



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

25th January 2024

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 10th Session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly.
2. My Government has been wholeheartedly pursuing the goals of strengthening grassroots democracy, promoting scientific temper, and secular values in education and inculcating holistic history sense in the younger generation. Besides my Government has also been straining every nerve for achieving sustainable development, technological advancement and social welfare. The above mentioned form the cornerstones of our vision for a 'Nava Kerala' (New Kerala). My Government is sculpting a new chapter in Kerala's development journey. This path of progress will continue to be forged by the collective wisdom of the people of Kerala, their dreams and aspirations, combined with their deep-rooted trust in my Government.

3. The inaugural edition of Keraleeyam 2023, hosted in the State capital in November 1 to 7, 2023 marked a momentous occasion that not only celebrated Kerala's rich culture and heritage but also showcased my Government's commitment to uphold secularism, socialist principles, federal values and democracy, harmoniously blending tradition with modernity. As part of Keraleeyam 2023, sessions were held with the participation of internationally renowned experts and policy makers. The rich and varied ideas emerged from these deliberations has been of immense value in chalking out the future development path of our State. My Government will be organising this event this year also and intends to continue the exercise.
4. The convening of the Nava Kerala Sadas or "People's Assembly for a New Kerala" across all the 140 legislative constituencies reiterated my Government's unshakable belief in debate, dialogue, democracy, and the people's mandate, and the massive turnouts at each of these events reaffirmed the confidence vested in my Government by the people of Kerala.

My Government is taking up these suggestions with due importance and will take all possible steps to implement them.

5. The regional review meetings that were held across the State with the participation of the full Council of Ministers and Senior Officers of all major departments were testimony to my Government's commitment to take governance to the people through listening to the concerns arising in each specific district and resolving interdepartmental, policy level or operational issues.
6. The Kerala's development narrative encompasses the history of pioneering welfare initiatives that were strong on equity and care from housing, PDS and social security pensions and in the focus on vulnerable communities like coastal populations, tribal communities, the disabled, the aged, and within these the specific needs of women. It traverses a growth trajectory where capability development through education, health, and skilling were ensured. A critical element of the narrative is the robustness of the public

infrastructure, be it roads, buildings or digital infrastructure, and the continual search for new, cutting edge horizons like graphene where the State will leave it's mark, and the resilience of it's citizens and communities as manifest in it's Local Government Institutions.

7. Though in the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) released by the NITI Aayog, Kerala has once again emerged as the least poor State in the country in 2019-21, with an MPI rate of only 0.55%, my Government remains resolute in it's commitment to make Kerala the first extreme-poverty-free State in the country by November 1, 2025. Micro-plans have been formulated for the identified 64,006 families to lift them out of extreme poverty. At the end of the first phase of the extreme poverty eradication programme in November 2023, 47.89% of these families had moved out of extreme poverty.
8. Under the 'Avakasham Athivegam' project, steps were taken to provide essential documents like Ration cards, Aadhar, Voter ID, etc. as well as

access to essential services like social security pensions, health insurance, bank accounts and MGNREGS job cards to every family.

9. My Government takes pride in the fact that Kerala's Kudumbashree, Asia's largest women's movement and a global exemplar of women's empowerment, which has played a pivotal role in the economic and social advancement of Kerala, turned 25 in 2023. The Kudumbashree today finds itself actively sought after by no less than 20 States to replicate its model of success.
10. My Government has earned the distinction of being the first in the country to launch a welfare fund for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. My Government has also pioneered the comprehensive social audit of all its employment guarantee projects to ensure their quality, a first for any Government in the country.
11. Climate change and associated disasters continue to pose significant risks to Kerala, as a highly vulnerable State. Particularly susceptible are

Kerala's agriculture and tourism sectors, integral to the State's economy. My Government is addressing these challenges through climate-smart agriculture practices, coastal protection measures and improved health infrastructure to mitigate risks including sea-level rise, coastal erosion and vector-borne diseases. My Government is implementing the Punargeham project, an ambitious initiative to relocate and rehabilitate the entire population residing within 50 meters from the high tide line. Notably, 3,917 families have already been successfully relocated, and accommodated in 3,527 houses, and 390 flats.

12. My Government, firmly committed to the motto of "land for all, records for all land, and all services smart", has launched the Ente Bhoomi digital survey project, a four-year endeavour poised to establish precise land records, offering the citizens a range of benefits like digital delivery of all land-related services, prompt resolution of boundary disputes and expeditious clearance of bank loan clearances.

13. My Government is spearheading the Malinyamuktham Navakeralam Campaign, a radical cleanliness and sanitation movement, as part of which a system for scientific waste management is fast taking shape in the State. Through the Haritha Karma Senas, 36,000 jobs have been created in the waste management sector for women. My Government is tireless in its quest to make the State waste free by March, 2024.
14. In the health sector, my Government initiated programs, including the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) with a 265 Crores investment over five years. The IAV focuses on viral research, diagnosis, and monoclonal antibody research for Nipah infection prevention. The Centre of Excellence in Microbiome (CoEM) and the Centre of Excellence in Nutraceuticals were established in 2023, advancing interdisciplinary research and commercialization in microbiota and nutrition-pharmaceutical sciences.
15. The Year of Enterprises Scheme, initiated in 2022-23, sparked a silent industrial revolution

within the State. The continued resounding success of the scheme witnessed in 2023-24 dispelled misconceptions that Kerala was unsuitable for industrial pursuits. The inauguration of Kerala's maiden Private Industrial Park will herald a new era in the industrialisation of the State. The State has achieved significant milestones in the global startup landscape, securing the top position in Asia and fourth globally in the esteemed Global Startup Ecosystem Report of 2022. Kerala has also been declared as the Best Performer in the States' Startup ranking in the fourth edition of the Startup India rankings of the DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

16. The introduction of the K-SWIFT portal, a streamlined digital platform for time-bound clearances and approvals, stands as a testament to my Government's dedication for fostering industrial growth in the State. In a significant stride towards transparency and efficiency in governance, Kerala's Local Governments have become K-Smart, with all their services now

accessible digitally, at the citizens' fingertips. In 2023, my Government proudly declared Kerala as the first fully e-governed State in India and has put the State well on the path to become the first fully e-literate State in the country.

17. All these interventions have contributed to Kerala being placed top in all three of the SDG India Index editions (2018, 2019–20, and 2020–21) published by NITI Aayog, indicative of my Government's persistent efforts in achieving the SDGs. It reflects the State's total progress and exemplifies best practices in the social, economic, and environmental areas.
18. My Government is of the view that the construction of a new dam, conforming to recent standards of design and construction, in the downstream reaches of the existing Mullaperiyar dam is the only solution for protecting the safety of lakhs of people living downstream. The Dam's front and rear faces are constructed of uncoursed rubble masonry in lime mortar and central core constructed with lime-surkhi concrete. Taking into

account of the excessive and erratic rainfall and floods during the monsoon seasons in the 2018-2021, particularly in Idukki district, the only solution lies in constructing a new dam which assures water to Tamil Nadu and safety to the people of Kerala living in the downstream region. Kerala has expressed this view in all related forums and will take all possible steps for an amicable settlement with Tamil Nadu.

19. My Government proudly dedicated to the nation the Kochi Water Metro, the first of its kind in the country, and a major stride in green mobility, underscoring our deep commitment to decarbonising development for a net-zero carbon future.
20. In a historic moment, the Vizhinjam International Seaport welcomed its first ship. With over Rs. 8000 Crores investment in the phase I construction, this strategically located port that will be commissioned by the end of 2024, will be well-poised to compete with major ports globally.

21. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for the first Digital Science Park in the country on April 25, 2023 with a total estimated investment of Rs. 1515 Crores which will play a pivotal role in creating several Knowledge Industries in Kerala.
22. My Government's stupendous achievements have come about despite many formidable challenges confronting it. Paramount among these is the liquidity stress stemming from the vertical imbalance between the Union and the States in fiscal matters. The fact that the Union possesses a significantly greater capacity to mobilize resources compared to the States, while the States are mandated to undertake developmental expenditures that far surpass their revenue-generating capabilities points to a great asymmetry within India's federal system. Over time, this has further intensified, constraining the fiscal position of the States.
23. The consistent decline in the awards of the successive Finance Commissions serves as a compelling case in point. Kerala witnessed a

decline in its share of taxes devolved by the Union Government from 3.88% during the 10th Finance Commission period (1995-2000) to a mere 1.92% during the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-2026).

24. In 2023-24, the discontinuation of GST compensation, a reduction in revenue deficit grant, and restrictions imposed on 'off-budget' borrowings of the State by the Union exacerbated the fiscal condition of the State. The State has been constrained to approach the Hon'ble Supreme Court for a solution to the financial impasse thrust on the State. Despite grappling with these formidable challenges, my Government remained steadfastly committed to infrastructure development and growth focused on a knowledge economy, along with sustained social security spending, the hallmark of the Kerala Model of Development.
25. In this context, my Government has focused on achieving fiscal consolidation on one hand and enhancing domestic revenue mobilization on the other. In 2022-23, my Government successfully

raised own tax revenues amounting to Rs. 71,968 Crores, marking an increase of nearly Rs. 13,600 Crores, or 23.4% from the previous year. According to the Reserve Bank of India, Kerala is among the top performers in revenue mobilization efforts. It is noteworthy that the percentage of own tax revenue that comes from alcohol in Kerala (3.7%) is amongst the lowest of all States and compares very favourably with States where the percentage is as high as 22%. My Government places the considered opinion before the Union Government that Kerala should be ensured it's well deserved share in the distribution of taxes. My Government views with concern the holding back of eligible grants and share of assistance in Centrally Sponsored Schemes. My Government is put to added liquidity stress because of the retrospective cut in borrowing limits, which is not in accordance with the accepted recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission. This stand of the Union Government needs an early reconsideration.

Let me now discuss my Government's initiatives across specific sectors.

I. Agriculture and Allied Sectors

26. In a significant stride towards fortifying Kerala's food and nutritional security and economic resilience in the face of climate change and natural disasters, my Government is implementing the Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) project, supported by the World Bank. The project promises a substantial boost to our farmers' income, with its pivotal thrust on enhancing storage and value addition infrastructure. In tandem with the KERA project, my Government has formed the Kerala Agro Business Company (KABCo) on the lines of the CIAL to champion the marketing and value addition of agricultural products.
27. Under the ambitious Jaiva Krishi Mission, my Government aims to transform 50000 hectares of land in the State into thriving organic farms within the next five years, with a yearly target of 10000 hectares. The mission focuses on the

certification, branding and marketing of organic agricultural products from Kerala. My Government also introduced the Poshaka Samriddhi Mission with an aim to cultivate nutritionally important crops on Agro Ecological Zone basis. The Mission target is to bring 75 lakh families to nutritional diet in 3 years.

28. My Government has unveiled the brand “Keralagro” under which over 1000 value-added farm products from the State will go online across major e-commerce platforms, enhancing the global trust, recognition and accessibility of Kerala’s farm produce.
29. The Krishikootams formed as part of the people’s campaign “Njangalum Krishiyilekk” will be strengthened and 3 lakh employment opportunities will be created through 30000 Krishikootams.
30. Kerala ranks second in the country in milk productivity and will achieve self-sufficiency in milk production within the next year. Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation’s (MILMA), Malabar union produces the best quality

milk in the country, according to data released by the Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Dairying in 2023.

31. Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, a statewide farmer database, and e-veterinary services are being provided under the e-Samrudha platform. In order to combat the Foot and Mouth Disease, my Government has embarked on a comprehensive vaccination campaign covering 12 lakh eligible cattle. Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative, my Government is launching Mobile Veterinary Units in all blocks.
32. The Department of Fisheries had organised 'Theera Sadassu' in the coastal constituencies of the State to study the problems and grievances of the coastal communities and take remedial measures. My Government prioritizes the upgradation of the fishing infrastructure in the State. More projects focussing on elevating fishing harbours, fish markets, pre-processing, value-addition and marketing facilities to international standards will be actively implemented by the Harbour Engineering Department in the upcoming year.

33. Kerala Bank has earned the distinction of being the largest Co-operative Institution in Asia and the seventh largest globally (based on Turnover/GDP per capita) in the financial services sector, according to the World Co-operative Monitor Report. The bank has been recognised as the best State Co-operative Bank in the country for three consecutive years (2019-20) by the National Federation of State Co-operative Banks (NAFSCOB).
34. Muttathe Mulla Scheme, designed to liberate rural households from the clutches of private moneylenders, successfully disbursed loans worth Rs. 547.16 Crores to low income groups, labourers, small traders etc. Similarly, the Snehatheeram scheme provided fixed term loans at very low interest rates to people in coastal areas. In the next financial year, a Co-operative Revival Fund Scheme will be established for the rehabilitation and revival of ailing, weak or defunct societies.

II. Human Development Sectors

35. The establishment of District Viral Hepatitis Management Units and treatment centres, under the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme, is underway. Intensified surveillance of communicable diseases and a One Health approach, focusing on capacity building, volunteer training, enhanced laboratory facilities, and intersectoral coordination, have been prioritized by my Government.
36. Realizing the fact that non-communicable diseases (NCD) are causing a threat to the community, the Government introduced a new scheme for population based screening of NCD's under Navakerala Karma Padhadhi-2 (Aardram Mission). This was done through the home visit by ASHA volunteers for capturing the risk assessment of all population above 30 years through an application called **SHAILI** developed by e-health. 87% of the target population (1.53 Crores) was subjected to survey and suspected patients were referred to the healthcare facilities for confirmation. Screening for cancers were also

done through the Family Health Centres by using SHAILI app and the clinical examinations were done through Cancer Care Suit developed by e-health. The Government is committed to enhance this screening in the coming years also by developing **SHAILI –II**, where more diseases have been targeted along with provision for in-depth analysis of the data. In addition to the 105 hemo dialysis centres operational in the State; the Government also initiated a programme for peritoneal dialysis which is implemented in all 14 districts. The screening for diabetic retinopathy has been expanded to 172 institutions and SWASS clinics for COPD management has been expanded to over 500 institutions. The department has also initiated a comprehensive NCD management centre in the major hospitals named as **'360 degree metabolic centres'** where the diseases and its complications are managed under one umbrella. The Government is also planning to start a healthy life campaign to promote healthy lifestyle in the community. Decentralized cancer care clinics are functional in 24 centres across the State, which provides

chemotherapy and other essential services. Physiotherapy units have been functional in 227 Community Health Centers for palliative and rehabilitative chronic disease management.

37. In the healthcare sector, under AYUSH, over 10 lakh inpatients and two crore outpatients were successfully treated. Kerala received the Ayushman Uthkirstata Award 2023 for the highest number of treatments under AB-PMJAY-KASP. In Financial Year 2024-2025, the "Nerkazhcha" project proposes screening the entire population for eye diseases.
38. My Government has introduced specialized initiatives like Manasikam for mental health, and the Sickle Cell Unit. In Homoeopathy, projects such as Sradha for stroke management, Vimukthi for de-addiction, and disaster management training through ILDM have been initiated. My Government's future plans involve establishing 100-bedded hospitals, expanding health tourism schemes, and prioritizing Research and Development (R&D).

39. The general education sector in Kerala is on the path of growth. Many new buildings have been constructed in public schools. In the matter of online-high-tech education, Kerala ranks number one in the country. In this regard, Kerala received a special mention in UNICEF's International Report. The State has been able to continue the Mid-day meal scheme and to provide textbooks and free uniforms to students before school opens. In this regard, Kerala is a model for other States in the country.
40. While the curriculum reforms are progressing at the National and State levels, the NCERT excluded certain portions of the 6th to 12th standard textbooks. The main portions excluded by NCERT include Mughal History and Partition of India, Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi, Five Year Plan, Emergency, Popular Struggles in India, social conditions in India and caste system. Therefore, Kerala launched additional textbooks in humanities to ensure real historical and social awareness to the children. Six additional textbooks were released in four subjects.

41. Kerala managed to organize the Kerala School Kalotsavam, Asia's largest youth art festival with more than 13,000 students participating, in flawless manner. Sports Meet, Special Art Festival and Science Fair were also organized in a good manner. It is also worth mentioning that Kerala has become the champion this time in the senior category of athletes in the National School Sports Festival.
42. The core focus of my Government in Education is on infrastructure development, including accessible toilets for differently-abled children and building 'Autism Parks' in schools. New initiatives for 2024-25 include 'Efficient Waste Management in Schools', 'Empowering Girls through Menstrual Hygiene', and 'Support for extremely poor children'.
43. My Government is dedicated for transforming the State into a knowledge society. Reforms include the development of a Higher Education Curriculum Framework, introducing four-year undergraduate courses, and facilitating inter-University transfer and credit transfer for students. The K-TEEN

project aims to accelerate the development of the knowledge economy through engineering and technical education. The Nodal Centre for Robotics & AI will be strengthened to become a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence. ASAP Kerala plans to establish Centres of Excellence in 5G & Communication, Drone Technology, and Additive Manufacturing.

44. Procedures for granting permission to set up private universities will be initiated, and legislation in this regard is underway. Industry On Campus (IoC) is fostering collaboration between industry and academic institutions, leading to various commercial opportunities.
45. My Government supports over 50 high-quality research projects in Science, Engineering, and Technology, along with the upgrading of science laboratories in Government schools. Anticipating the role of Science Parks in attracting high-end research and industries, the Government is investing 600 Crores in establishing three Science Parks. The Global Science Festival Kerala (GSFK), Asia's premier science exhibition, is underway.

46. The Food and Civil Supplies Department has achieved significant milestones, including the initiation of the K-Store project to revamp Fair Price Shops (FPSs), providing diversified services in rural areas. 245 K- stores are already established - this will go up to 2000 by the next year. "Operation Yellow" successfully prevented the misuse of NFSA cards, identifying 1,84,344 illegal cards. 3,66,397 priority cards were issued to the eligible obtained through Operation Yellow and Voluntary Surrender Scheme. In addition, my Government intends to distribute one lakh priority cards to the eligible by next year. The "Oppam" project, involving voluntary auto-rickshaw drivers, facilitated doorstep delivery of ration to eligible beneficiaries.
47. My Government distributed rations to Scheduled Tribe families in 132 locations, and to 5132 identified athi daridrar in the State, ensuring universal coverage of Public Distribution System in Kerala. A new initiative called SUJALAM, to provide drinking water at Rs. 10 per litre through fair price shops, has been implemented in

5 districts and will be expanded to all districts. In order to ensure food security to all, my Government has issued Ration Rights Cards to guest workers so that each and every person residing in the State is covered under universal public distribution.

48. The Kerala State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. (Supplyco) achieved a sales turnover of 3473.49 Crores, with a target of Rs. 5000 Crores for the fiscal year. Future Plans include introducing ERP software, online delivery, expanding the petroleum business, and establishing electric charging stations.
49. My Government also pays the highest paddy procurement price among Indian States, with the procurement price for the current season at Rs. 28.20/kg.

III. Social Sector

50. During the current year, a total of 1,73,982 students received scholarships and grants through Educational Assistance & Scholarship Schemes, Overseas Scholarship Scheme for OBC students.

During 2023-2024, my Government has distributed lump sum grant to over 35000 SC students, stipend to 11619 SC students, education aid to over 2.5 lakh SC students, special incentive to 10834 SC students and Ayyankali scholarship to 6334 SC students. Assistance to the SC Victims of atrocity cases was provided in 140 cases.

51. My Government intends to implement 'ABLE Kerala' focusing on the socio-economic empowerment of over 85000 persons with disabilities belonging to the SC Communities. 'Varumana Veedu' is implemented to transform SC households into homes of business, as well as centres of production. Another programme 'Help Our People in Emergency' (HOPE) intends to give educational and psychological support to children below 18 years whose parents are no more.
52. My Government has taken up the project "KATTADI" (Kerala Accelerated Tribal Ability Development and Inclusion Institute) in all districts to distribute rehabilitation devices such as wheelchairs and hearing aids to the differently abled Scheduled Tribes of the State.

My Government intends to implement the "Tribal Paramedics Trainee Scheme" in all Districts of Kerala, to appoint qualified Scheduled Tribes Students in health centres.

53. Rehabilitation of landless Scheduled Tribes families and development of the resettled ST people are being carried out through the TRDM by the speedy implementation of the land bank scheme, and distribution of land from vested forest and Forest Rights Act in consultation with the oorukootams.
54. Special schemes of my Government for minority communities include the Housing Scheme for Minority Widows/Divorcees/Abandoned Women, Pre-Marital Counseling for Minority Youth, Career Guidance for Minority Students, and Scholarship Schemes. My Government will propose an alternative scholarship in lieu of the Pre-matric scholarship that has been discontinued by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
55. 'Vayojana Commission', will be set up to provide guidance and policy advice to the Government in

the realm of care and support for the elderly and suggest policy measures to ensure their well-being and welfare. My Government proposes to launch an 'IT@Elderly' initiative for digital literacy of senior citizens and also intends to bring about a comprehensive revision of the 'State Policy for older persons 2013', and 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules, 2009'.

56. A unique program is proposed to be implemented across the State to extend vocational training and skill development at the Block Level for the empowerment of intellectually challenged persons along with self-help groups of Persons with disabilities (PwDs) in the Kudumbashree model. A Comprehensive Assistive Technology Policy and Action plan would be worked out to strengthen R&D in assistive technology.
57. Taking note of the gender inequality reflected in the Labour Force Participation Rate and Worker Participation Ratio, my Government will focus on skilling and reskilling of young women and provide hands-on exposure to women in Artificial

Intelligence tools. My Government proposes 'Sookshmam' studies to scrutinise important laws through the gender lens and also do a gender audit of work-places and public spaces; and major Government schemes and programmes to facilitate initiation of corrective measures, wherever gender bias exists.

58. Recognising the increasing incidence of drug abuse among children, my Government proposes to establish a de-addiction and rehabilitation centre for children at Thavanur in Malappuram, as the first such Government-run rehabilitation centre for children. In a major initiative to wean students away from the menaces of alcohol, narcotics and substance abuse, my Government is implementing the Unarvu project across schools to channelise students energy into creative pursuit of arts and sport.
59. My Government will examine the possibilities and conditions of the new era and prepare a comprehensive, climate resilient Housing policy in consultation with all stakeholders in the sector. My Government also aims to design age-friendly

living environments for senior citizens to facilitate independent living, with minimal support and care. “MN Navayuga Scheme” for reconstruction of laksham veedu houses - will be implemented. Thanteyidam project aims to create a safe environment for children who have to leave shelters after completing 18 years of age to live in society with dignity and will be expanded in the year 2024-2025.

60. A mobile/web application called E-Griha has been developed to provide information on availability of raw materials, formulation and testing of low cost models for low cost housing to the public. My Government aims to introduce a comprehensive housing module development plan for landslide-prone coastal areas, water-logged areas and upland areas during the financial year 2024-2025.

IV. Local Governance

61. Kerala has been chosen as one of the pioneering States for the operationalisation of the National Urban Digital Mission, and shall be mentoring fellow States on providing digital services. The State Urban Digital Mission will be housed in the IKM.

62. The 'Kerala Urban Policy Commission', formed in December 2023, aims to create a comprehensive urban policy for the State, the first of its kind in the country.
63. Under the 'LIFE Mission', 3,65,531 houses were completed by mid-December 2023, and the 'Manassodithiri Mannu' campaign garnered voluntary contributions of 2834.65 cents of land. My Government, through a multisectoral and 'whole of Government' approach, aims to bring the remaining 'athidardrar' families out of the experience of extreme poverty by November 1st, 2024.
64. My Government intends to facilitate the local governance tier for the following:
 - a. To convert the State into the first fully digitally literate State of the country through a campaign on the lines of the total literacy campaign.
 - b. To expand the operations and efficacy of K-SMART solutions into the planning, project management and accounting space of Local Governments.

- c. To implement the urban observatory for advanced input based and responsive decision making for the efficient working of all important urban facilities and services.
 - d. To develop a model paradigm of climate adaptive governance at the local level using Disaster Climate Action Tracker (DCAT) and Local Action Plans for Climate Change Adaptation (LAPCC) mechanisms.
 - e. To reorganize the Social audit society for MGNREGS into the Kerala society for social audit and expand it's operations in the local governance space.
65. My Government also proposes to undertake the second generation interventions needed to maintain a zero waste State. These will include ensuring high quality infrastructure, introducing block chain based traceability and digital systems for waste management to close leakages, setting up Municipal bio waste plants on scale and advancing the Extended Producer Responsibility Framework. About 250 Producers, Importers,

Brand Owners and 22 Plastic Waste Process have already been brought under the purview of Extended Producer Responsibility under Plastic Waste Management Rules through the effort of the Kerala State Pollution Control Board.

66. My Government will put a strong sustainable policy framework in place for waste management. Specific policy directions include Scrap policy, Pig farms policy and Private partnership framework to enhance capability in waste management and promote green businesses.

V. Industries, IT, Labour and Commerce

67. As part of the Year of Enterprise Scheme in 2022-23, over 1,39,840 enterprises were set up within the course of a single year, infusing an astonishing Rs. 8422 Crores into the economy and generating gainful employment opportunities for over 3,00,051 individuals. Since 2021, over 2,01,846 enterprises have been set up in the State, with an investment of Rs. 13,092 Crores and creating 4,53,966 employment opportunities. A special scale-up package (Mission 1000) has

also been launched for enabling the growth of potential MSMEs in the State.

68. According to the “Study on Kerala Investment, Growth and Development 2018-19 to 2022-23” conducted by MSME Export Promotion Council, the industrial growth rate in the financial year 2021-22 is 17.3%. In the manufacturing sector, the growth rate is 18.9% which is slightly higher than the national level growth of 18.16%. As per the report, from 2018-19 to 2022-23, new investment project worth Rs. 91,575 Crores were announced and Rs.33,815 Crores worth projects were completed.
69. The ‘Make in Kerala’ initiative, with an investment of Rs. 1000 Crores, provides 18 different incentives with the aim of boosting investment, innovation, production and employment generation across 22 high-potential sectors. Owing to pioneering steps such as K-SWIFT, Kerala Central Inspection System (K-CIS), ‘Meet the Investor Project’ etc. Kerala is today well-positioned as a thriving hub for innovation and business excellence.

70. My Government unveiled the Kerala Industrial Policy 2023, which aims to attract responsible investments to the State, and offers a spectrum of incentives in priority sectors. A new Export Policy, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy, Logistics Policy and Graphene Policy will be announced in tune with the objectives of the Kerala Industrial Policy 2023.
71. My Government has initiated the establishment of private industrial parks, with 16 parks already receiving sanction. Looking ahead to 2024-25, we envisage the establishment of over 25 more private industrial parks.
72. The Kerala Public Enterprises Selection and Recruitment Board was operationalised to make efficient and transparent recruitments to the public sector units and induce greater professionalism.
73. Under the “Kerala Brand” initiative, measures are taken to certify the quality of products manufactured in the State and enable them to cater to national and international markets. 10000 products of MSMEs in the State will be onboarded

and marketed through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and other e-commerce platforms.

74. Kerala's tourism sector has witnessed a remarkable recovery post-COVID, with the first three quarters of 2023 marking an all-time high of 1,59,68,616 domestic arrivals, showcasing a 21.12% increase from the pre-COVID records. Foreign tourist visits during this period also surged by 116.25% compared to the same period in 2022. Kerala, under my Government's leadership, solidifies its status as a prime investment hub, showcased during the successful 'Tourism Investors' Meet on 16th November, 2023. The event secured approximately Rs. 15,126 Crores worth of offers.
75. The Responsible Tourism Mission gained international recognition for its commitment to sustainable tourism, winning prestigious awards such as the WTM award for the Aymanom village STREET project.

76. With my Government's support, Heli and Cruise Tourism are becoming a reality in Kerala. We plan to develop two additional cine-tourism destinations in the upcoming fiscal year.
77. The newly formed Plantation Directorate has started operations, and a new plantation policy and policies for innovation in the plantation sector are on the anvil.
78. In the coir sector, new products with contemporary designs will be introduced to enhance marketability. In the cashew sector, specific plans have been formulated to increase market share domestically and internationally.
79. In the handloom sector, steps have been taken for expanding the market for handloom products by setting up design studios in showrooms for customizing fabrics based on customer preferences. In the bamboo sector, a crushed bamboo board production facility will be established and pre-fabricated eco-construction using bamboo will be promoted.

80. In a progressive move, my Government has digitized information for over 26 lakh job seekers. This has paved the way for the creation of the e-Employment Exchange portal, providing seamless online services to job seekers. Furthermore, a dedicated Virtual Pravasi Employment Exchange was recently inaugurated exclusively for Pravasi registration. With a view to tap the abundant job opportunities in the private sector for the unemployed youth of Kerala, my Government is developing the Private Job Portal, where employers can notify vacancies and job seekers can avail them based on their qualifications, aptitude and area of interest.
81. The introduction of a grading system for shops and commercial establishments in Kerala recognized and awarded establishments based on their work and customer-friendliness. Minimum wages were fixed for scheduled employments, including Private Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Dental hospitals, ensuring fair compensation to workers.

82. My Government will introduce the Transit Stay Facility for Motor Transport Workers, offering affordable short-term accommodations for taxi/cab/auto drivers.
83. The IT Parks of Kerala namely Technopark, Infopark and Cyberpark have witnessed a remarkable upswing in software export revenues, reaching an impressive Rs.20,921 Crores in 2022-23. Today the IT Parks offer 21 million sq.ft. of built-up space, with another 6 million sq.ft. slated for addition in the next three years.
84. The Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) with 5000 registered startups and with more than 1000 women co-founders is democratizing innovation and entrepreneurship in the State through the establishment of Launch Empower Accelerate Prosper (LEAP) centres.
85. In a pioneering move, my Government is set to implement an AVGC-XR policy in association with FICCI, SAIK and other industry stalwarts, which will position Kerala as a prime destination for AVGC-XR content creation, attracting international studios, projects, and investments.

86. My Government have identified a total extent of 4986 acres of land, for the proposed IT Corridor Project and is in the process of setting up of two new IT Parks in Kannur and Kollam.
87. During the year, the Graphene ecosystem development, initiated by the Digital University, received a significant boost with approvals given to set up the Graphene Pilot production facility. The development of this facility with an overall investment of around Rs. 250 Crores is expected to commence in 2024.
88. My Government will formulate a new IT policy for the State in line with the advances in technology and domains such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), material sciences, space tech etc. which have huge potential for the progress of human lives and our environment.
89. The K-FONE Project implemented to ensure Internet as a 'basic right' has already achieved an impressive 96% physical progress. International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) Open Hardware Lab for Sustainable

Development Solutions will design IoT enabled solutions for Government organizations. Centre For Development Of Imaging Technology (C-DIT) will strengthen its capacities in areas such as Security Document Forensic Laboratory, and Development of Data Analysis Solutions using Government Data for AI Based Decision Making. ICT Academy of Kerala is set to launch targeted initiatives which include AI/ML, Robotic Process Automation, Cyber Security, Augmented/Virtual Reality, Cloud Computing, IoT, Full Stack Development, Mobile Technologies, Embedded Systems, VLSI, FinTech, HealthTech, Logistics and Supply Chain.

VI. Infrastructure

90. Kerala is on the move to achieve 50% of energy needs from renewable energy sources by 2027. The State's power sector is on a sustainable growth trajectory, adding 654.5 MW of which 610 MW is solar and 44.5 MW hydro power since my Government came to power. 1000 MW installed capacity through solar power is targeted for the end of 2024-25. In order to meet the

evening peak demand, the Idukki Golden Jubilee Project (800 MW) is programmed for implementation utilising current reservoir capacity. The pre-feasibility studies of Lakchmi Hydroelectric project, and of Idukki, Pallivasal and Idamalayar Pumped Storage Projects are in progress.

91. A new wind policy enabling investment of private sector will be issued shortly. The Oorjja Kerala Mission projects, including Soura, Transgrid 2.0, and Dyuthi 2021, have shown positive results. In the Financial Year 2023-24, internal generation capacity increased by 94 MW, primarily from solar and hydro sources. Distribution and transmission losses have been reduced to among the lowest in the country. My Government's future plans include the second phase of Dyuthi, electrification projects, and continued network development. KSEBL plans to install smart meters, establish a wide network of EV charging stations, and develop a solarized e-mobility hub at Kaloor. Thiruvananthapuram is being developed as a solar city.

92. The State ranked second in the National Energy Efficiency Performance Award for 2023 on the basis of the National Energy Efficiency Index. The Angan Jyothi projects, particularly through EMC, focus on transforming Anganwadis, reducing carbon emissions, and emphasizing clean electric cooking. An innovative model of implementation of PM-KUSUM for solarisation of agricultural pumps is designed to meet the loan component through NABARD assistance.
93. In the infrastructure domain, significant progress has been made in developing National Highway 66. Ongoing projects, such as the hill highway, coastal highway, Kerala without level crossings, and junction development, promise to reshape the State's landscape. The Anakkampoil-Kalladi-Meppadi Tunnel Road, a significant project, is targeted for the fiscal year 2024.
94. In water resource management, under the Jal Jeevan Mission, Kerala aims to provide 17.6 lakh new Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in 2024-25. The State has made substantial progress in connection provision,

reaching 19.07 lakh as of December 3, 2023. AMRUT 2.0 aims to complete around 90 works including sewage treatment plants, before March, 2025.

95. During the next financial year, my Government will explore all possibilities of renewal of the Parambikulam Aliyar Agreement and is expected to conduct more discussions with Tamil Nadu to arrive at a consensus on review, especially on hike in entitlement quantity fulfilling the interest of both the States. My Government will make all possible efforts to ensure that the entitled quantity as per agreement conditions is supplied to Kerala.
96. It is proposed to utilize 2.87 TMC for the Attappady Irrigation Project against the total allotment of 6 TMC for Bhavani Basin as per the Final Verdict of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT). With a Command area of 4255 hectares, the project is the first of this size planned in the State in almost three decades. Kerala will take all possible steps for early construction of this vital dam.

97. The extension of Moolathara Right Bank Canal, Seetharkund Diversion Scheme, Thannikund Check Dam, and micro-irrigation projects reflect my Government's emphasis on effective water management and irrigation development. The Hilly Aqua project highlights efforts to provide clean drinking water to the public. These comprehensive initiatives collectively contribute to the development, management, and conservation of water resources in Kerala.
98. Through the 'Ini Njan ozhukatte' (Let me flow) campaign of the Navakerala Mission, 2619 kms of streams have been rejuvenated, 2702 ponds revived, 4282 ponds and 14642 wells newly constructed, and 7362 wells recharged. 441 permanent check dams and 44106 temporary check dams were constructed. Over 36 lakh square meter area of coir geotextiles covering has been laid to protect the side wall of water streams.
99. My Government gives utmost priority to micro irrigation in these times of dwindling resources and need for increased productivity. Micro Irrigation is scientifically proven to dramatically

increase productivity, especially in the case of cash crops. Community micro irrigation projects will be prioritised to attract more youth to farming.

100. As part of the Nava Keralam Karma Padhathi, the Net Zero Carbon Keralam campaign including Mapathon is underway in selected Local Governments. In Panchayats where the Mapathon has been completed, activities like reclamation of drains to facilitate water flow have commenced, and the next phase of activities to reduce landslides have been initiated.
101. My Government has implemented a comprehensive set of initiatives to enhance the State's transportation system, focusing on various services such as Hybrid Services, Janatha Services, Courier & Logistics, and a Rental Management System. Notably, Smart Travel Card, Google Transit, and an ERP Software Development Project have been successfully implemented in the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). The acquisition of 131 Superfast long-distance buses and an additional order for 113 electric buses (Non-AC) by

KSRTC-SWIFT signifies a significant step towards modernizing transportation.

102. Emphasizing road safety, my Government deployed 200 dashboard cameras and 200 decibel meters in enforcement vehicles to detect traffic violations and address noise pollution. The 'Fully Automated Traffic Enforcement System' has proven successful. A dedicated Command Control Centre will be established for real-time monitoring, and a comprehensive Road Safety Awareness Programme is set to launch.
103. Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) funds major projects like the Kerala Fibre Optic Network, Petrochemical and Pharma Park – Kochi (LA), West Coast Canal, Coastal and Hill Highway, Wayanad Twin-tube Tunnel, Transgrid 2.0, Life Science Park (Phase II-LA) - Thiruvananthapuram, Hi Tech School Programme, IURWTS Cochin etc. So far, the KIIFB board has approved 1073 projects with an outlay of ₹ 82,383 Crores. A stand out initiative is the Anakampoil-Kalladi-Meppadi tunnel, featuring a four-lane dual tunnel road spanning 8.11km which will ease the

congestion on the Thamarassery Ghat road and will enhance connectivity between Kozhikode and Wayanad districts.

104. The Coastal Highway traversing nine coastal districts of Kerala, holds the promise of boosting tourism and enhancing connectivity in the coastal region. Similarly, the Hill Highway from Parassala, Thiruvananthapuram to Nandarapadavu, Kasaragod, is poised to play a decisive role in transforming Kerala's infrastructure landscape.
105. Kochi Integrated Urban Regeneration and Water Transport System (IURWTS), a visionary initiative supported by KIIFB, aims to rejuvenate Kochi's major canals and restore the city's connection to its waterways. The proposed development of the West Coast Canal to National Waterway Standards, with a focus on cargo movement and tourism, is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.
106. My Government is actively pursuing the project for establishment of a Greenfield Airport near Sabarimala, which has received "Site Clearance"

approval from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) is overseeing the project's implementation, with the first phase anticipated to be operational by 2027.

107. The establishment of the Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) was a strategic move to harness development potential along the coastline. My Government is planning to develop the two maritime institutes located in Kodungallur in Thrissur District and Neendakara in Kollam District as hubs of Maritime education in southern India.

VII. Natural Resources, Forest and Wildlife, Environment And Disaster Management

108. My Government successfully addressed long-standing concerns related to Eco-Sensitive Zones (Buffer Zones) by obtaining a favorable Supreme Court verdict, thereby excluding residential areas from these zones and facilitated the relocation of 780 non-tribal families from forest areas,

disbursing Rs.93.6 Crores under the Navakiranam Project. My Government, for the first time in India, appointed 500 forest-dependent tribal youth through PSC by special recruitment as Beat Forest Officers, and conducted Vana Souhruda Sadassu outreach program, receiving 4797 complaints, redressing 4311, and providing compensation to victims of human-wildlife conflicts.

109. My Government will be taking initiative for Eco-restoration of Mono Culture Plantations, Mitigation of Human-Wildlife Interaction, Geo-spatial Forest Information Management System, 'One Panchayat-One Forestry Club', Urban Forestry and Biodiversity Parks.
110. As the country's first, my Government has formed the Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission (KSCCAM). Driving the Carbon Neutral Mission of Kerala, the KSCCAM aims to be a separate administrative entity for streamlining and administering climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.

111. An integrated wetland web portal and mobile application has been developed to ensure the contribution of citizen scientists registered as 'Wetland Mitras' in the management of Ramsar wetlands and will be available to the public. This will be a model in the field of wetland management in the country. A Climate Change Knowledge Resource Platform will be developed to provide data on historic and future climate, vulnerabilities and impacts and will update the changes in greenhouse gas emission.
112. The preparation of proposed Marine biodiversity Register will provide information regarding overfishing, depletion of marine bioresources, etc. to the neighbouring BMCs, to develop management plans to protect marine biodiversity. It is also proposed to establish the 'Kerala Traditional Knowledge Digital Library' for the sustainable use of bioresources of the State. Kerala State Biodiversity Board has also initiated a policy for the management of invasive alien species.

113. Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction ensured comprehensive training for persons with disabilities conducted by the District Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with the Social Justice Department and KSDMA. In 2024, Heat Action Plans in Local Self Governments will be piloted along with developing Child-friendly spaces on Cyclone Shelters in collaboration with UNICEF.
114. Wayanad district achieved a historic milestone by being officially designated as the Pioneer District in Kerala and India for the Development and Implementation of Tribal Disaster Management Plan.

VIII. Finance, Taxes And Excise

115. My Government is successfully carrying out the scheme of Social Security Pension in order to assure social security and welfare of the poorest of the poor. About half a crore helpless and the needy are covered under Social Security Pension. At present, approximately Rs. 900 Crores is provided per month for the disbursement of these

Social Security Pensions and Welfare Fund Board Pensions.

116. Since 2015, the Rubber Production Incentive Scheme spearheaded by my Government has proven instrumental in supporting 5,59,457 rubber farmers.
117. Around 30 lakh people including Kerala Government employees, service pensioners and their family members are beneficiaries of MEDISEP scheme (Medical Insurance Scheme for State Employees and Pensioners). Insurance benefits of more than 1,000 Crores rupees have been sanctioned to over 4.5 lakh beneficiaries.
118. In the year 2023, the Kerala State Goods and Services Tax Department underwent a comprehensive restructuring to align it with the GST laws, emphasizing functional specialization, transparency and natural justice with improved tax administration.
119. The Thiruvonam Bumper Lottery draw has been conducted with its highest ever first prize of Rs. 25 Crores. The Thiruvonam Bumper 2023 has

achieved unprecedented sales, surpassing all previous records to become the top-selling lottery ticket in the State's history.

120. My Government, steadfast in its commitment to financial inclusion and social welfare, facilitates economic activities and low-cost loans through various KSFE initiatives, notably exemplified by the Rs. 4400 Crores extended in gold loans and Rs. 2150 Crores in housing loan.

IX. Regulatory Sectors

121. The Kerala Police under my Government has excelled in efficient management, earning recognition as one of the best State Police Forces. Key advancements include strengthening Forensic Science Laboratories, establishing a dedicated Cyber Operations Wing, and successfully implementing the Student Police Cadet Scheme in 949 Government Schools. The "YODHAV" scheme was launched to combat narcotics, complemented by Digital De-addiction Centres in 6 Cities. Drone Surveillance extension and measures to improve women and child safety,

including Exclusive Rest Rooms and a Special Task Force for 'POCSO Cases', showcase a commitment to public safety.

122. In the year 2023, the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau conducted an impressive total of 1724 surprise checks. A remarkable achievement is the execution of 55 trap cases, marking the highest in the history of the Vigilance Department. It is proposed to establish a dedicated Document Division in the Forensic Science Laboratories. This will expedite the crucial sample analysis needed for investigations.
123. My Government's efforts to modernize the judiciary are evident through Paperless Courts, with initiatives like Decree Generation web application, machine scrutiny for Bail Applications and in Writ Appeals, auto processing of Urgent Memos and Listing of Case files and a mobile app for e-filing. The Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) facilitates seamless data transfer among different pillars. Integration of advanced systems in Courtrooms is proposed, with Model Digital Courtrooms and a paperless courts project

in the pipeline. New judicial facilities, such as a Family Court at Adoor, an additional Fast Track Special Court at Neyyattinkara, and a Special Court for offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act at Nedumangad, have been initiated.

124. My Government aims for "land for all, records for all land, smart services for all". The Pattaya Mission was launched to provide land to eligible landless individuals, holding Pattaya Assemblies in all constituencies to identify Pattaya problems and pattaya adalats to resolve the identified issues. Notably, 1,21,604 Pattayams were distributed within two years. Kerala, the first State to implement land reforms in India, is now pioneering the Unique Thandaper System to prevent violations of land limit conditions. The newly created 4 zonal Taluk Land Boards settled 762 acres of surplus land in the last 7 months.
125. The ongoing Digital Resurvey launched in 2023 covers 2 lakh hectares of land, aiming to be a milestone in State development. With the launch of an integrated portal called Ente Bhumi in 2024,

which will bring together the services of the Revenue, Survey and Registration departments, my Government's goal of making land transactions at the fingertips will be realized. Another significant outcome of the digital survey is that all land parcels in the State will be separated by digital fencing.

126. Updation of land records is a challenge, and my Government plans a new Settlement Act this year for a comprehensive Settlement in Kerala, addressing the lack of updates since 1936. My Government has launched a revenue e-literacy scheme to enable people to use the online services of the Revenue Department.

X. Sports, Art & Culture

127. My Government has introduced a new Sports Policy focusing on reform, innovation, and creating a vibrant sports economy. Emphasizing 'Sports for All', 'Health through Sports', and 'Sports for Change', the policy envisions excellence in competitive sports, corruption-free sports administration, a thriving sports economy, and a vibrant sports culture.

128. The Department of Sports & Youth Affairs is host to the International Sports Summit Kerala 2024 'ISSK 2024' from January 23rd to 26th, 2024, focusing on integrating sports into Kerala's Gross State Domestic Product. The event includes seminars, exhibitions, and meetings with investors and startups to develop a thriving sports ecosystem and a world class pool of talent. The prestigious chess event, KERALA CUBA 'CHE' INTERNATIONAL CHESS FESTIVAL, graced by our national pride GM Praggnanandhaa and GM Nihal Sarin and the 19th Asian Games, which was attended by athletes from 46 countries, are feathers on the cap of Kerala sports.
129. My Government initiated the ambitious program 'One Panchayat One Playground' to develop at least one playground in each rural village, promoting amateur sports. Panchayat Sports Councils have been formed at the LSG level to identify talented sports persons at regional level, ensure better training through sports academies and develop sports awareness and sports culture among the society.

130. 'Kerala Kayika Kshamatha Mission' by KSSC envisages the improvement of physical fitness level of the students based on the concept "Sports for All" in convergent mode with multiple departments and agencies. The beneficiaries include Nursery to 4th standard students, 5th standard to plus two and University students, Youth and working professionals, Senior citizens, Differently abled persons etc.
131. The important programmes/schemes for the year 2024-25 to be implemented by Kerala State Youth Welfare Board include Team Kerala (Kerala Youth Force) for disaster management and emergency response, YES clubs for intellectual disabled, transgenders club, agricultural clubs, Ladies clubs and an Adventure academy.
132. Under the DARPG, IMG is conducting a pioneering study to formulate Competency Frameworks for frontline functionaries in various departments of my Government. In the upcoming year 2024-2025, IMG aims to introduce tailored training programs to enhance the application of digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence

(AI), for faster, transparent, and efficient service delivery.

133. The Chief Minister's weekly television program 'Naam Munnottu' was relaunched in a new format, discussing development and welfare schemes. Over 100 informational videos and 52 short films were produced, focusing on developmental and welfare activities, and widely disseminated through social media.

Conclusion

134. Kerala's development journey straddles the needs of a compassionate welfare state committed to deliver on the constitutional promises of human dignity, social justice and equality as well as that of a forward looking society keen on developing to its full potential. We have moved beyond providing basic necessities for nurturing a society where empathy and care are woven into the fabric of our development strategy. This shift aligns perfectly with the promise of leaving no one behind which lies at the heart of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. This orientation has become all the more relevant in times of climate crisis and adaptation.

135. My Government unequivocally condemns the crime of genocide and all crimes against humanity and wishes for an end to the cycle of death, destruction and despair that they engender. We hold firm in our aspiration for a world where there is peace, hope and unwavering respect for human life.
136. Let us remember that our greatest legacy lies not in buildings or monuments, but in the respect and regard we show to the priceless legacy of the Constitution of India and the timeless values of democracy, secularism, federalism and social justice. The essence of cooperative federalism is what has kept our country united and strong all these years. It is our bounden duty to ensure that this essence is not diluted. Together as part of this varied and beautiful nation we will weave the tapestry of inclusive growth and responsible resilience, overcoming all the challenges that are thrown our way.

JAI HIND