalled that my Government under the leadership of Shri. Oommen Chandy came to power. The past nine months have earned my Government the respect and appreciation of our people from all walks of life even from those who share divergent political views.

4. My Government dedicated itself to the task of working for the good of the people of the State. The 100 days Action Programme announced by the Chief Minister reflected a clear message that my Government will implement its programmes and promises in a time bound manner. My Government has lived up to its promise of delivering rice at 25 kilograms at ₹ 1 a kilo to BPL families in the State. Now, concrete action plans for one year have been announced. These are successfully being implemented.

5. My Government has been able to mould itself as an energetic, dynamic, responsive and above all, a caring one. The Chief Minister and his team of Ministers are in constant touch with the people, lending a patient ear to them, sharing their joys and sorrows and sparing no efforts in finding solutions to their real and pressing needs. The first round of 'Janasamparka Programmes' in the districts have been a resounding success and have helped resolve several thousands of problems faced by the people of our State. But my Government has gone beyond the immediate task of merely providing quick relief to those citizens who have come to these 'Janasamparka programmes'. It has taken the determined step of collating the lessons learnt from

these programmes, analysing them and finding systemic and lasting solutions through discussions at various levels in Government. The 24/7 Chief Minister's Call Centre operating round the clock, serves as a nerve centre for dispensing quick and effective relief to thousands who avail of this facility to represent their grievances.

6. No doubt, my Government has had to face its share of challenges as well, during this period. The Mullaperiyar crisis was the foremost among these. I commend this Assembly, which showed solidarity and unanimity of the State, in its stand on the construction of a new dam at Mullaperiyar, rising above partisan considerations. While my Government is keen to ensure that the long standing warm and cordial relationship between the people of Tamil Nadu and Kerala is preserved and fostered, it shall welcome an amicable resolution to the crisis, unflinchingly pursuing its avowed commitment to building a new dam based on the principle of "Water for Tamil Nadu and Safety for Kerala."

7. As my Government sets itself to the task of putting the State on a path of high economic growth and social development, it will formulate and implement a long-term development perspective plan for the State in the coming year under the banner '**VISION 2030**'. This will be a vision document that will be a blueprint of sector-wise methodologies and strategies developed in consultation with experts, professionals, NGOs, political party representatives and civil society. The unifying and underlying theme of the plan will be '*Development and Care with Compassion*'. Specialized inputs on areas of significant

competitive advantage to the State like Knowledge City, Inland Waterways and Coastal Transport, Ayurveda, Skill Development, Tourism, Information Technology among others and the guidance of Shri. Sam Pitroda, Adviser to the Prime Minister, will be used to leverage the advantages in these sectors.

8. In line with its ambitious development perspective, my Government has drawn up the Twelfth Five Year Plan for implementation from April 1, 2012 with a total outlay of ₹ 1,05,000 cr. as against the total outlay of ₹ 40,022 cr. for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. One major drawback observed in the implementation of the Eleventh Plan was that LSG institutions, which account for nearly one third of the total Plan, were not able to implement their plan schemes and expend funds allotted to them. However, it would be unfair to blame LSGs for that, because even the approval of their plan took five to six months and in several cases even more, effectively leaving little time for implementing the schemes. My Government therefore intends to move to the Five Year Plan cycle for LSGs, akin to the practice adopted by the Union and State Governments and are confident that this will be a major breakthrough in more effective plan implementation by LSGs.

9. My Government believes that the fiscal consolidation process in the State set in motion with the enactment of Kerala Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003 is vital to its economic development. Since then, the State has come a long way in improving its fiscal indicators. The 13th Finance Commission had recommended certain amendments in the State's Fiscal

Responsibility Act for release of State Specific Grants and debt relief assistance totalling ₹ 1935 cr. However, my Government stepped in to complete the amendment immediately after it assumed office and ensure that these grants are not lost to the State.

10. My Government realises the vital importance of improving transport facilities in the State. It has left no stone unturned in pursuing the Kochi Metro Rail Project. The project is currently awaiting the sanction of the Public Investment Board in Government of India. Meanwhile, Kochi Metro Rail Ltd. is completing on schedule, all the preparatory work necessary for the launch of the project. A Mono-Rail Project will be implemented from Medical College Junction to Ramanattukara for a length of 23 km in Kozhikode. Feasibility studies have been completed for another Mono-Rail Project from Pallipuram to Neyyatinkara. My Government is examining the pre-feasibility report prepared for the proposed High Speed Rail Corridor from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation.

11. It is heartening to note that the long cherished dream of North Kerala, the Kannur Airport has achieved significant progress. The Detailed Project Report of the Airport will be completed by April 2012 and work of the runway can be started by the end of this year. The new International Terminal of the Cochin Airport admeasuring over 10 lakh square feet which can handle 4000 passengers in the peak hour has been approved by the CIAL Director Board. The entire cost of ₹ 400 cr. for the

project will be met from its own funds. The Thiruvananthapuram Airport will be expanded further and steps have been taken to acquire 82 acres of land for this. The development work of Kozhikode Airport will be taken up in phases after the acquisition of 137 acres of land is completed.

12. My Government emphasises the fact that transparency is the best antidote to corruption. Therefore obligatory disclosures in formats understood by the common man will be introduced in all departments. The Lok Ayukta in the State will be further strengthened. Whistle blowers will be encouraged and protected. Legislative guarantee will be given for service delivery and grievance redressal.

13. My Government strongly believes that for delivering services effectively to the people of our State, a responsive bureaucracy committed to Government's charter of growth and development is a pre-requisite. My Government will be receptive to the problems and grievances of public servants and will move forward with their full cooperation in the implementation of its policies and programmes. Towards this end, it is necessary to build the capacity of public servants focusing on their skills and attitudes. Kerala is one of the few states, which has a training policy. The State Training Policy will be revised so that all officers will undergo mandatory induction training as well as different phases of training to be eligible for promotions to higher positions. To identify and recognize innovations and best practices in governance, my Government will institute awards for excellence in these areas. A Centre of Good Governance will be created in IMG to make this process sustainable.

14. My Government realizes the challenges that a densely populated State like Kerala faces in the disposal of urban and rural waste. It will adopt a three pronged strategy, firstly of segregating all waste into less biodegradable wastes including plastics and organic and biodegradable wastes, secondly of emphasising decentralized waste treatment units and thirdly of encouraging infusion of modern technology in waste management. Appropriate solutions and strategies will have to be found to address this with the cooperation and understanding of all concerned. The prime focus has to be on technologically upgrading waste management facilities in various urban local bodies. For this, schemes in major urban local bodies are planned as part of Suchitwa Varsham Project. Modern Solid Waste techniques using clean and non-polluting technologies like incineration, coo-cycling and pyrolysis which do not create leachate, bad odour, and require no dumping and landfill will be implemented in all major urban local bodies. Regional waste processing centres in Kerala will be set up. Small to medium scale decentralized waste management units and small household-level waste management units will be set up. Source treatment of solid waste in households and institutions will be encouraged and plastic shredding units will be started. The operations of the Suchitwa Mission in the implementation of Malinya Mukta Keralam (Waste-free-Kerala) Action Plan will be scaled up. The targets of Total Sanitation Campaign will be achieved to ensure Nirmal State status for Kerala.

15. Kerala has over the last two decades in particular built up an excellent edifice of effective and participative LSG institutions. My Government realizes the crucial importance of improving service delivery at the LSG level as the cutting edge of government to the bulk of the population. For the first time, a Citizens charter was published incorporating the wide range of services provided by Grama Panchayats. Sankhya, the computerized double entry Accounting System will be extended to all Panchayats. 'Grama yathra' with the motto 'to village' will be conducted in selected Grama Panchayats and ward level 'Janakeeya Commission' will study the functioning of Gramasabha and will identify weaknesses in the system. My Government will take steps to address these deficiencies and make the Gramasabhas active and vibrant engines of local democracy. The consolidated reports of the Janakeeya Commission will be presented in a Rural Global Meet that will be held. Kalagramams, which aim at folk rejuvenation, evening cultural gatherings, sports and entertainment, will be launched in all Grama Panchayats. The highly acclaimed Palliative Care programme will be extended to all remaining Panchayats. Green Technology centres will be started in 100 more Panchayats to promote 'Zero Waste' action plan with the cooperation of Centre for Earth Science Studies. My Government will take steps for getting the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), which has achieved a significant reach in terms of its scale and administrative capability in organizing and delivering high quality training programmes for LSGs, approved as a Deemed University.

16. The year 2012 is of particular significance to Kudumbasree as new democratically elected executives are in place across the state. The prestigious central initiative for poverty alleviation - Aajeevika will be launched this year. The MIS and the digital database with details of 38 lakh women in Kudumbashree will enable the community network to enter into the world of e-governance that will open up vast opportunities for local economic development. The Ashraya programme for destitute rehabilitation will be revamped to include left out destitutes and to improve the support given to these poor families. Agricultural Marketing Centres will be started jointly by Kudumbasree, National HortiCorp Mission and Coconut Development Board. Several critical E-governance and M-governance (Mobile) projects, crucial to the development and strengthening of LSG governance, will be implemented through the Information Kerala Mission. Various Self-Help Groups will be encouraged to play a vital role in the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes in the State.

17. In the Urban sector, my Government has given the required impetus to expeditiously complete the projects under the Kerala Sustainable Urban Development Project (KSUDP) and Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). A major new World Bank development project covering all Municipalities and Grama Panchayats in Kerala with an outlay of over US \$200 Million will be launched. The Rajiv Awas Yojana will be implemented in major Corporations to make Kerala a slum free state with a pilot project this year in Thiruvananthapuram.

18. In the Twelfth Five Year Plan period, my Government will take effective and concerted steps for the implementation of Rural Development Projects and all Centrally Sponsored schemes. Under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, even though the State was permitted to give 100 days of employment to one person in each family, during 2010-11 the State was able to provide employment only for 42 days with a total expenditure under the scheme of ₹ 701.62 cr. My Government has taken steps to double the expenditure during the current year. Watershed management programmes have been taken up in almost all Block Panchayats. Permission has been granted to Panchayats to spend 40% of the project cost for material component. My Government will take effective steps to construct Rajiv Gandhi Bharat Nirman Seva Kendras in all Grama, Block Panchayats. This is a centrally funded project, where the State, in the past, had unfortunately failed to make use of the funds. The assistance for the construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana and all other housing schemes has been raised to ₹ 2 lakhs in the general sector including Scheduled Castes and ₹ 2.5 lakhs for Scheduled Tribes.

19. The performance under PMGSY has not been satisfactory in our State. Up to the seventh phase, projects for 1903 roads with length of 2703.6 km at a cost of ₹ 976.02 cr. were submitted. Out of the sanctioned amount, the State spent only around 60%. During the same period, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were able to obtain project sanctions for ₹ 4018.5 cr., ₹ 2045.8 cr. and ₹ 3198 cr. respectively. My Government has re-tendered all the pending PMGSY works and is effectively monitoring all ongoing projects.

20. My Government has an ambitious goal of enabling the State to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of milk, vegetables, meat and eggs in the State. My Government is committed to the goal of enhancing food production through gains in agricultural productivity and believes that for this, agriculture has to be made a sustainable and viable enterprise. In addition to the wide range of activities undertaken in this sector, this year a database of farmers will be generated at Krishi Bhavan level through registration for enabling quick disbursal of assistance to farmers under various schemes. For more effective utilisation, assistance disbursed as input subsidy will be shifted to output based subsidy on a pilot basis, in the next year. In place of the present insurance scheme, price stabilization, natural calamity assistance and input subsidy, a new scheme will be introduced for selected crops, for providing assistance as “income guarantee” to farmers if the crop is lost due to pest and disease attack, natural calamities or low prices. The year 2012-13 will be declared as Technology Transfer Year for the Department of Agriculture. My Government shall procure 100% of the paddy produced in the State through Supplyco. My Government will place emphasis on usefully employing waste lands in Kerala for enhancing our agricultural production.

21. In the Dairy sector, my Government has geared itself up for the challenges for meeting the ever-increasing demand for milk in the State and making it self-sufficient. The decision of the Union Rural Development Ministry to include certain items under dairy farming in the MGNREGS programme will help boost milk production in the State. As part of finding a solution

to the paucity of high yielding cross bred cows in the State, a 'Calf Adoption' scheme that will assist farmers to scientifically rear all new born female calves in the State from womb to maturity will be launched. Greater thrust will be given to the milk-shed development programme by inducting high yielding crossbred cows. A new financial institution to meet the needs of Dairy farms by mobilizing funds from Dairy Cooperatives will be formed. Seventy percent of the Dairy Cooperatives will be automated in the coming year. Recognizing the need to ensure the quality of milk produced and marketed in the State, the first of the three Regional Milk Testing Laboratories proposed at Kasargod, Kozhikode and Kottayam, will be established. Twenty new Dairy Extension Service Units in 'Dairy Friendly Panchayats' will be opened. Other key activities in this sector will include setting up an export oriented unit for ghee and cheese by the Ernakulam Regional Cooperative Milk Producers Union and setting up new cattle feed milling units by the Malabar Regional Co-operative Milk Producers Union.

22. The Animal Husbandry sector, which accounts for ten percent of the State Domestic Product, plays a pivotal role in the socio-economic development of Kerala and promises to be a central pillar of the economy. My Government intends to give added thrust to delivery of inputs through departmental farms and providing health care and veterinary services at the doorstep of farmers. A progeny protection programme with the objective of promoting scientific rearing and protection of the two lakh calves born each year will be launched. Other major initiatives planned in the sector includes setting up a multi-specialty

Veterinary clinic at Kudappanakunnu, a Demonstration cum Conservation programme for indigenous cattle in Bedudukka in Kasargod, a modern cattle feed plant for Malabar region in Kozhikode district, modern dairy farms in Kuriottumala, Vithura and Dhoni, a Hi-Tech layer farm of Kerala Poultry Development Corporation in Kollam district. The Meat Products of India Ltd. will establish a hi-tech meat processing plant at Chalakudy and take up organic meat production. The Kerala Livestock Development Board will focus on the conservation and dissemination of indigenous breeds of animals, import of high value bovine embryos and expansion of Embryo Transfer Facility to dairy farmers.

23. My Government is formulating a new Industrial Policy with the vision of the overall development of the State through Industrial and Investment Promotion. A new model of Public-Private-Panchayat Partnership (PPPP) for infrastructure development will be adopted. Trade and Commerce Zones will be established in the near surroundings of major cities for encouraging trading and commercial activities for the economic growth of the area. The major public sector Corporations involved in infrastructure development, KSIDC, KINFRA and INKEL will promote Development Project Areas for regional infrastructure and industrial development in major destinations near Seaport/Airport in major cities in the State. KINFRA is planning to set up an Aerotropolis at Kozhikode as well as a new Mega Food Park. In tune with the National Food Processing Policy, a State Food Processing Mission will be set up with KINFRA as the nodal agency.

24. My Government is organizing a Global connect during September 2012 under the banner of “Emerging Kerala” - a biennial event to brand Kerala as an investor friendly destination and to position the state as a Global Business hub of South India in partnership with CII and NASSCOM. A High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister and Project Committees are finalising the action plans. My Government will establish National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NIMZ) in the Kochi-Coimbatore Industrial Corridor. My Government will initiate the ‘Electronic Hub’ project aimed at creating state-of-the-art infrastructure to support industries in the Electronic Hardware manufacturing sector. The first phase will include the setting up of an Electronic City in central Kerala. KSIDC has entered into a joint venture with GAIL Gas Ltd. to form Kerala Gail Gas Ltd. for providing Gas based infrastructure and LNG/CNG facilities in Kerala. In the Small and Medium Enterprises Sector, schemes with special focus on youth and women for self-employment, construction of multi-storied industrial estates and strengthening and modernization of industrial areas have been taken up for ensuring quality infrastructure. My Government will also frame a new Exit Policy by creating a corpus for easy exit of sick manufacturing units. Under the Handloom Sector Revival Package, nearly 30,000 handloom weaver families will be extended benefits. An integrated knitting and garment unit at Edarikode Textiles, Malappuram will be set up in connection with its Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

25. My Government believes that a harmonious environment marked by cordial relationships between labour and management is a necessary condition for industrial development. My Government is committed to the protection of the rights of workers while necessarily ensuring a climate conducive for economic activity, be it at the industrial, commercial or even at the household level. The measures that will be taken up by the Labour Department include the unification of wage rates of Head Load workers throughout Kerala, e-governance for registrations, renewals and issue of licences, minimum wage protection system by disbursing salary through banks, a Housing Scheme for Plantation workers and a Janasree Bhima Yojana for unorganised workers. My Government has effectively curbed 'Nokkukooli' in two districts – a practice that has persisted despite having been formally declared illegal, and intends to eradicate this completely. My Government will establish the Kerala Academy for Skill Excellence (KASE) and also set up a Construction Academy under its umbrella. An Occupational Health Centre will be established at Kollam and Safety Institute for Public Training will be set up. My Government envisages an ambitious programme of converting Employment Exchanges into Employability Centres where Employment exchanges move into a new regime of playing a role in making the unemployed person employable through skill programmes and opening up appropriate employment avenues. This year the Labour Department in collaboration with the General Education and Higher Education Departments will launch an ambitious Skill Development Project aimed at providing skills to over five lakh persons over the

XII Five Year Plan. My Government is proactively intervening in the agitation by Nurses to ensure that health care services to patients in the hospitals do not get disrupted and fair employment conditions are assured for Nurses.

26. My Government has launched the Kerala State Entrepreneur Development Mission as announced in the Budget Speech 2011-12. 10,000 micro-enterprises will be started under the Mission that will help create six lakh job opportunities including direct and indirect employment in the State. The Kerala Financial Corporation will be the nodal agency for this. Selected entrepreneurs will be provided interest-free loan for up to an amount of ₹ 20 lakh, with a moratorium of one year.

27. My Government realizes that the services afforded by the public health care delivery institutions in the State contributes significantly to the quality of life of people, particularly the poor. My Government intends to launch a Non-communicable Diseases Control Programme covering all the Districts where the entire population at risk, above the age of 30 will be screened and drugs will be supplied free to those suffering from hypertension and diabetes. My Government will also launch a major initiative to provide free transport facilities to all expectant mothers registered with Government Institutions, to and from the nearest Government delivery centre with a provision to shift them in case of complications to larger centres. All newborn children in Government Delivery Centres will be screened for hearing, eyesight, thyroid and metabolic disorders. District Mental Health Programme will be started in Kollam and Alappuzha District.

Emergency Ambulance Services will be operated in all Districts in the State. My Government intends to take up several projects to improve infrastructure in Medical Colleges including the construction of Gallery type Auditorium in Lecture Hall and Theatre complex in Alappuzha, a new Casualty Block in Kottayam, an Academic Block and Water Treatment Plant in Thrissur and building for College of Pharmaceutical Sciences in Alappuzha.

28. Rising costs and out of pocket expenses in health care have driven many poor families into destitution. While the health insurance scheme (RSBY) launched by the Union Government is providing relief to the poor, many poor families still continue to be driven to poverty by the financial burden associated with catastrophic illnesses. My Government will put in place a Comprehensive Medical Insurance Scheme this year, to benefit all people in the State that struggle to face the burden of astronomically rising health care costs.

29. My Government has already launched the Karunya Benevolent Fund Scheme as declared in the Budget Speech 2011-12, for providing assistance to the needy for the treatment of cancer and other major ailments and for providing palliative care. The scheme will be funded by the proceeds of the Karunya Weekly Lottery and will be a major humanitarian venture of Government in providing relief to the poor, reeling under the rising cost of medical treatment.

30. With its network of nearly 33000 Anganwadies and welfare institutions providing care services to children, the disabled, destitute, the old and the infirm, the Social Welfare Department is no doubt the most visible face of a caring government. My Government will launch a massive programme with the participation of MLAs and LSGs to establish Model Anganwadies, which will work as Community Resource Centres delivering services to elderly women, adolescent girls besides mothers and children. This year, one Model Anganwadi will be started in each Assembly Constituency. My Government intends to formulate a comprehensive Nutrition policy for the State. A One-day Adalat will be held with the participation of the Public Service Commission and Departments to identify and report all backlog vacancies for Physically Handicapped in Government.

31. My Government is holding a Gender Festival at Kozhikode in March, around the theme of celebrating the dignity of womanhood, with the cooperation of all departments and agencies of Government. This event will be witness to the laying of the foundation of a Gender Park. This Park is envisaged as an umbrella of institutions that address issues of development and empowerment of women and is envisaged to become a full-fledged University. My Government will notify Nirbhaya – a comprehensive policy declaration that asserts the right of every woman to live without fear and with dignity. A 24/7 Women Information Centre will be set up in Thiruvananthapuram by the Women's Development Corporation.

32. My Government will draw up a policy for creating user-friendly and barrier free facilities for easy access by the physically challenged, in all buildings used by the public. As a first step, these will be provided in the Welfare Institutions of Social Welfare Department. A Comprehensive Rehabilitation Centre for the disabled will be established at Kozhikode with Central assistance. My Government will constitute a Child Rights Commission in the State. A scheme for providing hearing-impaired children with Cochlear Implants is set to takeoff shortly. My Government will revisit the Old Age Policy and redesign the same to ensure more effective implementation. The National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) will set up Regional Centres in two cities.

33. My Government holds the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes central to any meaningful and inclusive development of the State. The comprehensive strategy drawn up includes a range of projects for ensuring self sufficiency for all SC colonies with more than 50 houses, covering essential infrastructure, waste disposal schemes and farming, improvements of roads and drainage facilities, providing drinking water and waste disposal schemes and homestead farming. My Government will place emphasis this year on skill development of Scheduled Caste youth in trades that are in demand and for improvement of soft skills of Scheduled Caste students. A Community College at Wadakkanchery will be started in collaboration with the Nettur Technical Training Foundation. The department intends to provide 5000 new houses to houseless Scheduled Caste families and financial assistance

to 6000 Scheduled Caste families without land. Scheduled Caste Students from the merit list of Government studying in professional courses will be provided laptops. The Kerala State Development Corporation for SCs/STs will supplement the efforts of the Department. It will help develop a group of dynamic entrepreneurs and facilitate effective channelisation of credit for their ventures. A "Laghu Vyvasaya Yojana" for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries with assistance from NSFDC will be launched. The Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation will assist in the self-employment for 11900 beneficiaries and provide Micro-credit loans through Kudumbasree to 16500 women. The Kerala State Development Corporation for Christian Converts will implement a Loan Waiver Scheme and a One Time Settlement Scheme. Special courts for cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes will be started at Kollam and Pathanamthitta Districts.

34. The Scheduled Tribe Development Department will continue its thrust on welfare and development schemes for Scheduled Tribes. During the coming year, my Government will focus on projects including the construction of 1300 houses for ST families, electrification and providing drinking water to ST colonies, rehabilitation of landless tribal families and providing necessary basic facilities in the Resettlement areas. In addition, the Department will expand the scheme for development of tribes living in forest areas, and implement a comprehensive Health Care Programme. Group Farms in the Priyadarsini Tea Estate and at Attapady will be revitalised to benefit 500 families. My Government will fully implement the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 in the coming year.

35. My Government introduced a comprehensive Teachers' Package realizing that for any major headway in enhancing quality education, an atmosphere marred by innumerable litigations over the years around service issues of teachers had to be set right first. This package, has been widely welcomed by the teacher community, and will be implemented completely in the coming year. As part of this and in line with the Right to Education Act, the elementary education cycle will be brought on the national pattern and education will be compulsorily assured for all children in the 6-14 age groups from Classes 1 to 8. A comprehensive GIS assisted mapping of all schools has been completed and wherever there are pockets where educational institutions are unavailable within the distance stipulated in the RTE Act, new schools will be established or transportation facilities will be provided to the children to go to adjacent schools. Pupil teacher ratio will be maintained at 30:1 at the LP school level and 35:1 at higher classes. My Government also proposes to systematically improve the quality of infrastructure in government schools. For this, a programme for establishing Kerala Future Schools will be implemented with mobilization of resources from LSGs, peoples' representatives, civil society and alumni of these schools. Free uniforms will be supplied to students of Standards 2 to 8. The Web portal will be strengthened by including more lessons on Mathematics and Science subjects for the students of Standards 8 to 12. Vidya Vani broadcasts will be extended to maximum number of Legislative Assembly Constituencies.

36. My Government recognizes that higher education is a powerful instrument of economic and social transformation and will aim to ensure quality education based on access, equity and excellence. My Government realises the importance of regaining the primacy of our State in the field of Higher Education. The thrust of my Government will be on encouraging setting up of world class institutions and infrastructure in the State. My Government intends to set up an Academic City in the State, in the style and pattern of the Smart City, as part of its initiatives under the Emerging Kerala event of Government, conceived as a rich assortment of high quality international Universities and institutions offering specialized courses for domestic and international students. My Government intends to create an enabling environment for educational institutions in our State that meet requisite quality standards, to grow to their full potential and deliver higher education of quality on par with the best institutions internationally. My Government will launch the College Quality Improvement Programme (CQIP) to facilitate all Government Colleges earn the NAAC rating. Another major programme that my Government will undertake in the coming year is the Walk with a Scholar (WWS) programme aimed at nurturing students at the Undergraduate Level, through focused mentoring by a pair of external and internal mentors. Yet another milestone this year will be the launch of Scholar Support Programme (SSP) to support students with timely assistance and specialised educational material, including textbooks, notes and study material both in digital and printed form. My Government proposes to launch the Colleges Infrastructure Upgradation

Programme (CIUP) to upgrade the infrastructure in Government Colleges. Ten colleges will be upgraded as Centres of Excellence.

37. On the basis of discussions with the Government of India, my Government is confident that a new IIT can be set up at Palakkad in the coming year. An Integrated Institute of Science and Technology in line with the recommendations of the Rajendra Sachar Committee will be established with Central assistance in Malappuram District. An Indian Institute of Information Technology will also be set up in Kottayam district with Public Private Partnership between Government of India, the State Government and Industries. My Government will facilitate the setting up of an off-campus centre of the English and Foreign Languages University in the State.

38. The K. R. Narayanan Institute for Visual Sciences and Arts at Kottayam envisaged as global centre of research and excellence for visual sciences and arts will become operational and the first batch of students will be admitted this academic year. This year, my Government shall establish the Kerala Technological University as a University of Excellence that will open up new vistas in the field of technical education in the State. The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQUIP) with World Bank support will be implemented in thirteen colleges in the State. Research Scholarships will be established in all Government Engineering Colleges for the year.

39. Our Universities must not only impart knowledge, but also create knowledge through research and innovation. New products and processes must emerge from our campuses, giving the industry a stake in the development of our education system. The Kerala State Higher Educational Council will take steps to establish a State level Assessment and Accreditation Agency (SAAC) to rate academic institutions and teachers and will also start an ambitious programme for linking educational institutions with Industry in the state. To assist our Universities to compete for the UGC Awards for performance, my Government will establish the State Award Fund for Universities.

40. In the coming year, the Kerala State Science and Technology Museum will establish 14-inch Telescope with Roof Top Observatory for the public and a Six-degree of freedom Motion Stimulator. It will build an Evolution Park with animated Dinosaur models, which will be the first in India and Science Cities in Trissur and Kottayam Districts. Kerala State Centre for Advanced Printing and Training will upgrade its Centre for Braille Studies as a State Level Resource Centre. The Kerala Council for Historical Research will document the history of Malayali Migrations and Migrant Communities. This year the Centre for Continuing Education will offer a wider range of employment oriented courses.

41. My Government is in the process of gearing up for hosting the 35th National Games, organized as the 'First Green National Games' in the country. The games will be held at venues spread out over seven districts in the State. Four Green

Field Stadia will be built on annuity basis costing ₹ 290 cr. and will be a lasting legacy of the games in the creation of quality sports infrastructure. A Games Village to accommodate 5000 athletes and officials during the conduct of the games is also being built. My Government will constitute the Kerala Sports Development Fund to help sports persons gain international exposure, engage foreign coaches and for specialized schemes. An Elite Athletes Training Academy will be established to train sports persons of talent in selected disciplines to International level. Based on the findings of the Total Physical Fitness Programme, the 'Play a Game, Play for Fun' and a 'Swim N' Survive' programmes for school children will be implemented. These efforts will be supplemented by major projects of the Kerala Sports Council, which include construction of play fields in Panchayats, Schools and Colleges, low cost swimming pools and Vision India project in collaboration with Asian Football Confederation.

42. My Government will bring out a Youth Policy and set up a Youth Commission in the coming year. The Youth Welfare Board will establish a State Youth Centre, Youth Hostels in five districts additionally and a Youth Training Centre for vocational training.

43. My Government will formulate a new Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy aimed at the promotion of sustainable capture fisheries, aquaculture and trade. This policy becomes extremely relevant given the serious overexploitation and pollution of seas

and rivers that deplete the fishery wealth. My Government will also draw up a new Maritime Policy to promote maritime services and industries. The different prongs of the strategy will envisage utilizing the Maritime resources and entrepreneurial skills of Kerala, creating demand for maritime services and products, developing industrial clusters around all the non-major ports of Kerala, promoting Coastal Shipping and developing the State as a hub and destination in Maritime Industry, Tourism and Education. My Government will implement an integrated project 'Matsyasamrudhi' for the development of inland fisheries and aquaculture covering 700 Grama Panchayats, 6000 ha. for fish culture, 3000 ha. of Padasckharams for fish and prawn culture and 3000 ha. brackish water area for shrimp culture. Rearing the 'State Fish' (Karimeen) in 150 ha. ponds, in 3000 Adukkalakulams (Kitchen ponds) and in 1000 cages is also envisaged besides 3000 mussel production units and 150 crab fattening and culture units. A new Fish Net Factory at Kollam with a capacity of 500 tons per annum will help Matsyafed cater to the demands in this sector. New Fisheries Stations will be established in Alappuzha, Thrissur and Malappuram districts for effective implementation of the Kerala Marine Fishing Regulation Act. Payments to beneficiaries in the fisheries sector will be made by electronic fund transfer to accounts of the beneficiaries. My Government will take up the comprehensive development of all the 222 Fishing Villages in Kerala. Vizhinjam fishery harbour will be fully commissioned, Muthalapozy, Chethi, Thalai and Koyilandy fishery harbours will be completed and work on new fishery harbours at Manjeswaram, Vellayil,

Thanur, Parappanangadi, Arthungal, Valiyathura, will also be started. NABARD assistance will be effectively used to supplement resources of the State for developing the fisheries sector.

44. The vibrancy of the cooperative movement in the State has been central to its socio-economic development. In 2012-13, the International Co-operative year, the thrust will be on the modernization and professionalization of the Co-operative societies and revitalizing the Vanitha and SC/ST Societies. My Government will implement the second phase of the Integrated Co-operative Development Project in the districts of Thrissur and Palakkad with NCDC assistance. Cooperatives will also start well-equipped Clinical Laboratories and Dialysis units to bring down health care costs to the poor and needy.

45. The thrust of my Government will be to conserve and preserve the biodiversity of our forests. At the same time, my Government will implement programmes that ensure that farmers and their crops are safeguarded from wild life. Efforts will be continued to reduce the loss and suffering of forest dwelling and forest fringe area communities, voluntary relocation of tribal farmers residing in wildlife areas and ensuring better connectivity in tribal and other settlements inside forests for mitigating the hardship experienced by forest dwellers. The thrust on eco-tourism with measures including joint forest management, within the forests and protected areas reducing environmental risk from plastic waste. The core and buffer portions of Periyar and Parambikulam Tiger Reserves presently outside the Protected

Area will be declared as sanctuaries. Measures will be intensified to protect the biodiversity outside the forests in homesteads, wetlands, mangroves and sacred groves. My Government proposes to set up a new Forest division in Kasargod district and ten Model Forest Stations including two in Sabarimala. A new forest IB will be set up at Pathanapuram. A Zoological Park will be established in Puthur in Thrissur.

46. My Government shall accord the greatest priority to protecting and preserving the ecology and environment. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority and State Expert Appraisal Committee for environmental clearance of major development projects of the State have been operationalized. A draft State Action Plan on Climate Change amelioration has been finalized. My Government will constitute the Vembanad Eco Development Authority. Special conservation package for the rivers of Achancoil, Pampa, Manimala, Kodur, Meenachil and Muvattupuzha will be implemented. Environmental budgeting will be introduced in the formulation of Plan Schemes. The widely appreciated Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) under the Biodiversity Act, constituted in all Grama Panchayats will be made a focal delivery point for environmental awareness and protection.

47. The vision of my Government is to make tourism a vibrant sector playing a significant role in the sustainable development of the State. Kerala continues to be the leading tourist destination and the most visible tourism brand in the country. To sustain and enhance the brand value of Kerala

Tourism, my Government will focus on improving tourism infrastructure in the State while continuing its marketing efforts in both existing and new markets. Potential of new and lesser known destinations will be tapped. Comprehensive development plans of several major destinations are underway targeting 50 destinations in 5 years. Government will continue the heritage project at Muziris to make it the most valued tourist destination in the State. For the first time in the history of tourism development in the State, my Government has brought out a comprehensive Tourism Policy. To ensure private participation in decision making, Government will form a State Tourism Advisory Committee. The Responsible Tourism initiative started with the objective of ensuring benefits to local community from tourism will be extended to more destinations. New tourism markets, both domestic and international, will be identified and promoted. Special drive including promotional events to strengthen positioning of Kerala as an 'Incentive' destination and a premium destination for 'Wellness and Ayurveda' will be initiated. Grand Kerala Shopping Festival will be strengthened to ensure more participation and promotion of traditional crafts. Kerala Tourism will undertake a 'Waste Free Tourist Destination campaign'. A new initiative will be started to showcase the traditional boat races of Kerala. KTDC will complete key infrastructure projects at Bekal, Muzhuppilangad, Kozhikode and Alappuzha.

48. My Government has increased the minimum wages for coir workers to ₹ 285. The Coir Workers Pension was enhanced benefiting 60000 pensioners. The husk collection scheme and

technology intervention for defibering that seeks to address the raw material scarcity will be strengthened. In line with the pressing need for diversification in this sector, a PVC tufted factory will be established, handicraft and souvenirs from Coir will be encouraged and new technology interventions supported by National Coir Research and Management Institute will be adopted. A Kerala Coir Marketing Consortium would be set up with share of all stakeholders including PSUs, COIRFED, Cooperatives in Coir Sector, Small Scale Producers and Private Entrepreneurs. A comprehensive project of Coir Gramam will be launched this year.

49. My Government will start two major institutes under the State Council for Science, Technology & Environment - the Sreenivasa Ramanujan Institute for Basic Sciences and the Institute of Wasteland Studies and Research. The Council will institute the Kerala Sashtapuraskaram for successful Scientists and Technologists from Kerala. Research studies of topical and current importance by the S&T institutions under the umbrella of the Council include one on climate change by CESS and studies by NATPAC on Environmental Impact of Alappuzha-Changanassery Canal in Kuttanadu Region, development of a Model Canal in Thiruvananthapuram addressing frequent rain water flooding and an evaluation of Accident Black Spots on Roads using Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing.

50. My Government shall endeavour to create an enabling environment for sustainable growth in the housing sector and will draw up an Integrated State Housing Development Plan. A Technology innovation fund will be created for nurturing innovative initiatives in the development of building technology. Other key proposals envisaged include developing specific action plans for skill upgradation of workers in housing sector, infusion of new technology and reduction of waste, establishing network of 'Kalavaras' to ensure availability of building materials at fair prices to the weaker sections and setting up housing and habitat parks under the aegis of "LABISHIAS".

51. My Government will accord high priority for ensuring the quality of the road network of 33,000 km under the Public Works Department. Nearly 1300 km will be upgraded on public private partnership on BOT-Annuity mode under the State Road Improvement Project (SRIP). Long term heavy maintenance of roads as has been done in Sabarimala to contain annual recurring expenditure will be extended to selected state highways. The City Road Improvement Project will be extended to Kottayam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, and Kannur in PPP mode. My Government is happy to inform this house that 367 km of road will also be upgraded at an estimated cost of ₹ 1356 cr. with financial assistance from the World Bank. My Government intends to take up construction on a coastal highway from Ponnani to Vengalam in the coming year. My Government will formulate a comprehensive Green Building policy to promote eco-friendly constructions and the new buildings constructed by PWD shall be based on this policy. Multi storied parking facilities for vehicles shall be constructed in all the major cities

in association with LSGs and Development Authorities. Steps will be taken up for the time bound implementation of the Hill Highway Project.

52. My Government will pay utmost attention in tapping the economic potential of the water resources of the State. Coastal zone management and development of inland waterways have been prepared for a total outlay of ₹ 200 cr. and the renovation of ponds and water bodies for ₹ 50 cr. In addition, NABARD assistance under RIDF for ₹ 500 cr. is being availed for works in the Minor and Medium Irrigation Sector and Inland Waterways Sector. My Government intends to draw up action plans to address the environmental issues in industrial clusters. A new strategy of "Homestead Irrigation" will be drawn up where irrigation will be provided to individual or group of small farmers in homesteads. The Muvattupuzha Valley Irrigation project will be commissioned in 2012. An expert committee has been appointed for the implementation of Meenachil river valley project. The second phase of the World Bank aided Jalanidhi project, covering 200 Grama Panchayats and benefitting 18.4 lakh people has been approved by World Bank for ₹ 1022 cr. The Department will implement Hydrology data bank to store and disseminate data generated from the 'Antariksh' Project. The Kerala Water Authority aims to complete 114 major water supply schemes under NABARD (SPAN), NRDWP and State Plan during the next year. The computerized Billing & Collection system will be extended to

the entire State. Kerala Water Authority plans to utilize the service of Post Offices for its revenue collection throughout the State to enhance customer convenience.

53. My Government intends to establish a Cyber Park at Kozhikode. This year the built up commercial space in our IT Parks in the State will be increased significantly by 53.5 lakh sq. feet from the existing 104 lakh sq. feet available now. The State has been able to attract leading IT companies like 'Oracle' and 'Cognizant'. TCS is establishing a world-class training centre at Thiruvananthapuram, that is expected to be the largest such facility in Asia. The master plan for the Smart City will be drawn up in three months. My Government will establish ICT Zones in all major cities. Akshaya, now in its tenth year, has today touched the lives of over 2 crore citizens and implemented projects including the UID Enrolment through which 45 lakhs people have been got enrolled. The Electronic Service Delivery (e-district project), which has come in for appreciation by the Department of IT of Government of India, piloted in the districts at Kannur and Palakkad will be rolled out across the State. The Digital Document Filing System (DDFS), which facilitates electronic processing of files, has been implemented in the Information Technology Department and Food and Civil Supplies in the Government Secretariat, and will be soon implemented in Higher Education and other Departments. A comprehensive Mobile Governance Platform has been developed for enhancing the reach of e-Governance and electronic service delivery of public services.

54. My Government realises the pivotal role of the power sector in the economic development of the State. At the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan, demand for power is expected to reach 5250 MW. An appropriate mix of different types of energy can alone help meet this demand. A coal based generating Station at Orissa yielding 1000 MW of power to the KSEB, will be jointly set up with Orissa Government by utilizing the coal allotted from Baitharni West coal block. In the coming year, KSEB plans to add 32-75 Mega Watts in hydel capacity from five different projects and also propose to tender five new hydel projects with a combined capacity 55.20 MW. A gas based power plant of capacity 1200 MW will be set up at Puthuvypeen as a joint venture with Petronet LNG Ltd. Next year, eighty MW will be produced from Wind Energy at Ramakkalmedu through NTPC. In order to strengthen transmission network, it is proposed to construct two 220KV substations, eleven 110KV substations, five 66KV substations, fifteen 33KV substations and the connected lines during 2012-13. KSEB has an ambitious project to reduce transmission and distribution losses, and propose to add 4500 transformers, 3500 km of 11KV lines and take up 6000 km of single phase to three phase conversion. ANERT will propagate the use of solar power to generate an additional 10 MW in the coming year. It will launch 10000 "SPV Homes" programme to enable domestic consumers to transform themselves to "producer-consumers" where electricity generated can be fed into the KSEB grid with the producer receiving compensation at a preferential rate decided by the State Electricity Regulatory Commission. Two-thirds of the entire cost

will be met as subsidy, with one third from the Central Government and one third from the State Government. ANERT also intends to establish a one MW floating solar power plant in a reservoir as a pilot project linked to the grid.

55. The Central Government has under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) permitted installing adequate number of electric posts for providing electricity to the BPL and Scheduled Caste families. My Government hopes to effectively utilise this network of electric posts also to provide power connections to all families and complete electrification of the entire State in the next two years.

56. The development of ports is essential for economic development to a maritime State like ours. My Government will develop six Ports with large development potential through Public Private Partnership. Vizhinjam Port will be developed as an International Deep-water Multipurpose Seaport Project as a Landlord port model with a project outlay for the first phase of the project at ₹ 4010 cr. The other strategic projects include dedicated berthing facilities and passenger terminal for Union Territory of Lakshadweep at Beypore, a multipurpose all weather seaport at Ponnani port, two riverside multipurpose terminals, a cement terminal and a major seaport at Azhikkal, a cement silo/packing unit at Kollam port and a seaside Marina at Alappuzha. My Government intends to set up the State Maritime Board by merging Department of Ports, Kerala Maritime Society and Kerala State Maritime Development Corporation Ltd. to coordinate all maritime related activities.

57. My Government intends to embark on a Coastal Shipping operations to connect the non-major port within the State and to both major and non-major ports of other maritime states. An action plan for this has been prepared. Required facilities are being provided in various non-major ports to cater to Coastal Shipping and for integrating with inland water ways.

58. In the light of the two sad and unfortunate deaths of two of our fishermen on the high seas, my Government intends to provide added thrust to coastal security. As a part of strengthening Coastal Security, implementation of the International Security Code is in progress in three ports namely Vizhinjam, Kollam and Beypore. Coastal Security programmes will be implemented jointly with Indian Navy, Coast Guard, port department and marine police in the Coastal waters.

59. No development can take place if the State is unable to mobilise revenues effectively. My Government proposes to rationalize the tax structure to make it more investment friendly. Steps will be taken for improving the efficiency of tax administration and incentivising tax compliance. The attempt will be to achieve higher levels of trust of dealers and create an environment of low compliance cost and litigation. The e-governance systems will be upgraded to make it GST compatible. The new campus of the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, at Sreekariyam in Thiruvananthapuram, with more than one lakh square feet area will be commissioned this year. Our treasuries serve as the backbone of the financial system of the State. My Government intends to undertake an intensive

programme for transforming the treasuries in the State through net working, automation, integration and infrastructure development with state-of-the-art core banking system and financial management systems.

60. The programmes of the Civil Supplies Department are vital in containing the price and protecting people, particularly the poor, from any phenomenon of runaway food prices. The special drive for issue of ration cards where all pending applications of nearly three lakhs were disposed off is commendable. My Government is proud of the fact that about 22 lakh BPL and Antyodya families currently get the benefit of the 25 and 35 kg at ₹ 1 a kilo respectively. An end-to-end Biometric Identification based Integrated PDS project in the State is on the anvil. A Vehicle Tracking System will be implemented to avoid clandestine diversion of PDS food grains and kerosene. The market operations by Supplyco, the Civil Supplies Corporation in supplying essentials, FMCG products and drugs to the public at reduced prices through the network of public outlets under the Market Intervention Scheme is now integral to the strategy of Government to offer these articles at affordable prices to people of the State. Supplyco will open Hypermarkets, the outlets with ultra modern shopping facilities, at more locations and establish a state-of-the-art modern microbiology laboratory and College of Indigenous Food Technology under CFRD, Konni.

61. An efficient police force in the State is a prerequisite for orderly growth and progress of the State. My Government will endeavour to build a people-friendly police machinery in the State. It will further encourage and deepen the widely welcomed system of Community Policing. The State has led the way in establishing a Student Police Force and will further build on this innovative institution. My Government intends to undertake a recruitment drive to ensure 10% reservation for women in Civil Police Officer cadre. Three new Special Mobile Squads to deal with atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Tribes will be formed. My Government intends to form the State Bureau of Investigation on the model of CBI. Cyber Crime Wings will be set up in all districts. As part of revitalizing of the police force for effective functioning, RFID based electronic beat monitoring system will be introduced in the major cities of the State. A separate Call Centre and Swift Response Force to handle crimes against women will be introduced in the major Corporations. A Swift Action Team (SWAT) will be introduced in Thiruvananthapuram and other cities to handle emergency situations.

62. My Government will take efforts to channelize the resources of inmates in the jails and to give them more occupational avenues in jails and improve the infrastructure and administrative facilities for the department. Given the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and the consequent growth of high-rise buildings, my Government will accord priority to speedier procurement of modern gadgets like Sky Lift and replacing old vehicles of Fire and Rescue Service. A full-fledged Civil Defence and Home Guards State Level Training Institute will be established at Viyyoor.

63. My Government will launch several bold flagship projects under the Revenue Department. A project, towards making the State of Kerala a Zero Landless State by 2015 will be implemented in Mission mode. Towards this end, efforts for the distribution of Pattayams which is now proceeding at a record pace will be redoubled in vigour. The distribution of land in R-Block in Alappuzha has had a chequered history with the land almost wholly alienated from the original allottees to whom, it was distributed. My Government will ensure that it is given to the rightful allottees for which it was intended. My Government recognizes the aspirations of the landless in the Chengara Land Struggle and will allot pattayams to all the persons who are yet to receive them.

64. The pilot project (RELIS) for the online transfer of registry will be introduced in 557 more villages of nine districts in the next year. A Land Governance Society of Kerala will be operationalised as a Programme Management Unit this year for better land governance in the State. An online payment gateway will be introduced for the payment of collections due to Government. My Government will introduce the concept of Tree Bank using idle Government lands by planting commercially important wood trees like Mahagony, Teak, Rosewood and entrusting their management to local student communities. My Government will ensure that all future land acquisition gets facilitated in line with the Rehabilitation and Resettlement policy. Steps will be taken to distribute the remaining surplus land

available in the State to various beneficiaries. In the wake of the grave risks arising from the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority has formulated the Mullaperiyar Crisis Management Plan.

65. In the light of the Abkari Policy announced, my Government intends to reform the legal, institutional and regulatory framework in consultation with all the stakeholders. The Excise Department will be modernized with commissioning of upgraded communication network, sophisticated arms and transport facilities. The Excise Academy will be made fully operational, enhancing the capacity of the excise personnel to the required skill set. A Rapid Action Force will be formed to deal with offenders. Awareness campaign against alcoholism will be intensified through strategic programmes in school and college campuses and a programme "Liquor Free Keralam" will be launched, to reach out to all families of the State, with the collaboration of voluntary organizations and Government channels. Kerala State Beverages Corporation, as a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility will set up support services programmes through the network of de-addiction centres managed by NGOs.

66. The Transport Department in the State is vital to the safety of users of the roads in the State, both vehicles and pedestrians and is also a major source of revenue for the State exchequer. My Government intends to emphasize more effective enforcement of road and vehicle safety. The modern surveillance programme under implementation in Thiruvananthapuram City

will be extended to other cities. New Sub Regional Transport Offices will be opened in Taluks not having them, in a phased manner. The Enforcement Wing will be reinforced with seventeen new Squads to increase revenue collection. The Department will be strengthened by inducting sophisticated technology including Handheld Radars and Interceptors. Critical infrastructure projects for the year will include completing the fully computerised Vehicle Testing Station and Driving Testing Track at Chevayoor, Kozhikode, setting up computerised Vehicle Testing Station and Driver Testing Track System in three more districts and providing retention yards for seized vehicles of one acre in all Districts for more effective enforcement. The Driver Training and Research Institute at Edappal will be completed. The construction of the much awaited Integral Coach Factory at Palakkad has been inaugurated. In the first phase, in the next three years, the Unit is expected to produce 400 Wagons.

67. Water Transport, as a mode of traffic, holds the key to building a more environmentally sustainable transport system for the State. The key projects in the Water Transport sector include the construction of slipway at Ponjikkara, introducing ticket vending machines in all boats and construction of two Double Decker Passenger cum Tourist boats. A new slipway cum workshop at Payyannur to cater to the Malabar region is also being planned.

68. The thrust of my Government in the Registration Department will be on enhancing efficiency and offering better services to the public through the e-governance platform.

Existing anomalies in fixation of fair value of land in the State will be rectified. All registration data will be centralized at the State Data Centre at Thiruvananthapuram in a consolidated database that will facilitate online mutation of land records with the co-operation of Revenue Department. Other major initiatives envisage include introducing e payment facility for remittance of fee for various services and online registration of partnership with online generation of Registration Certificates.

69. My Government attaches utmost priority and importance to the Sabarimala pilgrimage and implementation of the Sabarimala Master Plan. This year, my Government could successively make effective arrangements and achieve proper co-ordination between the Travancore Devaswom Board and the Government Departments to make this pilgrimage season safe, secure and clean. The Zero Waste Programme launched at Sabarimala during the last season was a great success. In the backdrop of the Pullumedu tragedy, to tighten the safety measures, comprehensive Sabarimala Safety Manual is being implemented. My Government has drawn up a programme for protecting the temple ponds and kavus. A Temple Arts Training Institute will be set up under auspices of the Malabar Devaswom Board for collecting and preserving documents and instruments relating to unique arts and rituals associated with the temples in Malabar region and for imparting training in these arts as well as Vedic and Thantric performances. My Government will draw up a Master Plan for the overall development of Guruvayur Devaswom. A Police Station exclusively for strengthening the

security of the Guruvayur Temple will be set up. A state-of-the-art security cover for Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple with adequate manpower and modern high-tech electronic surveillance equipments will be established.

70. The Minority Welfare Department formed subsequent to the Sachar Committee report will be upgraded from a line department to a full-fledged Secretariat Department. Fifty minority concentrated blocks will be identified in the State for the implementation of a Multi Sectoral Development Programme on par with the centrally sponsored scheme of Multi Sectoral Development Programme being implemented in Wayanad District.

71. The welfare of non-resident Keralites will be a prime concern of my Government. The recently concluded NRK meet at Thiruvananthapuram had proposed major initiatives to safeguard the interests of NRKs and these will be implemented with renewed vigour. Steps will be taken to provide legal assistance to those who are detained in jails in Gulf countries for technical reasons and non-criminal charges. A scheme 'Swapna Saphalyam' has already been launched which will provide free air tickets to those who are released from jail in cases where they cannot afford the return trip to Kerala. My Government proposes to design rehabilitation programmes for returnees from Gulf countries, especially given the relevance of such measures in the light of the fact that increasingly more of these countries prefer to employ local people in various jobs.

72. The Cultural Affairs Department has the task of preserving and building on Kerala's rich and vibrant culture, literature and art forms. The emphasis will be on digitisation of records in the Archival Repositories, establishment of Heritage Centres and Structural and Chemical Conservation Works of monuments. A National Museum of the History of Freedom Struggle will be established at Thiruvananthapuram and a Memorial will be constructed at Vattiyookavu to commemorate the State Congress Conference which spearheaded the Freedom Movement in Travancore. Forty volumes of the collected works of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar were published in Malayalam, thereby becoming the first Indian language to earn this privilege. The Archives Department will complete the Mathilakom project and set up a Signature Archives Museum to display the writings and signatures of eminent personalities. The Archaeology Department will undertake comprehensive documentation of all the monuments of Kerala, supported by photo/video technology. My Government proposes other major initiatives which include establishing a Numismatic Museum in Thiruvananthapuram and completing the conservation works at Edakkal Caves to have it included among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. In the coming year, the Museum and Zoo Department will set up a modern and scientific Art Gallery in Thiruvananthapuram, a Centre in Wayanad to showcase the local life and culture of the region, a Socio-historic and Cultural Museum as part of Krishna Menon Museum at Kozhikode and a Glass Museum at Thrithala.

73. My Government intends to establish a cultural village at Kozhikode to preserve the cultural heritage of Malabar region. The activities of the various Cultural and Arts Academies under the State will be expanded to Malabar region more effectively. The Kerala Lalithakala Academy will institute a memorial for Raja Ravi Varma at Kilimanoor. Steps will be taken to start a Kalagramam at Nediyanga, Sreckandapuram. A Mappila Kala Academy will be established in the Mahakavi Moyinkutty Vaidyar Smarakom at Kondotty. A Sapthaswara Centre for Art and Culture will be established at Kasargod under the auspices of Kerala Sangeetha Nataka Academy. The Kerala Sahitya Academy will organise a global conference in Malayalam Language and Literature. The Kerala Folklore Academy will establish a Folklore Village at Vellavoor, Kottayam to conserve and promote the regional art forms of Central Travancore. The Kerala Kalamandalam has gained significant achievements to its credit in the last nine months and has been accorded the 12-B Status by the University Grants Commission. This important milestone will help it to grow as a major and prestigious academic institution in the national and international arena. My Government intends to set up a Film City and Amusement Park in Thiruvananthapuram on BOT basis. The Kerala State Film Development Corporation will set up a Theatre Complex at Alappuzha and a Festival Complex with modern facilities in Thiruvananthapuram.

74. Various activities are under way under the Malayalam Mission, an autonomous institution under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister, set up to provide opportunities for

non-resident Malayalee children world-wide, to learn Malayalam language. Steps will be taken to establish the Malayalam University after obtaining the report of the Special Officer appointed for this.

75. As a step towards the deepening of democratic processes, Parliamentary Affairs Department will monitor the assurances made in the Legislative Assembly through its "Assurance Implementation Desk". Parliamentary Literacy Clubs will be established in schools and colleges throughout the state next year with financial support from Government of India. My Government intends to introduce Human Rights Education in all schools and colleges all over the state with U.N assistance.

76. The people of Kerala are proud of its judicial system which has been a blessing, playing a tremendous role historically in building a just society in the State, deepening democratic traditions and furthering transparency. My Government is committed to strengthening infrastructure facilities for the judicial institutions in the State and will take steps to start new institutions where necessary for ensuring easy access to justice for our people.

77. The Law Department will build up a Law Information Management System for the State Law Secretariat and the "Court Case Monitoring Solution for Law Offices" for Law Offices of the State for more effectively managing the legal services to Government.

78. As a citizen responsive measure, my Government will introduce a system in the Information and Public Relations Department of collecting feedback from the public on Government policies and programmes through Opinion Polls and Surveys by independent Agencies. This year, the department will take up two ambitious plans to install a network of video-walls in every district headquarter for the effective dissemination of various government programmes and set up a Media City. The Indian Institute of Mass Communications at Kottayam will commence its operations this year itself from the M.G University Campus, where it will temporarily be housed. Steps have already been initiated to acquire a permanent site for the Institute in Vijayapuram Panchayat.

79. My Government is aware that the process of development involves hard and painstaking efforts. These changing times need a new credo, if inclusive growth with equity has to be ushered in without losing any more time. Adherence to dogmas and platitudes that have outlived their relevance for addressing modern day challenges will only detract from this objective. We cannot be slowed down by the fear or reluctance to change as these will only impede and hinder development. My Government has, in the last nine months amply revealed that it has both the will and dedication to do what is best for the development and prosperity our State. Needless to say, the recipe for Kerala's development and meeting challenges ahead of the State cannot be one that is based on confrontation. Instead, it

has to be built on a strong foundation of collaboration and goodwill of all sections of our population. Narrow differences have to be set aside in the larger interests of the State. Together, we can script a new chapter of economic development and social justice for our State.

JAI HIND
