



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

29TH JANUARY, 2020

**BY
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GOVERNOR OF KERALA**

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

1. It is my honour and privilege to address this august body of representatives of the people of Kerala, marking the beginning of the 18th session of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly.
2. My Government has completed 1344 days in office. This has been a period during which we have redeemed the pledge made before the people of Kerala, namely, the commitment to material growth and care for the deserving sections of the society. My Government decided to make a quantum leap in the field of infrastructural development, attracting investment to the State while implementing environmental and labour laws and ensuring social security to the vulnerable sections of the society. In our ambitious and determined approach to change the face of the State, unprecedented natural calamities were giant throwbacks, by causing substantial loss to the economy and claiming precious lives. Here too, my Government and the civil society in unison, outlived this challenge by swift and prompt

response which has been acclaimed at the international level. This challenge is being met squarely by my Government through the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI) which has set for itself the task of “Build back better”. We are now in the process of making it a people’s initiative through the campaign “*Nammal Namukkai*” by involving the Local Self-Governments in the State.

3. My Government sought the opinion of internationally acclaimed experts to Rebuild the State. Dutch experts are helping us in water management through the Room for River Project. The Committee of Experts appointed to look into the “Causes of Extreme Rainfall Events and Policy Responses” has submitted its report to the State Planning Board and its suggestions will be of valuable guidance in our initiatives to build a Disaster Resilient Kerala.
4. My Government in its early days itself had stated before the people that we cannot have the Big Bang approach to infrastructural development solely depending on the scarce budgetary resources on which there are substantial

committed claims. My Government inherited a huge legacy of pending commitments from its predecessor. The state's own revenue generation had also hit a new low since 2013-14. My Government took bold and steady steps to set apart a portion of the revenues to infrastructure building, social as well as physical, apart from tapping national and international financial markets through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board (KIIFB). KIIFB has sanctioned roads, electric lines, water supply projects, school and college buildings, hospitals, equipments etc worth Rs 50,000 crores.

5. NITI Aayog in its ranking of achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 has accorded the first position to Kerala consecutively for the second year, which is a matter of pride for the people of Kerala. However, my Government is not myopic towards the substantial challenges we face in bringing the fruits of development to the marginalised sections of the society and alleviating economic inequality and its pernicious consequences. My Government has taken up

schemes in the mission mode to address these issues. The problem of homelessness has been taken up on top priority and the Livelihood Inclusion Financial Empowerment (LIFE) Mission is well on track to hand over houses to the two lakh beneficiaries. Now we are poised to start the next phase of providing flats/houses for the landless.

6. The Pothuvidyabhasa Samrakshana Yajnam and Aardram Mission have already had visible impact on public education and public health systems in Kerala. Special attention is being given by Haritha Keralam Mission on rejuvenation of rivers, greening our environment, promotion of sanitation programmes and integrated vegetable cultivation.
7. A Community Volunteer Corps, consisting of one volunteer for every 100 people will be ready by the end of May 2020. This will lead to the State getting the service of 3,40,000 community volunteers who will give real time response in times of any emergency and during natural calamities. The time frame for training has been drawn up and registration of volunteers has started. A Youth

Leadership Academy with corporate participation is also planned.

8. My Government has taken steps to make the State a safe place for travel for women by providing good night shelters of assured quality and public toilets on the wayside in the ratio of one pair of toilets for every 3000 people, besides making toilets in petrol pumps ready for use by all and street lighting using LED lights in every local body.
9. My Government has initiated a scheme 'Chief Minister's Local Road Rebuild Project' for rebuilding rural roads utilising Rs. 961 crore from Chief Minister's Disaster Relief Fund. In all the development initiatives, there will be active participation by Local Self-Governments so that the process of participatory development in which Kerala set new standards is carried forward. Local Self Governments will be encouraged to compete in a healthy way to create 5 jobs for every 1000 persons. This will be a game changer and officials will become catalysts for investments. Local

Governments will thus become torchbearers of new initiatives in agriculture, animal husbandry and medium scale industries.

10. My Government has enacted major policy reforms to facilitate government clearances and to cut the Gordian Knot of procedures to attract investments. The MSME sector can now get an easy platform without having to wait for a slew of clearances as part of our 'Ease of Doing Business' efforts. A special package of incentives for industries has also been announced. Grievances of public are heard on a regular basis through the Taluk Adalats conducted by District Collectors.
11. My Government does not intend to stop with passage of legislations, which of course, are important milestones in our stride towards making Kerala an investment destination. My Government is taking steps to bring about a complete change in attitude of the officials at the cutting edge level from being naysayers to the public, to become their facilitators, to get things done in a swift and transparent manner. E-Governance and its spread is the technology based tool to achieve this.

12. When all these are being done in right earnest by my Government, I draw your attention to the substantial hurdles we face in the path ahead.
13. Our national economy is facing an unprecedented slowdown and as per the latest estimates released by the Central Statistical Office the growth rate of our Gross Value Added (GVA) has hit a new low of 4.9 percent for 2018-19 Advance Estimates. This will adversely affect our revenue buoyancy as well as central transfers. Besides affecting revenue, employment opportunities are also drying up and unofficial reports have put unemployment figures at a forty five year high. Unfortunately, the results of the quinquennial surveys by the National Sample Survey Organisation have not been published for the first time since its inception, thereby denying policy makers and researchers, an important tool of analysis.
14. My Government has been of the firm view that during times of persistent economic slowdown, fiscal conservatism and mechanical adherence to deficit ratios would be deleterious, as this approach will not only prolong, but also aggravate

the economic slowdown. Government needs to spend to boost private consumption in a demand deficient scenario marked by slowdown in all sectors, especially the manufacturing sector. But with the contrary views which have a firm grip over the policy makers of the Central Government is constraining the national economy and adversely affecting the States. Though we enthusiastically call our polity as Cooperative Federalism, in reality, it is one in which the revenue prowess of the States is shrinking while their expenditure obligations have been rising. My Government has taken a leading role in pointing this out before constitutional bodies like the Union Finance Commission.

15. My Government has genuine apprehensions about the national economic slowdown adversely impacting the States, especially our own State which has taken an approach of no compromise on social sector spending. Due to the recessionary conditions in the national economy and tax concessions, there has been a sharp decline of central financial devolution. To add to the woes,

State public borrowing has also been reduced. The budget expectation was that Kerala would have access to public borrowing of around Rs.10000 crores during the last quarter. However permission granted is only for Rs.1900 crores.

16. In the arena of polity, we are facing testing times and my Government declares its steadfast commitment to the values intrinsic to our Constitution and which have been shaped by our nationalist movement. We have built our national unity by adhering to secular and democratic values. Our society stands united amidst diversity through these strong cords. The diversities of language and religion add richness to our unity and any attempt to divide and discriminate on these grounds need to be resisted.
17. Our constitutional values have to be protected in their form and content. The former devoid of the latter will make our democracy an empty shell, which I hope will not be allowed by the people of India who have given unto themselves this great Constitution.

18. Our citizenship can never be on the basis of religion as this goes against the grain of secularism, which is part of the basic structure of our Constitution. This august body unanimously passed a resolution requesting the Central Government to abrogate the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019, which my Government believes goes against the cardinal principles underlying our Constitution. Pursuant to this, my Government has filed an Original Suit before the Hon'ble Supreme Court invoking provisions of Article 131 of the Constitution.
19. Strong States and strong Centre are pillars of our federalism. The voices of genuine apprehension of the States need to be considered by the Central Government in the right spirit, keeping broad national interest in mind, particularly when constitutional values are involved and there are widespread anxieties and apprehensions among a large number of our citizenry.
20. Before turning to the details of the promises fulfilled and the policy perspectives of my Government in various sectors, let me state that

my Government has set new standards of accountability to the people by bringing out progress reports regarding the implementation of the promises made in the Election Manifesto every year. This is indeed a path breaking practice in the history of our democracy.

Agriculture

21. The Agriculture sector of the State will be reorganized into 23 Agro Ecological Units so that all agricultural schemes will be implemented in a focused, crop-specific and area-specific manner with the goal of productive utilization of funds.
22. In light of the huge economic losses suffered by the farmers of Kerala due to the vagaries of climate, climate resilient farming practices such as development of infrastructure for soil and water conservation, crop rotation, development and use of flood and drought tolerant crop varieties, ecological engineering and others will be emphasized.

23. My Government proposes to train 10 lakh farmers in the State through Krishi Bhavans under the new scheme of “Krishipadasala”. Considering the role played by paddy lands in ecological conservation, financial assistance under the title ‘Royalty for Ecosystem Service’ will be provided for all paddy land owners of the State. The Karshaka Kshema Nidhi Board/Farmers Welfare Board will be made functional and all farmer welfare schemes including pension will be carried out through this Board. Cultivation and popularization of locationspecific crops like sesamum, sugarcane and groundnut will be encouraged. Restoration and flood mitigation programmes for tree spices like nutmeg in flood affected areas especially in Central Kerala and pepper in major pepper growing tracts is proposed.
24. My Government plans to establish front office facilities in Krishi Bhavans so as to make them more farmer friendly. An IT enabled platform will be established for vertical and horizontal data transmission within the Department and e-governance programme will be spread to the

whole department for better and speedy service to farmers. Conservation of traditional and indigenous crop varieties especially in tribal habitats will be given more thrust and extended to more areas. A separate plan will be formulated for tribal areas including Attappadi and Athirappilly aiming at the conservation of ethnic food culture and ensuring nutritional security of tribal people.

25. NABL Accreditation procedures for various laboratories will be initiated. Mechanisation will be given more technical and financial support. Both small farm mechanisation as well as large scale automation of farms will be encouraged. It is proposed to establish “Krishisree” Centres as a single window delivery system for skilled labour, custom hiring of agricultural machinery and repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery in the State.
26. The Vegetable Development Programme being implemented in the State will be switched over to a Mission mode ‘Jeevani’ from January 2020 to April 2021 with the goal of attaining self-sufficiency in

production of safe-to-eat vegetables. Separate programme for procurement and processing of Jack, our State fruit, will be implemented through VFPC. Weekly market will be streamlined. A "Centre of Excellence" on floriculture will be established at Wayanad. Florivillage units will be established in Wayanad District.

Animal Husbandry

27. My Government promised comprehensive insurance for cattle. The Comprehensive Livestock Insurance Scheme ("Gosamrudhi"), was implemented through real-time web portal and with the lowest premium rates and has prevented many a cultivator from falling into a debt trap.
28. In 2019, Emergency night veterinary service was provided in 105 blocks of the State. This will be extended to all the blocks of the State. As part of providing doorstep veterinary service to farmers, mobile tele-veterinary units with advanced diagnostic facilities and mobile veterinary clinics will be established. Model Veterinary Institutions will be developed with a view to providing quality

service to the farmers. My Government proposes to implement a Digital Herd Book programme as a Decision Support System (DSS). RFID tagging for animal identification will be taken up and integrated with GIS mapping to map the animal resources of the State.

29. Traditionally animal husbandry activity was supported by the Government as a poverty alleviation programme. My Government now proposes to develop it also as commercial ventures generating income and employment. Assistance will be provided to farmers for ventures especially in areas such as commercial goatery.

Co-operation

30. The creation of the Kerala Bank with the amalgamation of the 13 District Co-operative Banks (DCBs) with the Kerala State Co-operative Bank is yet another promise that we have fulfilled successfully. The newly formed Kerala State Co-operative Bank (KERALA BANK) will cater to the banking needs of whole State infusing

professional management and modern banking technology.

31. To address the various pressing needs of the people of the State in the aftermath of Kerala Flood-2018, Co-operative Department implemented “CARE KERALA” (Co-operative Alliance to Rebuild Kerala) Projects with 3 components - CARE-Home, CARE-Loan and CARE-Grace. Under CARE-Home, 1935 houses were constructed so far and handed over to those who lost their houses completely. Through CARE-Loan, various co-operative credit societies issued loan to flood affected people through Kudumbasree Units. Through CARE-Grace, medical checkup and health card, disaster preparedness guide, waterproof document folder and first aid kit were provided to CARE Home beneficiaries.
32. Under 'Muttathe Mulla', the Micro Finance Scheme implemented through Co-operatives to protect the people from private money lenders, Rs.219.34 crore has been disbursed so far. 'The Kerala State Transgender Welfare Co-operative Society Ltd.'

was registered for the welfare of transgenders and 'Kerala Samsthana Pravasi Kshema Vikasana Sahakarana Sangam Ltd.' to cater to the welfare of NRKs.

33. My Government proposes to bring the products produced by the co-operatives in the State under a single brand and quality mark called Co-op. Mark. To promote 'Digital Democracy', the concept of "Platform Co-operatives" will be introduced for helping co-operatives to participate in the digital economy.
34. A modern rice mill with a production capacity of 200 metric tonne per day will be commissioned at Kannambra in Palakkad by the Palakkad Paddy Procurement Processing & Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd. No. P.1449 (PAPCOS).

Cultural Affairs

35. The scheme named Livelihood for Artistes/Rural Art Hubs, will be expanded to help artistes to reach out to the global market. The 'Diamond Jubilee Fellowship for 1,000 Young Artists' which was started last year will be continued with the

active participation of the local bodies. 'Naattarangu', another remarkable project envisages developing cultural spaces alongside public pathways and public spaces for cultural activities in villages and towns where no open places are available.

36. Malayalam Mission has succeeded in establishing its centres in 31 countries worldwide and 16 States in India. My Government is committed to reach out to larger numbers of learners of the language through the use of technology.
37. The Kerala Chalachithra Academy will initiate a lifetime achievement award for an eminent personality in the television industry.

Economics and Statistics

38. My Government is committed to ensuring the availability of data for evidence based planning and development. One of the major initiatives taken up by my Government in 2019 is basic statistics at Local Self-Government Institutions. In the coming year, the Department proposes to

strengthen the official data collection mechanism and align it with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator Framework. The regular surveys and studies conducted through the Department will be modified to ensure methodological and definitional soundness at par with national and international standards. Modern statistical tools and technology for data analysis and mining are also proposed to be used in the coming year.

Environment

39. *“We are here in our rightful place to demand consequential climate action”*, so said the youth leaders at the first-ever U.N. Youth Climate Summit in 2019. My Government intends to encourage the Bhoomitrasena Clubs in schools and colleges to test the water quality of the water bodies around them as part of spreading awareness and taking remedial steps on water pollution. It is also proposed to formulate Local Action Plan on Climate Change (LAPCC) in all LSGs especially in climate vulnerable hotspot

districts. My Government will launch this year, the 'Ujjwal Fellowship Programme' to promote Post-Doctoral Research in climate change mitigation and adaptation issues and a Student Fellowship Programme 'Vidhyaposhini' that will financially assist the post graduate Environmental Sciences/Engineering students to undertake research projects on various environmental aspects at local/regional level.

40. My Government has banned single use plastic from January 1, 2020. Awareness campaigns will be made to make the ban effective including the use of alternatives and implementation of extended producer responsibility.
41. The Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZMP) of the State for an outlay of Rs.280/- crores will commence in April 2020 and will help to improve the coasts and livelihood in the northern districts over 4 years.
42. In 2019, Kerala became the 1st State in India to complete formation of Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) in all three tiers of Local Self

Government. The documentation of biodiversity at the local level in Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) along with associated traditional knowledge prepared by BMCs, was also completed in all the local bodies, again making Kerala the 1st State Biodiversity Board to achieve 100% PBR formation in India. The Peoples Biodiversity Register will now be digitalised and updated every year. As part of developing the strategies locally for biodiversity conservation, BMCs will help to notify local biodiversity rich areas as heritage sites. Asramom Mangrove in Kollam was officially notified as the 1st Biodiversity Heritage Site in Kerala in 2019.

43. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board will continue to monitor the waste management and pollution in rivers and on land. The restoration and renovation of Vembanad and Ashtamudi lakes will be taken up under Swiss challenge mode. At the local body level, action plans will be formed to protect the channels and mid channels. My Government will bring out a policy to control sound pollution. Online Continuous Emission Monitoring

System, for strengthening the monitoring and compliance of industry through self regulatory mechanism will be instituted by the Board.

Excise

44. My Government has established 9 de-addiction and 3 zonal counselling centres as part of its promise and commitment towards de-addiction. Excise Crime Branch has been formed for the effective investigation of major crimes. The procedures of 21 services including issuance of licenses and permits were made online, as part of modernization of the Department.
45. During the year, Palakkad Excise Tower will be completed. My Government proposes to install wireless systems in Kollam, Alappuzha, Thiruvananthapuram Districts. A Web Application will be developed with facilities for the common people to register complaints. A State level de-addiction center with rehabilitation facilities will be started at Kinalur in Kozhikode District.
46. My Government has already announced the decision to allow production of wine and low

alcohol liquor from fruits such as cashew, mango, jackfruit and banana. This will be encouraged to improve the income of farmers.

Fisheries

47. *“Hollywood has Spiderman, Batman, Ironman, but we Keralites have all under one name – fishermen”*, so said a widely circulated post during the floods that ravaged Kerala. My Government proposes to make fishermen owners of their crafts and gears by providing interest free loans to the Joint Liability Groups (JLG) of fishermen for acquiring the desired crafts and gears. The interest accruing on the principal will be borne by the Government on condition that the JLGs thus formed will repay the loan without default. Fisheries Stations will be equipped in all marine districts for providing continuous information related to weather forecast in the wake of the climatic changes and for facilitating rescue operations.
48. My Government will enact a law for enabling availability of quality assured fish to consumers, to

encourage the sale of fish in hygienic conditions and to enable fishermen to get a fair price for their catch. Fishermen, children of fishermen and department officers will be provided with modern technical training including at International level to equip them to undertake innovative projects in a timely manner. Student/officer exchange programmes with Universities and Departments will also be carried out at International level.

49. The 'Suchitwa Sagaram' project being implemented with the participation of fishermen at Neendakara for removal of plastic waste from the sea, has gained UN recognition, and will now be extended to Munambam, Beypore and Puthyappa harbours.
50. All fish farms will be GIS mapped and registration and licensing will be issued. It is also proposed to start live fish markets and fish supermarkets. The success of Muttathara Fishermen Housing Colony will be replicated in other coastal districts this year.

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

51. My Government has demonstrated the successful implementation of the pilot programme of 'Hunger Free Kerala' in Alappuzha District. Mobile ration shops have been started in the remote tribal settlements in Thrissur, Palakkad, Pathanamthitta and Wayanad. The Inter-State Portability Distribution System has enabled beneficiaries of National Food Security Act from 12 states to purchase their entitlement from any of these States.
52. My Government proposes to introduce e-Ration Card in 2020 by which the applicants can print ration cards. Maveli Stores will be opened in 16 Grama panchayats where there are no outlets. For effective redressal of consumer grievances, Legal Metrology Department will set up three Mobile Inspection Units in the State.
53. Council for Food Research and Development will start chilled storage and dehydration plants to store seasonal fruits and vegetables for ensuring their off season availability.

Forest and WildLife

54. Kerala is the first State in India to complete the DNA profiling of captive elephants with details of owners of elephants, implantation of microchips for identification and measurements of size and weight. The work on the state-of-the-art Elephant Rehabilitation Center for ensuring the welfare of wild captured and captive elephants in the State is progressing well. In the last decade, conflicts between humans and large carnivores have increased in Wayanad and adjoining areas, partly due to an increase in the tiger population. It is proposed to establish a Tiger Rehabilitation Center for immediate treatment of injured tigers and where required, for their permanent rehabilitation.
55. Every year, the Forest Department uses around 60-70 lakh seedlings in various planting programmes. As of now, these seedlings are raised in polythene bags or in plastic root-trainers. My Government proposes to shift to plastic free, compostable containers for seedlings. With a view to ensuring that forests and its fauna are free from

the menace of dumped waste, a three-year project called Green Grass has been sanctioned. 1900 tons of waste have already been removed from identified dumping sites.

56. While bringing teak plantations of the State under improved management for higher productivity and quality, the plantations that are of poorer quality and are located in disaster prone areas, wildlife corridors, river sides, degraded areas etc will be reverted to natural forests. Similarly, to ensure water, ecological and climate security, all the pulpwood plantations of eucalyptus, acacia etc. will be phased out and the area reverted to natural forests.
57. My Government proposes to establish a Wildlife Safari Park at Kannavam, Kannur, to be a center of excellence in nature conservation along with sustainable tourism. For the conservation of valuable marine and aquatic biodiversity, my Government will declare specific marine protected areas as Community Reserves along the coastal and marine areas.

58. The Illegal Wildlife Trade has reached an unprecedented scale and much of it is happening in online marketplaces. A High end Cyber Forensic Lab will be set up to provide technical assistance to the investigator for collecting and analyzing digital evidence using modern technologies.

General Education

59. General Education has seen a complete makeover under my Government. The people of the State have appreciated this and admitted 5 lakh more children to Government schools. An academic master plan has been prepared for all schools in order to raise their academic standard. Now talents of each of the 40 lakh children will be identified and encouraged. The scheme of interaction of students with renowned people in the locality called "Vidyalayam Prathibhakalileykku" has received positive response and will be extended to all schools.
60. This year my Government will be completing the massive renovation of school buildings and

digitalisation of all classrooms. School laboratories are being upgraded. A scheme will be developed for improvement of class room furniture.

61. One Lakh class libraries will be set up. School campuses will be kept safe from drugs and sound pollution. The scheme “Roshni”, introduced by Ernakulam district administration, for the education of children of migrant workers, will be extended to all Districts. The Vocational Higher Secondary Sector will be fully converted into National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).

Harbour Engineering

62. My Government has made strides in the development of fishing harbours. It is a matter of pride that Thalai Fishery Harbour in Kannur and the Chettuva Fishing Harbour in Thrissur District were commissioned in 2019. Thanur Fishing Harbour and Vellayil Fishing Harbour will be commissioned in the coming financial year. It is proposed to take up the balance works of Fishing Harbour at Arthunkal, 2nd stage development of Thottappally and Kasaragod Fishing Harbours and

the Chethi Harbour in the coming year. A new Fishing Harbour at Pozhiyoor in Thiruvananthapuram District will be commenced.

63. River Training Works, a new scheme is proposed for various estuaries to remain open throughout the year, to avoid flooding of upstream side.
64. My Government is aware of the increasing pollution of the sea with plastic and fibre wastes which is very harmful to fish and other marine species. Following the success of Suchitwa Sagaram Project, a project will be taken up in selected fishing harbours to disintegrate these wastes and produce diesel which can be sold to the fishermen who bring the waste from sea, on subsidy basis.

Health

65. My Government's implementation of 'Aardram Mission' has enabled the State to continue to retain the top position amongst States in the country. After completing the first phase of patient friendly transformation of the Government

hospitals of 170 FHCs, the second phase of FHC transformation work of 200 Centres is progressing. Transformation of Block Level Community Health Centres would be taken up this year. All ongoing schemes including Aardram Mission would be continued and further strengthened with special focus to attain SDG Goals.

66. Population based screening of non-communicable diseases for hypertension and diabetes which was started in four districts would be expanded to all districts this year. Similarly, *Nayanamrutham Programme* for the screening, identification and management of diabetic retinopathy which was piloted in Thiruvananthapuram District would be expanded to all districts in the State. *Amma Manassu Programme* for the mental health of pregnant ladies, State Level Suicide Prevention Programme, Mental Health Programme for Tribal Areas and Coastal Areas also would be started this year.
67. As part of the 'Comprehensive Trauma Care Scheme' for the State, aggregator model ambulance services with Basic Life Support have

been implemented. A Liver Transplantation Centre will be started at Medical College, Kottayam. Food Hygiene Rating and Branding System will be introduced in order to encourage Food Businesses to improve hygiene standards and rate them.

68. The unscientific disposal of unused and date expired medicines may result in a deadly situation of antimicrobial resistance in humans and animals. The State Drugs Control Department in association with the traders has initiated a Programme on Removal of Unused Drugs called PROUD for scientific disposal of unused/expired medicines in a pilot scale at Thiruvananthapuram District. This will be extended to the entire State of Kerala. A centre to provide comprehensive remedial training to children in the 3-6 year age group with developmental disorders will be started at IMHANS, Kozhikode.
69. My Government has taken a large number of initiatives through Ayurveda and Homeo Departments for promotion of health and wellness of the Kerala population. These will be extended through the Aardram People's Campaign, focusing

on healthy eating, healthy lifestyles and physical exercise, cleanliness, de-addiction and promotion of health seeking behaviour. A Centre of Excellence in Infertility in Kannur will be started under Homeo Directorate. Ayush Department shall be collaborating with the National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH) for widening the scope of management of the hearingimpaired through Homeopathy.

Higher Education

70. This year my Government proposes to pay special attention to the construction of college buildings and laboratories. Universities will conduct examinations and declare results in a unified manner and on time from the coming academic session, with the use of technology. They will amend their Statutes to bring in more efficiency, restructured academic bodies and academic autonomy in colleges. Universities will facilitate enhanced employability of students through industry driven elective courses and take steps to

encourage more foreign students on campus, to improve their ranking.

71. My Government will launch the Open University of Kerala, this year, incorporating the Distance Education Centres of all Universities. A Centre for Big Data Analysis and innovative courses in areas of Artificial Intelligence, Robotics etc. will be started in accredited colleges, under Kerala Technical University. Polytechnics will be equipped with fab labs to give the students better training. Training will be provided to faculty through partnerships with leading institutions like IISER. The exposure to student leaders of Colleges and Universities to top Universities abroad through a training programme will be continued this year. Additional Skill Acquisition Programme will run a series of hackathons to solve the problems identified by Government Departments and corporates, coordinate industry driven electives and start community colleges for the dropouts and returned emigrants.
72. Higher Education Department started Jeevani Counselling Centres in all Government Arts and

Science Colleges to take care of the mental and emotional well-being of students. Taking a cue from its success, such Centres will be started in all Technical Education Institutions and aided colleges this year. My Government will start an Earn and Learn Scheme for students.

73. Kerala State Higher Education Council will start a state level consortium for EJournals. Accreditation will be made mandatory for all institutions. My Government will ensure decent service-wage benefits to teachers and non-teachers in self-financing institutions.
74. My Government is ready with a Bill which will be brought before the Legislative Assembly to ensure the democratic rights of students to form their associations and get an early training in democratic decision making. This is a pioneering effort of my Government.
75. It is proposed to ramp up the activities of Trivandrum Engineering Science & Technology (TrEST) Research Park by setting up an EV testing lab with the support from Industry and a

research partnership with Central PSUs in Engineering domain.

Home

76. My Government reiterates its commitment to the people on maintenance of law and order at all times.
77. The construction of the Guruvayur and Pinarayi Police Stations and the District Training Centres at Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode City and Kozhikode Rural will be completed in the coming year. The construction of “Kochi City Police Complex” will be initiated to bring all police offices working in Kochi City to a single complex for administrative convenience. New cyber police stations will be started.
78. During the coming year, Integrated Digital Traffic Enforcement System, in accordance with the amendments made in Central Motor Vehicles Act, will be enforced which will help in tracking and identifying all types of traffic offenses/offenders across Kerala, by using contemporary camera technology. The Student Police Cadet Scheme will

be extended to 100 more schools. My Government shall continue to give special attention to combat extremism. It is proposed to start a "Counter Intelligence Cell" (CIC) in the Police Department. As part of improving the efficiency of operations, all the Technical Units of the Police Department will be brought under Police Technology Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The State Crime Records Bureau will have a Data Analysis Centre.

79. The Chemical Examiners Laboratory Department will be strengthened with the purchase of machines such as gas chromatograph for the timely analysis of narcotic samples.

Housing

80. Kerala State Housing Board has continued to exercise its social obligation to help the poor to fulfil their dreams of having a roof over their head. Kerala Climate Responsive Housing Design Promotion Programme has been conducted by the office of the Housing Commissioner to popularise climate responsive housing technology which is disaster resistant, environment friendly, energy

efficient and cost effective, by providing financial support to various stakeholders in housing industry.

81. It is proposed to come out with a new Kerala Housing Policy this year where the role of Government will be redefined as a facilitator rather than developer. Climatic change appropriate provision for mandating harvesting of rainwater, effective utilization of solar power, safe disposal of waste and encouraging local materials will be explored in the new policy. A Working Women's Hostel will be started at Gandhi Nagar, Kottayam, availing Central Grant and an Aswas Rental Scheme near the Medical College, Thrissur for providing rental accommodation for the patients and their bystanders.

Industries and Commerce

82. My Government is committed to protect and encourage the public sector. But the Central PSUs in Kerala, which have been established on land freely granted by the State Government, are getting privatised. When that happens, State

Government must be given the first option to take over.

83. My Government has implemented several reforms to improve the ranking on Ease of Doing Business to one of the top 5 in the next 1 year. It is proposed to launch a 24/7 toll free number for investors to seek information and clarifications on all matters of industrial investments. The District Board in all the districts will have Investment Facilitation Centres and at the State level KSIDC will create a similar Investment Facilitation Centre to handle all the inquiries and to facilitate investments.
84. My Government has taken action for acquisition of an extent of 1351 Acres of land for the development of Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) at Palakkad /Thrissur node under the Kochi extension of the Industrial Corridor Project. Master planning activity of the project will start soon. Start-up entrepreneurs will be assisted through a comprehensive innovation acceleration scheme. MSMEs, especially those in micro sector, face shortage of funds to set up units. Hence a new

Scheme, “Margin Money Grant to Nano Units” covering both manufacturing as well as service sector will be launched shortly.

85. With an objective to attract high exhibitions into Kerala, KINFRA will form a Joint Venture Company with India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) to construct a world-class exhibition cum convention center in 15 acres of land in Kakkanad. This facility will provide space for manufacturers in Kerala to reach the world market.
86. My Government will implement a new scheme named “Handloom Family Welfare Scheme” to safeguard the health and well-being of women working in the handloom sector. The Kerala Khadi and Village Industries Board will increase production and sales by implementing designing and diversification.
87. In order to co-ordinate with the ongoing Research and Development on new products and process development, a collaborative platform will be created for PSUs. For this a Technical Service Support Centre (TSSC) under the ambit of RIAB

will be established. As part of ensuring more transparency and timely completion of accounting procedures in PSUs and also to ensure accuracy in purchase, sales and raw material consumption, Enterprises Resource Planning (ERP) will be implemented.

Information and Publicity

88. Exploring the many possibilities of Information Technology, Government have launched Internet Radio Service called 'Radio Keralam'. Reaching out to Keralites all over the world, this 24-hour Internet Radio Service comes with programs that cater to a wide range of age groups and comprises news based on government activities, art, culture and infotainment.
89. In the domain of conventional advertisement and publicity campaigns through hoardings, Government launched its own hoardings in Thiruvananthapuram which will be extended to other places in the coming year. Taking into account the changing trends in 'New Media', Government has entered the domain of Mobile

Journalism, popularly known as MOJO, and will be covering programs and activities taking place even at the Block level and release the details without delay to the public.

90. My Government shall roll out a state-wide Information Service Network. Each District will be provided with an Information Hub, connected to a central hub in the capital city. These Info Hubs, equipped with high-speed data connectivity, library and kiosks would provide the public with a wide range of information pertaining to the welfare and developmental activities of the Government and keep them up-to-date with information useful in day-to-day life.

Information Technology

91. My Government has initiated “Mapathon” Project, a crowd-sourcing mapping initiative by Kerala State IT Mission which aims at creating micro-level maps of the entire state for identifying all the natural and physical assets. kerala.data.gov.in will serve as an open data portal for sharing data with citizens. 2000 Public wi-fi hotspots are being set

up to provide free Internet access to the public. My Government has decided to transform IIITM-K as University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology with a view to develop abundant human resources in the Industry 4.0 technologies.

92. IT Parks faced major expansion in the last 3 years. A new 4.5 Lakhs sq ft IT Building is planned to be constructed in Phase III campus of Technopark, Thiruvananthapuram. Infopark is expected to cross 10 million sq ft working space. The second IT building in Cyberpark, Kozhikode measuring around 3 lakhs sq.ft will be initiated. A Space Park is being set up in Technocity, Thiruvananthapuram in association with Indian Space Research Organisation. It is proposed to set up a Digital Museum in Technocity with AR / VR facilities.
93. Kerala Startup Mission has been working on creation of a better Startup Ecosystem in the State for the last six years. To enhance the availability of furnished space to the startup sector, a Startup Infrastructure Augmentation Fund will be formed. New schemes will be brought to encourage

startups from women entrepreneurs and people with special ability.

94. The International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS), the State Nodal Agency for Malayalam Computing, has got approval as a Scientific, Industrial and Research Organisation (SIRO) by Government of India. Government intends to develop ICFOSS to an integrated, academic and R&D centre for Free Software/Hardware with international collaboration.

Inland Water Transport

95. The Inland Water Transport Sector is yet to be exploited to its fullest potential despite the State being blessed with an intricate network of canal systems, backwaters and water bodies. My Government will focus on developing the Inland waterways as smart ways by the end of 2025 in three stages. The first stage is to develop the canals in existing width in 2020. The rehabilitation of encroachers, land acquisition and widening of canal will be completed during 2020-22 in second

stage. In the third stage, which is to be completed in 2025, the canals are to be developed in National Waterway standards and used for commercial transport and tourism sector to promote both water transport and tourism development along the waterways in the future. It is proposed to construct and modernize boat jetties and cargo terminals and provide incentives to build inland vessels.

Labour and Skills

96. The indicators on labour unrest, incidents of lockouts and person days lost have been much lower in this State compared to the national average. There have been certain unhealthy trends in labour relations in certain unorganised sectors which will be severely discouraged.
97. My Government is committed to provide a safe environment for the migrant labour to live and work and has taken a number of welfare measures for them. Treatment benefit under the medical insurance scheme has been enhanced to Rs. 25000/- per annum. Biometric Cards have been issued to the registered workers. 5,01,804

interstate migrant workers have already registered. Insurance benefit upto Rs. 1 lakh has been introduced to cover disabilities due to accidents at workplaces.

98. Around 35,772 trainees were trained in various schemes through 97 Government ITIs last year. Kerala Academy of Skill Excellence has skilled around 1.4 lakhs persons so far and plans to start a Centre of Excellence for Differently Abled and a Hospitality Institute with the support of CII, this year.

Local Self-Government

99. The empowerment of local self-governments in the State is a matter of pride. At present 900 Gramapanchayats and all Block Panchayats obtained ISO certification and thus became the single window centre for Local Level Service Delivery. By January, 2020 all Gramapanchayats in the State will become ISO certified. Integrated Local Government Management System will be introduced in all Gramapanchayats as a single electronic platform for all services pertaining to

Gramapanchayats as envisaged in Kerala Panchayat Raj Act and allied Rules.

100. As part of the Capital City Development Project, a project called the "Outer Area Growth Corridor" has been launched, which will benefit major projects in the capital.
101. My Government has been able to successfully provide housing through the LIFE Mission. In its next phase, beneficiaries falling under the category of landless, houseless will be provided multi-storeyed housing complexes using prefab technology. The construction of 85 such housing complexes have already begun and it is expected to be completed by October, 2020. The Mission proposes to construct more such complexes utilizing support from the public by sponsorship or crowd funding.
102. The State has started the establishment of waste to energy plants to deal with municipal solid waste in Districts. Plants will now be established for construction and demolition waste in three regions in the State. All efforts will be taken to ensure that

crematorium facility is available to all through the construction of modern crematoria by local bodies with land.

103. It is proposed to upgrade 1420 km of roads to PMGSY design standards in collaboration with various engineering colleges in Kerala for the first time. A district wise road network mapping and connectivity plan on the GIS Platform will be developed for effectively implementing the road maintenance plans.
104. Kudumbashree will provide support neighbourhood groups for elderly, transgender and persons with disabilities by framing new activities and action plan. A volunteer network for providing various services will be strengthened as a part of Kudumbashree's Organisation Programmes. Microenterprises Resource Centres will be formed to support and transform microenterprises.
105. The role of Local Bodies in disaster management is very crucial. Therefore, in order to meet any exigency arising out of disasters a Local Self-

Government Disaster Management Plan (DMP) will be prepared focusing on preparedness and mitigation. A volunteer force comprising 3,40,000 volunteers shall be linked to disaster management. The DMP and Annual plan of LSGI's shall be integrated.

106. My Government has announced a unique scheme of provision of technical expertise of young engineering graduates to local bodies under apprenticeship mode, to be implemented with the help of Additional Skill Acquisition Programme. This experience is expected to empower graduates to take up self employment ventures.

Planning

107. In the light of the consecutive floods of 2018 and 2019 which affected Kuttanad region drastically, the State Planning Board through a holistic approach prepared a report on a special package for Post Flood Kuttanad in October 2019, through a multi departmental approach to address the wellbeing and livelihood of the people of Kuttanad.

Similar packages will be prepared for Wayanad and Idukki.

108. My Government is in the process of developing State Indicator Framework according to the State's socio-economic-environmental dimensions that will eventually lead to achieving the targets and goals as envisaged by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of United Nations and in tune with National Indicator Framework of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. In the SDG India Index Reports of 2018 and 2019, published by NITI Aayog, Kerala ranked number one in the country. Government will also prepare 'Vision Document 2030' during the year for identification of gaps in the areas of development and proposing interventions, wherever required, and which is aligned with the policies and programmes of the present Government and in tune with the goals set in the United Nations' SDGs.
109. Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) proposes to organise annually, Kerala Innovation Day, to showcase innovations

in government and a Multi Stakeholder Platform Programme for supply, procurement, packaging and delivery of contaminant free food products with complete traceability. It is also proposed to reactivate District Innovation Councils in all the fourteen districts and establish a separate track for innovation for persons with disabilities.

110. My Government proposes to strengthen Geo-Informatics Laboratory under Kerala State Land Use Board as a state level digital data repository and extend GIS support for watershed based planning under Haritha Keralam Mission and MGNREGS. Land Use Decision Models for the selected Grama Panchayaths which are severely affected by the floods and landslides will be prepared. Revised edition of Land Resources of Kerala will be published by incorporating the data available with Kerala State Land Use Board, collecting primary data and compiling available data from other sources. Eco Restoration Plans will be prepared for selected river basins. Wetland Information System for Kannur District will be completed and deployed.

111. Kerala State Remote Sensing and Environment Centre (KSREC) proposes to provide satellite image based Wetland and Paddy land change detection report of survey plots for the effective implementation of Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008. KSREC will also undertake comprehensive awareness programme to create geospatial knowledge base in various sectors of planning and establish a network of people with spatial data knowledge by training them for participatory mapping. The Centre will also carry out drone imaging studies of reservoirs for the effective management of reservoirs and its command area.

Power

112. My Government plans to focus this year on modernization of the grid so as to meet the ever increasing customer aspirations on reliability, to provide power at reasonable cost by bringing down the system losses, to meet the requirements thrown up by decentralized renewable generators and to ensure the safety of installations.

113. My Government envisions improving the renewable energy content to 40% of its total requirement by 2021 through the successful implementation of Oorja Kerala Mission. All the existing CFL and filament bulbs in domestic and street lighting sector in the State will be replaced with energy efficient and long lasting LED lamps.
114. The first fast charging Electric Vehicle station in the State has been set up in Government Secretariat, Thiruvananthapuram in 2019. KSEB will establish one eV charging station each in all the 6 Municipal Corporations and in more than 60 locations in the pilot districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Ernakulam and Kozhikode.
115. In domestic premises, the accident rate has increased at an alarming rate. My Government plans to rewire and standardize the wiring of 3000 houses of nonpayable group of BPL consumers, with Earth Leakage Circuit Breaker, as a first phase of the project "Mission e-Safe home", through Electrical Inspectorate, Kerala State Electricity Board Limited, Local Self-Government and Energy Management Centre.

116. ANERT has entered into an agreement with Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) under Government of India to utilise the UrjaMithra Centres which are one in each Legislative Assembly constituency, for distribution of energy efficient devices. People of Kerala will thus be able to avail the benefit of bulk procurement by EESL.

Public Works

117. My Government has adopted the policy of "New Times - New Construction" and accordingly, emphasis is being given to the adoption of modern techniques in road construction and climate resilient technologies. The Department intends to take up and execute bituminous macadam and bituminous concrete works using shredded plastic waste for 50% of the roads and to use rubberised bitumen resurfacing works for all the roads. It is also intended to employ pavement recycling techniques such as cold milling technology and full depth reclamation technology in pavement construction. The existing pavement materials are reused in the above methods, thereby reducing

the use of aggregates and minimizing the exploitation of the environment. Thin white topping of concrete with a design life of 15-20 years will be arranged on suitable roads during the year as this technology is cost effective considering life cycle cost.

118. All State Highways will be developed to two lane standards in a phased manner. Four laning of important State Highways will also be taken up based on traffic requirements. Long term maintenance for 3 pilot roads for a length of 120 km under Performance Based Maintenance Contract will be implemented.
119. My Government attaches utmost importance to the hill highway. The DPR has been prepared for 27 reaches and financial sanction of Rs. 1506 crores for 18 projects provided from KIIFB. The construction works of seven reaches are ongoing in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Wayanad and Kasargod Districts.
120. As a part of digitalization of basic details of PWD Roads in the State, the Govt. of Kerala have

decided to implement RMMS (Road Maintenance Management System) and an agreement has been executed with the Nodal Agency, Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi with a time period of 18 months in 2019. The connected works are now in progress and will be completed in the coming year. A Core Road Network will also be established in the coming year including the important PWD Roads in the State other than State Highways, considering socio-economic importance, strategically important corridors, approximate traffic volume, share of commercial vehicles, public transport routes, disaster relief and climate resilience functionalities etc.

121. As regards the National Highways, Karamana-Kaliyikkavila second reach from Pravachambalam to Kodinada is taken up and the work is in good progress. The land acquisition for the balance 1.5 km from Balaramapuram to Vazhimukku will be completed this year. Investigation and DPR preparation of Phase II of the Project i.e. for 17 Km from Vazhimukku to Kaliyikkavila will also be taken up during the year. Construction of

flyovers at Sreekariyam, Ulloor and Pattom will be taken up along with the Light Metro Rail Project this year. The Alappuzha Bypass will be completed by April 2020. Similarly the Vytilla and Kundannur flyovers will also be completed in 2020.

Registration

122. My Government have increased efficiency in the Sub Registry Offices through the project for digitization, which is completed in 6 districts, online filing facility implementation for mortgage documents being filed by co-operative institutions and installation of Electronic Point of Sale (E-PoS) machines in Sub Registry Offices for fee remittance. Construction of modern record rooms is progressing in 10 Sub Registry Offices.
123. During the year 2020, Block Chain Technology will be integrated for document registration services to achieve the concept of 'Smart Contracts' based on model forms for various deeds. For service quality assurances, Sub Registry Offices will be enabled to attain ISO standards. For facilitating Ease of

Doing Business in the State, transactions for document registration during holidays will be facilitated in selected Sub Registry Offices.

Revenue

124. 1654 villages out of 1664 villages in the State have been activated for online mutation and online tax payment. The work will be completed in the remaining villages shortly. The e-Governance projects being implemented in the Revenue offices, require an uninterrupted supply of power. It is proposed to implement hybrid solar mini-grids with KSEB as stakeholder, with 3KV installation of solar plants on the rooftops of 25 selected village offices.
125. The resurvey of 906 villages has been completed and records handed over to revenue administration. 86 are digitally surveyed villages. It is planned to integrate these 86 villages with the services of Revenue and Registration Departments, so that online service including survey map can be provided to the public. It is also planned to establish Continuously Operating

Reference Stations (CORS) to speed up survey activities.

126. Digitalization of Land Tribunal case records and pattayams are in progress. My Government proposes to take action to digitize case records of the Taluk Land Boards for better implementation of Land Reforms in the State.
127. The Institute of Land and Disaster Management (ILDM) being the state disaster management training institute, is setting up a new center on post Disaster Trauma Counseling to provide trauma counselling for disaster victims and to educate officials to interact with disaster victims with unconditional positive regard.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

128. The Department has completed the sanction of 15709 study rooms already against the target of 25,000 study rooms for students. The balance will be completed in the coming year. A Food Craft Institute has been started for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Students in Palakkad

District. Journalism Course has been started at Mannanthala. Existing system for Civil Service Training has been revamped.

129. Great progress has been achieved in providing training and employment to educated youth. Out of the 11969 youth given training in various skills since 2016, 2565 of them have been successfully placed, including 360 candidates who got placement in the Oil & Rig and hospitality sectors overseas. It is proposed to facilitate skill development training for 6000 people during the year. My Government will start new Model Residential Schools in Peringome at Kannur District and Maruthonkara at Kozhikode District. A new building will be set up for the Food Craft Institute in Palakkad.
130. My Government proposes in the new year to provide a financial assistance of upto Rs 1,50,000/- as per estimate, for the completion of houses that number 72,000.

Social Justice

131. As a recognition of the remarkable work done by the State for protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and also empowering them, Kerala has been chosen as “the best state in promoting empowerment of persons with disabilities in the country for the year 2019”.
132. The Department has conducted 'Varnapakittu' – Transgender Kalolsavam for the first time. My Government proposes to implement Saphalam Project which will bear all financial expenditure for the eligible transgender students who wish to go for their higher education irrespective of the cost involved. My Government proposes a new scheme named Vayohastham to provide service and care to those neglected old age people living alone in their homes without getting proper attention, care, protection and medical care during day time while their relatives are away. In this Scheme service of trained Home Nurse will be provided in co-operation with Kudumbasree.

133. My Government proposes to implement 'Shreshtam Project' to ensure effective participation in sporting activities of Persons with Disabilities. The differently abled who has proven track record in talented arts and sports can be provided with financial support for pursuing training in accredited State and National Institutes to develop their talents, capacity and ability and also to enhance their potential.
134. An Aids and Appliances Manufacturing Unit (MRST Unit) will be set up at Kannur. The E-store/Web-portal/Marketplace for selling/purchasing goods manufactured by differently abled persons will be implemented.

Tourism

135. My Government successfully conducted the Champions' Boat League in 2019 which is India's largest Water Sports League in the BackWaters of Kerala from 31st August, 2019 to 23rd November, 2019 incorporating 12 races in Alappuzha, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Kollam districts in IPL format. The next edition of the

League will be held in 2020 with greater corporate sponsorship and added venues in the northern districts of Kerala.

136. Despite the heavy losses due to the floods of 2018, due to the robust promotion and marketing initiatives undertaken by the Department, Kerala Tourism registered an overall growth of 15.73% in the first three quarters of 2019.
137. The sub projects under the Malabar River Cruise Project are progressing well. Two jetties will be commissioned in the coming year in Pazhayangadi and Parassinikkadavu. Projects in some of the heritage destinations under the Thalassery Heritage Project are nearing completion. Under the Muziris Project, the Phase II works have started and will be completed this year. Four sub projects under the Alapuzha Heritage Project, intended to reveal the history of Alappuzha, will be completed this year.
138. My Government intends to launch the Travancore Heritage Project this year. It aims to develop the heritage area by stringing the places like

Kuthiramalika and Padmanabhaswamy temple. Under the Muzhappilangad Dharmadom Project, tourism facilities at Muzhappilangad and Dharmadom beaches will be developed. The Pilgrim Amenity Centres at famous pilgrim centres will be completed.

139. World class toilets will be built in tourism destinations where the tourists inflow is more than 1000 per day. Varkala Beach, Pookode, Kollam beach, Fort Kochi, Payyambalam Beach and Alappuzha Beach will be taken up in 2020.
140. Kerala Tourism will be undertaking the waste management of tourist destinations all over Kerala this year. Through various training and related activities, it is proposed to register 25000 Responsible Tourism Mission units and it is estimated that at least 1 lakh local community members will be linked with the tourism industry directly or indirectly to generate income. The total number of industry linked, plastic free Responsible Tourism partners will be increased from the present 100 to 2000 accommodation units.

Transport

141. In order to alleviate the woes of the passengers travelling between Thiruvananthapuram and Kasargod, a Semi High Speed Rail Corridor Project named Silverline will be launched to reduce the travel time from the present 12-14 hours to less than 4 hours. Envisaged as a 100% green project, the project cost is estimated to be Rs 56,442 crores and will be completed in 5 years. My Government proposes to start work in the 2nd corridor (Pink Line) of Kochi Metro beginning from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kaloor to Kakkanad this year. This will be connected eventually to the Silverline for a seamless transfer of passengers.
142. My Government plans to introduce India's first Solar Electric RO-RO Service and Kerala's first amphibious type water bus during the year. Utilizing the potential of National Waterways, barge service for cargo movement will be started. The department also plans to renovate five Station Offices and dockyard at Thevara, Ernakulam.
143. My Government plans to establish an International Driving Testing Track cum Driver Coaching Centre

at Malappuram in order to increase the opportunity to drivers seeking jobs in countries like UAE, Gulf Countries, Saudi Arabia, USA etc. It is proposed to start new Sub Regional Transport Offices in the remaining Taluks of Kerala in a phased manner. Metropolitan Transport Authority will be set up. Based on the best practices followed in Safe Corridor Demo Project from Kazhakootam to Adoor (80km), further 5 corridors of 71.5 km have been identified, spread over 5 Districts of the State. Implementation of Kozhikode Safe Road Project (Pavangad- Korapuzha Bridge) is in progress. DPR for the remaining corridors is being prepared.

144. My Government proposes to introduce the 'Golden Hour Medical Treatment', a scheme to cover the medical expenses not exceeding Rs.50000, of accident victims within the jurisdiction of Kerala, in the first 48 hours of the accident. Traffic Education and Road Safety will be made a part of School Curriculum in the coming years.

145. In keeping with the State Government goal of development in a sustainable manner, 300 new diesel vehicles will be purchased for KSRTC. 100 vehicles will be converted to CNG as fuel. Retail High Speed Diesel / Petrol outlets will be started in 93 depots and 5 major workshops for use of KSRTC and public as well. Drivers Training Institutes will be started in all District Headquarters.

Water Resources

146. My Government plans to commission detailed flood and erosion mitigation plans combining expert institutions and land use management specialists, to mitigate recurrent floods including urban flash floods. To complete the anti-sea erosion protection measures, comprehensive sustainable coastal protection models will be developed.
147. To provide room for the flood prone rivers, 'Room for the River' project will be developed with Pamba as the pilot for which investment will be made under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative (RKI). To

organize the larger water management scene, the State will form River Basin Conservation and Management Authority and reorganize the Irrigation Department based on river basin platforms. Legislations for the same will be put in place. Intensified efforts will be taken for launching Community Irrigation Projects in suitable areas.

148. My Government will commission a stand-alone state-of-the-art Dam Safety Headquarters at Thiruvananthapuram for scientifically managing the dam safety operations in the State utilizing central and state funds at a cost of Rs. 30 Crores.
149. Kerala Water Authority (KWA) will give high priority to water supply in water quality affected habitations, especially fluoride declared areas while considering new projects. Areas which are currently supplied with drinking water through tanker lorries throughout the year will be earmarked and through proper planning, piped water supply to the area will be established in a phased manner, with top priority. My Government plans to provide 24 x 7 water supply in Kochi city and adjoining area and selected areas in

Thiruvananthapuram city, with the financial assistance of Asian Development Bank. The project will start by 2020 and will be completed by 2029. KWA intends full utilisation of installed capacity so that idling assets are put to use for the benefit of public and financial improvement of the Authority.

150. My Government plans to kickstart the project of Jal Jeevan Mission through the local bodies with 50% support of the Govt of India and beneficiary contribution for providing piped water supply through Functional Household Tap Connections to all rural households by 2024.
151. The focus on the ground water segment of the State would be to assimilate the information into developing a system for the holistic ground water health improvement. Technologies including remote sensing is widely used in the field by developed economies will be brought in to aid the presently used conventional approach in the sector.

Woman and Child Development

152. Department of Woman and Child Development, Government of Kerala started a solution focused, partnership oriented campaign named '**Karuthal Sparsham**' for the Protection of Rights of children and Responsible Parenting to prevent atrocities against children and to give awareness on responsible parenting.
153. It is proposed to start a scheme 'Athijeevika' to give one time financial assistance up to a maximum of Rs.50,000/- in order to help the households headed by Women in the eventuality of being faced by sudden financial crisis. The International Women's Trade Centre is planned as part of the Gender Park towards creating a safe and sustainable environment for the growth of industry, business, trade, lifestyle and a destination cultural center for women.

Conclusion

154. My Government had set out an ambitious agenda for the State after assuming office. We have been working for the planned development of the State,

firmly founded on sustainability, equity and transparency. The State has won accolades for its achievements in several human development indices. With the strong support of the people, our State has been able to withstand the onslaught of natural calamities and unexpected policy changes that have brought financial difficulties for the State. This year is going to witness the completion of a large number of projects announced through the Budget and conceived and operationalised through the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board. I am certain that this is going to have a big positive impact on the economy and the lives of the people.

155. Yet our task is far from over. My Government shall continue to stand firm by the side of the people, facing the challenges ahead with our heads held high and hands held together. Together we shall fulfil our dreams for a strong, secular and prosperous Kerala.

JAI HIND