



**ADDRESS
TO
THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
KERALA**

4TH FEBRUARY, 2011

By

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GOVERNOR OF KERALA

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Members,

1. I warmly welcome you to the first session of Kerala Legislative Assembly for the year 2011. This is my third address to you and let me extend my hearty greetings to all of you. The budget for 2011-12 will be presented and Vote on Accounts approved in this session. The development activities undertaken by my Government have made Kerala one of the fast growing States in the entire country. It is happy to note that Kerala has been adjudged as the best governed State in the country. The Honourable Chief Minister Sri. V.S.Achuthanandan has received the Best Big State Award in Governance from His Excellency the Vice-President of India, Sri. Mohammad Ansari.

2. Before I deal with the policies of my Government in various development sectors, let me briefly touch upon the national situation. The growth of extremist forces, the Maoists and the communal terrorists pose a grave danger to the law and order and national unity. The pauperisation of large segments of the population in the countryside and the frightening inequality that the globalisation process is generating provides a fertile field for the growth of extremism. This challenge cannot be met merely through administrative action. It requires also a political response to ensure more egalitarian growth and also protection of the secular values. Kerala has remained a relatively haven of peace. But for certain

minor incidents, there have been no serious communal outbursts in the State. Our secular heritage as well as effectiveness of our law and order machinery has contributed to this outcome. Nevertheless, certain recent developments have revealed the links of extremists to communal outfits in the State. We have to be vigilant to safeguard our secular traditions.

3. Second major challenge is related to the widespread corruption in all branches of State machinery as have been revealed by the recent revelations on 2G spectrum sales, land scams, Common Wealth Games scandal, the enormous black money part in foreign bank accounts and so on. All these underline the predatory nature of the crony capitalism in India. The liberalisation and privatisation reforms have proved to be also a process of primitive accumulation. The total erosion of the ethical plane of our national movement from the administration is breeding pervasive cynicism. The crony capitalism will ultimately adversely affect the growth, not to say of inclusive growth.

4. The inflationary conditions are the foremost among the economic issues that confront our country. Our economic recovery was stronger than that of the western countries. But it would appear that the anti inflationary demand management measures that the Government of India is contemplating is going to adversely affect the growth prospects. The present inflation is due neither to excessive demand generated by the recovery nor decline in

agricultural output. The primary cause is the manipulation by hoarders and speculators who have misused the import export policies and opportunities in forward trade markets. This being the case appropriate response should have been on the supply side to rein in the speculators. The withdrawal of the Essential Commodities Act by the Central Government has severely constrained any serious intervention in this direction. And the Government of India has been extremely reluctant to use the huge grains buffer stock in its godowns to effectively intervene in the market, despite prodding from the Supreme Court. To make the situation even worse, a tendency for the food inflation to develop into a general inflationary condition is also clearly evident. This trend has been fanned by frequent increases in the prices of petroleum products by the oil companies. They seem to be least worried about the overall macro economic situation in formulating the price policy. There is no transparency in the process of price determination and the present hikes cannot be justified. The double digit inflation imposes severe pressure on the State Government's expenditure side through higher DA for the employees, higher cost of transport and travel and greater outlays on social security. The inflation robs the ordinary people of a substantial portion of their income and transfers it to hoarders and speculators. My Government considers, that the foremost important task today is to address the menace of price rise and offer protection to the people.

5. The coming budget will unveil our response to the dire situation that the people of the State have been subjected to by the price rise. My Government wants to stress that the present inflation is caused by the policies of the Central Government and it is the duty of the Centre to immediately initiate measures to counter the inflation and provide support to the public distribution system of my Government. My Government has created history by introducing the scheme for distribution of food grains at two rupees per kilogram to 40 lakh families. This, along with supply of 13 essential items including pulses, sugar and spices, has made Kerala the only State in the whole country to supply all essential commodities at the same price for the last four and a half years in spite of the high food inflation and global food crisis. This has helped in controlling food inflation and Kerala is rated only 17th in position as far as price rise is concerned as per Labour Bureau of India's published figures.

6. For further controlling the prices and ensuring food security in the State, my Government will supply 13 essential commodities through all the fair price shops at subsidized rates in a phased manner in addition to the maveli stores already functioning for which an amount of ₹ 337 crores is anticipated. The Central Government should meet half the cost of this new initiative of the State Government. Further good quality Jaya, Surekha and Matta rice will be distributed through all Supplyco outlets at ₹ 16 per kg. Modern Hyper Markets will be opened at Thiruvananthapuram and Kottayam this month itself and at Thalassery, Karunagappally and

Thiruvalla by this year end. A Supplyco shopping mall will be opened near Technopark this year. A modern wheat flourmill constructed on BOT basis will be commissioned this month itself at Pathanamthitta.

7. The above measures deal with fair distribution of the food grains and other materials made available by the Central Government or procured from other States in India. Also we have to actively plan to increase the food production in the State. The Food Security Program of my Government has already made its impact. The State has witnessed an unprecedented awakening in the agricultural and allied sectors during the last five years. Farmer's suicide, which had created deep wounds in the minds of common people, could be wiped out completely. For the first time in the country, "Kissan Abhiman", the pension scheme for the paddy farmers was introduced. 37,000 hectares of fallow land was brought under paddy cultivation. Paddy procurement was carried out with the highest ever procurement price of ₹ 13/kg. in the country.

8. My Government proposes to implement "Ari Sree" program for streamlining various rice farming activities under different programs. The key element of this new program will be an official institutional arrangement to facilitate informal leasing of cultivable fallow land to farmers, agricultural labourers, or SHGs for intensive cultivation for a fixed period. My Government will work out a mechanism to initiate the above program. My Government proposes to set up 14 Model Farm Technicians and Labourers

Bank facilities, one in each district, in the State during 2011-12. A Research Station will be set up for spearheading research activities on the problems arising out of climate change. On the lines of the Idukki and Kuttanad packages, it is proposed to start an Onattukara Karshika Vikasana Package.

9. The State is facing an acute price hike in the case of vegetables. For self sufficiency in vegetable production, my Government proposes to provide 10 lakh families with assistance for the production of traditional varieties of vegetables.

10. There has been an improvement in the prices of commercial crops and farm investments are picking up. As a result, the production of commercial crops has started exhibiting a positive trend and is expected very soon to reach the pace of rapid growth during the period of latter half of 1980s and 1990s. However, the ASEAN Agreement poses a major threat of price collapse as in the early years of 2000s. My Government is committed to adopt measures to improve the productivity so as to make our crops more competitive and also a price support program in periods of down turn. The Central Government has a major role in implementing this program.

11. My Government proposes to take up programs for developing spatial data on paddy lands of the State under food security schemes of the State. Kerala State Remote Sensing and

Environment Centre (KSREC), in co-ordination with the Ministry of Earth Science, Govt. of India, proposes to implement a program to disseminate Satellite Based Potential Fishing Zone Advisories and establish the Digital Information System in the coastal areas of the State, which provide forecast of the potential fishing zones and early warning on Tsunami like disasters.

12. During the last five years, the animal husbandry sector in the State witnessed substantial developments in the form of production of livestock products viz milk, egg and meat. The milk production in the State steadily increased from 20.63 lakh MT in 2005-06 to 25.37 lakh MT in 2009-10 and 29 MT in 2010-11. For the scientific upgradation of the sector, my Government established the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University. My Government could increase the area under fodder cultivation from 12000 ha to 15110 ha in the last one year. To strengthen the dairy co-operative sector in the State, my Government is providing assistance for forming 25 new dairy co-operative societies. Around 1,89,604 dairy farmers in the State were brought under the purview of insurance scheme of Kerala Dairy Farmers Welfare Board. Kerala has become the only State in the country to implement the 100% Livestock Insurance Scheme. Further, cattle feed subsidy was introduced for all dairy farmers in the State.

13. A Special Package for 73 high milk producing dairy blocks will be implemented. To increase the subsidiary income of women and ensure food security, it is envisaged to supply two

female goats each of 3-4 months age to one lakh women belonging to BPL groups at 50% subsidy. Hitech Dairy Farms will be established at Vithura, Kuriottumala and Dhoni .A Super Speciality Clinical Complex will be established at Kudappanakunnu under the Animal Husbandry Department. For financing the needs of the dairy farmers in Kerala, a Financial Institution for Dairy sector will be set up during the year. High-tech bull mother dairy farm units with Open Nucleus Breeding Systems will be established at Kolahalamedu and Mattupatti. My Government proposes to establish a Genome Lab at Kudappanakunnu to carry out parentage/ pedigree of animals used for breeding purposes and select bull calves at a very young age based on milk production potential by identification of the specific gene for milk production through Marker Assisted Selection. A collaborative project for genetic upgradation of cattle and animal identification is planned with help of the Government of France. My Government will establish a Goat Feed Manufacturing unit at Athavanad in Malappuram District and a By-Pass Protein Feed Manufacturing Unit in the premises of 300 TPD cattle feed plant at Karunagapally. Infrastructure development such as construction of raw material godown for cattle feed plant, expansion of Central Products Dairy, Alleppey, expansion of infrastructure for processing and marketing of milk, new ice cream plant at Wayanad, etc are envisaged to be implemented during the year.

14. The egg production which was 203.4 crores in 2000-01 went down to '119.56 crores in 2005-06, but it has now increased to ' 163.30 crores. The internal production of poultry meat went up to 22,000 MT in 2009-10. School Poultry Clubs (Kunjukaikalil Kozhikunju) assisting 50,000 school children have been launched. A new innovative scheme called "KEPCO Gramam", to attain self sufficiency in egg production in panchayaths has been launched. KEPCO poultry feed will be commercially launched during this year.

15. As part of modernizing the coastal fisheries sector, model fishing villages will be established. Reconstruction of fishermen houses, hygienic environment, community halls, dispensaries, water supply schemes, road net work, auction halls, street lights etc are the components. 25 villages are selected for the year 2011-12.

16. One of the outstanding achievements of my Government is the Matsyakeralam project. 2641 ha of brackish water and 3433 ha of fresh water areas were brought under shrimp/fish/mussel culture during the second phase. By the end of the third phase, it is expected that the target of 2 lakh tons of fish could be achieved.

17. As part of Fishermen Debt Relief, my Government has written off loans of 1,17,000 fishermen amounting to ₹ 394 crores. As a next step my Government will take steps to write off all loans taken by fishermen from other banking or financial institutions based on the recommendation of the Fishermen Debt Relief Commission.

My Government has established the first University for Fisheries and Ocean Sciences in the country to bestow emphasis on fisheries and ocean sciences education and also to overcome paucity in technologically sound manpower.

18. Development works worth more than ₹ 3000 crores have been implemented in the Fisheries Sector in the last five years. Kayamkulam Fishing Harbour has been commissioned. Thottapally and Ponnani Fishing Harbours will be commissioned this year. Koyilandi and Thalai Fishing Harbours will be made functional this year. New Fishing Harbours will be constructed at Manjeswaram, Vellayil, Thanoor, Parappanangadi and Valiyathura. Upgradation of coastal roads amounting to ₹ 100 crores is nearing completion.

19. The Co-operative Sector played a distinct role by undertaking various projects having social commitment to the people. Festival and special markets were conducted under the leadership of CONSUMERFED. An amount of ₹ 126.16 crores was provided as relief to consumers by selling the goods at reduced rates. A new co-operative hospital was established at Punnappra in the co-operative sector and new buildings were constructed for the MBA College and finishing school at Punnappra. New courses such as MCA, Mechanical/Civil Engineering were started in co-operative professional colleges under CAPE.

20. The strong intervention of the Co-operative Department by way of loans worth ₹ 76.33 crores in the last four years for professional education had a very good impact in helping the poor

students. The co-operative sector will provide ₹ 4000 crores as loan to the local bodies for implementing the E.M.S. Housing Scheme.

21. Financial assistances will be granted for the purchase of more harvesting machines and interest free loans will be disbursed for paddy cultivation. New units will be opened for processing coconuts and paddy and special schemes will be introduced for promoting the cultivation of Gandhakasala rice in Wayanad, and Pokkali rice in Thrissur and Ernakulam Districts and processing units will be opened for Pokkali and Gandhakasala rice varieties. The second phase of ICDP Schemes will be implemented in Idukki District. The co-operatives will continue to provide agricultural loans at lesser rate of interest and interest free loans for paddy cultivation. My Government has formed a Risk Fund for helping loanees. An amount of ₹ 4.21 crores in respect of 858 loanees has been waived off as per the above said scheme.

22. My Government has placed considerable emphasis on the water resources sector in the State so as to ensure that the right of access to water for all citizens is transformed into reality. Based on the tenets articulated in the Kerala Water Policy 2007, there has been investment on an unprecedented scale in the drinking water and irrigation sector in the last four years. In the drinking water sector, 69 major and 222 minor schemes benefiting a population of 29.53 lakh have been implemented.

23. The Kerala Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Agency (KRWSA), which is today an important player in the rural water supply and sanitation sector has successfully developed a viable alternate model for service delivery based on the sound principle of cost recovery. KRWSA was awarded the First Runner up in the “Peoples First Award” competition held during February 2008 at the World Bank’s office in Washington DC for the outstanding work in delivering water and sanitation services to women, minorities and indigenous people.

24. Kerala Water Authority is in the process of implementing 5 JBIC aided Water Supply Schemes and Water Supply and Sewerage schemes under JNNURM and UIDSSMT, Tsunami Rehabilitation Programmes etc. 36 Projects that were languishing for want of funds have been taken up under SPAN (Special Package Assisted by NABARD) and will be completed shortly. This will benefit a population of 36 lakhs. Furthermore, under Special Assistance Against Recession in Kerala (SAARK), projects worth ₹ 470 crores were implemented for rejuvenating 17 stalled drinking water projects and replacement of old pipes are being implemented under fast-track mechanism.

25. My Government has also successfully implemented the process of making KWA a customer friendly organization and strengthening it institutionally. Computerization and e-tendering process in Kerala Water Authority and 7 days’ water connection

facility have been implemented. Consultancy services by KWA named WASCON have been launched. A 24 hour complaint redressal cell, Blue Brigade and Help-desk has been established in the last four years.

26. Jalasuraksha, a project implemented in co-ordination with LSGD and various other departments, aimed at ensuring safe drinking water and sustainable utilization of water resources for agriculture and other purposes was launched throughout the State. The thrust of the project is to ensure that drought and water scarcity are tackled effectively at local level and guarantee water availability throughout the year.

27. In the irrigation sector, under SAARK, projects worth ₹ 256.37 crores have been taken up. A comprehensive project – MIRPA- for improving irrigation facilities in Malabar region was launched. During the same period, RELIS, an integrated scheme for revamping and rehabilitating lift irrigation schemes across the State was launched. The Pamba River Basin Authority was also constituted. Under Anti-Sea Erosion works, 13.41 km of new seawall has been constructed and 51.79 km renovated.

28. Kerala Water Authority had already bagged the National Urban Water Award in 2008 and Bharath Nirman Award in 2009. Thiruvananthapuram has been selected by the Union Urban Development Department as the city with the best billing and collection mechanism in water supply sector.

29. My Government realizes that water is a finite and essential resource having competing demands and therefore ought to be managed in an integrated manner by addressing both demand and supply sides in various segments - be it drinking water, or water for irrigation or for industrial use. During 2010-11, Kerala Water Authority have successfully completed 3 schemes under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, 6 NABARD assisted schemes, 17 Tsunami Rehabilitation Works and 2 water supply schemes in the Tsunami affected area of Kollam and Alappuzha Districts benefitting around 8 lakh people. The Chavara - Panmana Multi Grama Panchayat Water Supply Scheme has been commissioned this month. The scheme would benefit more than 1 lakh population through 20,000 plus new connections. Further, partial commissioning of JBIC project at Thiruvananthapuram was also done.

30. Four JBIC schemes of Thiruvananthapuram, Meenad, Cherthala and Pattuvam will be commissioned benefitting more than 30 lakh people this year. Further, 19 NABARD assisted schemes, 29 ARWSP Schemes and 8 UWSS schemes will be completed benefitting more than 33 lakh people. Furthermore, three major water supply schemes for water supply to Parasala, Marukil Maranallur and adjoining villages, Kumarakom & Thiruvappu; and augmentation of water supply to Thripunithura and adjoining Panchayats will be completed this year. The second Phase of "Jalanidhi" has been launched during 2010-11 benefitting 200 Panchayats spread over all the 14 districts. A comprehensive

management action plan has been prepared for preservation of Sasthamcottah Lake and it will be implemented this year. In irrigation sector, the dam safety issues are of paramount importance. My Government has prepared a detailed project report for construction of a new dam at Mullaperiyar. The construction of the new dam will be started this year.

31. My Government could achieve good progress in implementing the Kuttanad Package. Government has forwarded DPRs for an amount of ₹ 2843.73 crores to the Government of India under Flood Management Programme. The works relating to regulation of flood waters in the Kayal areas and construction and strengthening of outer bunds of padasekharams under the various tasks are in progress. My Government expects to double the paddy cultivation in the Kuttanad region, popularly known as the rice bowl of the State. During 2011-12, my Government will complete the works relating to flood regulation and outer bund strengthening of over 250 padasekharams. The works relating to Kariyar Muttu Regulator and renovation of the Thanneerumukkam barrage will also be started this year.

32. My Government realises that water transport modes are energy efficient; meaning thereby lesser emissions per ton - km moved. Hence greater use of water transport modes would impact the process of climate change. My Government is committed to providing requisite infrastructure on the State waterways to promote

greater use of this energy efficient mode. Nearly 43 kms of state waterways including the Sultan Canal in the Kannur-Kasaragod region and around 11 kms stretch from Paravoor Kayal to Maniyamkulam Thodu in Kollam District have been made navigable.

33. During 2011-12, my Government plans to take up the works relating to the state waterways in the Varkala-Kollam stretch for a length of 35 kms and Kodungaloor - Ponnani stretch for a length 90 kms. Further, the " Kochi Sea Port- Air Port Waterway Connectivity" project linking Nedumbassery CIAL International Airport to the Kochi sea-port through river Periyar and National Waterway III will be completed this year.

34. The newly elected local governments have just assumed office. More than 50% of the elected heads are women; further wherever the elected head is a male, the vice president or vice chairperson is a woman. The standing committee chairpersons also have equal number of women. And the key constitutional planning body in the district, the District Planning Committee has 50% women elected members. I am proud to state that such comprehensive empowerment of women in local governments is unique in the country and we can certainly expect gender sensitive, pro-poor compassionate and corruption free local governments. To make this bold experiment sustainable, my Government intends to

rotate reserved seats and positions once in ten years instead of once in five years. This continuity for two terms would help motivate performance and facilitate emergence of experienced leadership.

35. In order to facilitate the functioning of such local governments, the Kerala Institute of Local Administration has embarked on an exercise to provide high quality training to every elected member in the first four months and the results have been more than encouraging. Utilizing this momentum and enthusiasm, my Government intends to launch the preparation of the Twelfth Five Year Plan early in the next financial year with focus on preparation of District Plans and Five Year Plans which could not be achieved earlier in spite of serious efforts.

36. Kerala has attained front-runner status in sanitation, among the major States, in rural areas with 951 out of the 978 Panchayats attaining the Nirmal Gram status conferred by Government of India. My Government would ensure that the entire State achieves the Nirmal status this year itself. Since sanitation, especially solid waste management, has become a strongly felt people's need, my Government intends to prepare twenty City Sanitation Plans for the big towns and 225 Village Sanitation Plans for the relatively urbanized Village Panchayats immediately. This will ensure a scientific and time bound approach to the problem. As water quality is the best indicator of efficient sanitation, the pilot experiments in water quality surveillance utilizing higher secondary schools would be expanded to cover the whole State in 2 years.

37. The institutional strengthening and democratization of the Kudumbashree network has completely revitalized the functioning of the women's groups. In the last two years, Kudumbashree has succeeded in efficiently utilizing nearly ₹ 200 crores of government assistance, a quantum increase over the earlier years. It now proposes to focus on the poorest of the poor, especially tribal women. A special project for marketing of organic agricultural produce of Attappady would be implemented. The BUDS School system which has developed an excellent model of care of challenged children with the full involvement of local governments and the community would be further expanded with the objective of universalization.

38. I am happy to point out that Government of India has launched the National Rural Livelihood Mission based primarily on the experience of the Kudumbashree Project of Kerala and IKP Project of Andhra Pradesh. Kerala will be the pioneer in implementing this anti-poverty program through a unique partnership of Panchayats and the community based organizations of the poor. It is very gratifying to note that several States have sought the technical assistance of Kudumbashree in trying out such a model.

39. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme Scheme is being implemented in a very satisfactory manner as indicated by the fact that expenditure has increased from ₹ 224 crores in 2008-09 to ₹ 471 crores in

2009-10, and to an expected amount of ₹ 700 crores during the current year. And Kerala has become the first State in the country to launch an exactly similar program with the same entitlements for the urban areas named after the great social reformer Shri Ayyankali. MGNREGP has succeeded in considerably arresting the trend of declining paddy cultivation. To boost this program, over 600 Village Panchayats have prepared watershed master plans. In order to provide technical assistance for ecologically sustainable development and to promote local action to minimize the impact of climate change, KILA would set up a centre for natural resource management in Attappady utilizing the infrastructure of AHADS.

40. 'Swaraj' is meaningless without 'Suraj'. Continuing the efforts for governance, electronic payment of property tax would be initiated in Thiruvananthapuram city followed by other cities. Online submission of applications for building permit now being piloted in Thiruvananthapuram city would be extended to the remaining four cities. Computerized tracking of applications for building permit would be introduced in all Municipalities and major Village Panchayats.

41. Green Kerala Express an innovative and path breaking social reality show has brought in unexpected accolades and national acclaim. My Government intends to conduct similar shows at least once in two years.

42. My Government proposes to establish an International Campus for Laurie Becker International School of Habitat Studies(LaBISHas) at Thiruvallam village in Thiruvananthapuram. Under M N Laksham Veedu punarnirmana padhathi, construction of 4150 houses has been completed and it is proposed to rebuild 3900 houses this year. A life size statue of late Shri. M.N. Govindan Nair, the mentor of the One Lakh Housing Scheme, will be erected in Thiruvananthapuram city to commemorate his birth centenary and One Lakh Housing Colonies across the State will be renamed as 'M.N. Bhavana Nagar' to perpetuate his memory. My Government proposes to start working women's hostels at Thrissur, Kozhikode and Kattappana to take up the needs of working women. My Government has decided to retain the seigniorage value of sand collected from the Vanasamrakshana Samithi to the BPL families, beneficiaries of M.N. and EMS Housing Schemes at the rate of Rs.78 per cubic meter. It is also proposed to supply other building materials such as cement and steel to BPL families at concessional rates.

43. My Government has focussed efforts during the last five years to improve the infrastructure facilities in the Government hospitals and to increase availability of resources to ensure better patient care to the poor and needy. All the community health centres have been upgraded to Indian Public Health Standards. The systems in four major Government hospitals have been made ready for accreditation by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals.

Under the Kerala Emergency Medical Services Project launched in Thiruvananthapuram, advance life support ambulances are providing excellent service to the needy public under a common call centre number "108". The project will be extended to the National and State Highways this year itself. Kerala has been able to improve upon the high achievements in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) from 15 to 12. The community based pain and palliative care movement supported by my Government in Kozhikkode, Malappuram and other districts has won international recognition.

44. The Bill on Kerala University of Health Sciences has been passed by the Assembly and the University has started functioning in the campus in Thrissur. The construction of Super Specialty Block and purchase of equipments under PMSSY have been completed in the Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram with Central and State Assistance and opened for the public. New building of Ayurveda Panchakarma Hospital, Poojappura was also completed. Temporary Ayurveda/Homoeo/Siddha dispensaries were opened under NRHM. Setting up of Modular Operation Theatre & Surgical Theatre Complex at Medical College, Kozhikode has been taken up at a total cost of ₹ 20 Crore. Catheterisation Lab and Cardiothoracic Surgery Unit have been set up in Medical College, Alappuzha. 'Burns Unit' and Modernised Mortuary Blocks will be started in Medical Colleges. Ayurveda Sports Clinics will be started in selected ayurvedic hospitals.

45. The academic initiatives launched by my government have been successful in increasing the quality of higher education. The choice - based credit and semester system has been introduced in all the Universities, which give students the opportunity to increase their creative potential. Cluster of colleges has been set up in three districts to make optimum usage of the resources in the participating institutions. Inter University Centers have been established in the universities for encouraging cutting edge research in niche areas and coordinating the work in the Universities in Kerala. The initiatives for ensuring excellence in higher education have achieved fruition. The Scholar in Residence program "The Erudite" has ensured the presence of Nobel laureates and eminent scholars from within and abroad in our Universities. The scholar-in- residence and visiting faculty schemes have been introduced in various disciplines with a view to introduce opportunity for our faculty and students to interact with eminent scholars.

46. Scholarships programs have been launched for ensuring social justice and fostering excellence in studies. The prestigious Higher Education Scholarship Scheme aims at ensuring social justice and encouraging studies in basic sciences. Suvarna Jubilee Scholarship Scheme and Muslim Girls Scholarship were instituted to ensure social justice. New institutions of excellence such as the Centre for Engineering Research and Development and the Centre for Disability Studies have been started to encourage Research and Development in these areas. A new arts and science college has

been established in Alappuzha. The Kerala State Science and Technology Museum proposes to establish a Science City and two Regional Science Centres. The various Central Government institutions started from 2007 will certainly improve the quality of higher education in the State.

47. Content development for higher education has been a major initiative taken in higher education. The content development portals such as The Scholar, K-base and Gurusmarana have been established. The Higher Education Council has initiated a program for developing a comprehensive data bank on higher education institutions in the State.

48. My Government is focusing on improving the quality of education through innovative programs. A study conducted by an independent agency covering 18 States in the country found that students from Kerala exhibited superior skills in mathematics and languages. Physical education has been introduced in the curriculum in the schools. A scheme for supply of free milk (2 cups per week) has been introduced for students up to eighth standard. On the basis of Sachar Committee Report, my Government has accorded recognition to 41 unaided schools during the last year. About 4 lakh students were selected for pre-metric scholarship. Transfer and postings of teachers are being conducted 'online'. My Government has implemented a scheme to supply milk to school children in addition to the Mid Day Meal Scheme. In the Higher Secondary, all

the SC/ST students applied for +1 were given admission. Transfer of IT Education to ICT enabled education under the leadership of IT @ School could create many ripples in the general education sector. The project could implement a new Scheme "One Model IT School in each Legislative Assembly Constituency". Further 5 schools were upgraded as "Smart Schools". Schemes were formulated for giving laptops and net books to 50,000 teachers at minimal price. SIET Kerala has bagged 5 National Awards for best educational films in the all India Educational Festival and 2 National Awards in the Science Film Festival. The State has completed assigning of unique alpha numeric codes to all recognised Government, aided and unaided schools. Management training has been given to Head Masters, VHSE/HSE Principals, Deputy Directors, DEOs/AEOs, DIET Faculty, Resource Teacher of IEDC and Secretariat Staff in General Education Department.

49. The Education Department proposes to reform the conduct and valuation of Higher Secondary Examination by introducing false numbering and double valuation. It is proposed to sanction one Higher Secondary School in each Grama panchayat in the Malabar region and two model vocational higher secondary schools in each District. The existing Pareeksha Bhavan will be converted into a Pareeksha Board for conducting SSLC, HSE, VHSE examinations. It is proposed to start five training centers for the purpose of training the teachers for teaching the disabled children. +1 and +2 curriculum will be reformed from the next year.

National level institution for training the officers of the General Education department will be opened. As part of the implementation of the RMSA program, more schools will be upgraded. Active steps will be taken for the implementation of the right to free and compulsory education.

50. Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology, recognized and approved by DGCA, will expand its activities by procuring advanced training equipments like multi engine aircraft, two more single engine aircrafts and flight simulators for providing pilot training. The foundation stone for its own campus will be laid during this month itself.

51. With the commendable functioning of my Government for the last four and a half years a harmonious working environment has been created in the State whereby a welfare oriented progressive society could be built up. My Government has enacted the landmark legislation called the Kerala Recognition of Trade Unions Act, 2010 with a view to provide recognition of trade unions for facilitating collective bargaining and to check multiplicity of trade unions in industrial establishments. Out of eighty two sectors of employment in the schedule of Minimum Wages Act, 42 sectors have fixed or revised minimum wages benefiting 65 lakh unorganised workers in the State. Action is underway to notify the remaining sectors. My Government has accepted the recommendations of the Plantation Study Committee Report and it is being implemented.

52. My Government proposes to introduce a new scheme for the betterment of unorganized domestic workers and temple workers except poojaris. A pension scheme for the families of tree climbers who meet with accidental death while working will also be introduced. My Government has introduced the landmark health insurance scheme of RSBY & CHIS covering both BPL and APL families in Kerala by providing treatment facilities for ₹ 30,000 per 5 member family through Government, co-operative and empanelled private hospitals. It may be noted that my State is the only State in the country, which has covered the entire districts of the State and extended the scheme for APL families in the first year itself under RSBY. My Government has received two pioneer National Awards consecutively from Government of India for its outstanding commitment in terms of initiative, innovation and institutional building in the implementation of RSBY during the first year and got recognition for the "Best Utilization Rate" during the second year. My Government will start a new scheme called 'CHIS PLUS' which provides additional medical assistance to the tune of ₹ 70,000 for the treatment of cancer, kidney and heart diseases covering 35 lakhs families under RSBY and CHIS. An Occupational Health Centre at Kollam will be set up with a view to ensure better working environment in the traditional industries like cashew, coir, silica and fish peeling. The benefit of ESI will be extended to more areas. More private hospitals will be included in the panel of super speciality and speciality hospitals. All Employment

Exchanges in the State will be computerised. My Government has launched a new self employment scheme called 'Saranya' for the upliftment of widows, divorced women, abandoned wives, unmarried women above thirty years of age and unmarried mothers belonging to Scheduled Tribe. Under the scheme, ₹ 50,000 will be given to the above categories of which 50% of the amount will be Government subsidy.

53. Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has taken prime importance in the formulation of plan and its implementation during the past five years. This is reflected in the achievements of this Government in this sector during the above period. Against the average percentage of 65-70% in the past, the expenditure of plan provision in the four years starting from 2006-07 is well above 90%, last year touching the record figure of 99.8%. Education was given prime importance during this period. The benefits that the students were getting from pre-primary to professional courses level have been increased considerably. Students of almost all self-financing professional courses have been extended fee concession at higher rate. This has resulted in manifold increase in the expenditure under this sector, that of post-metric scholarship alone crossing ₹ 120 crores. E-Grants scheme started for distribution of benefits has been a resounding success.

54. Rehabilitation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is another field that my Government has given importance. Assistance was given for more than 50,000 Scheduled Castes and

16,000 ST families for housing. Besides about 10,000 SC families were given financial assistance for purchasing plots and 21,000 ST families were provided with land. The rate of assistance for almost all welfare schemes has been enhanced. A novel comprehensive scheme for medical treatment of tribals afflicted with serious diseases has been implemented. One of the notable achievements of my Government has been the "Debt Waiver Scheme" implemented for poor SC, ST and Converted Christian families caught in debt trap and facing revenue recovery. A scheme for providing scholarship for Backward Class students of Higher Secondary students has been launched, besides enhancing the rate of KPCR scholarships.

55. A comprehensive scheme for the upliftment of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups costing ₹ 148 crores will be launched this year. The scheme is intended for overall development of these most backward sections of ST, providing them with land, houses, other infrastructure facilities and livelihood means.

56. 14,500 Tribal families have already been distributed titles under Forest Rights Act and 5000 titles are ready for distribution. Also 3000 families were given land outside the forest. My Government will purchase and distribute land to all landless adivasis in Wayanad. Construction of Tribal Complex at Ernakulam will start this year. With the implementation of EMS Housing Scheme, IAY and other housing schemes, the housing needs of houseless SC

families will be fulfilled by the end of 2011-12. Two model residential schools have been started this year at Chelakara and Kuzhalmannam. Construction of building for these schools will be started this year.

57. My Government proposes to implement the Kerala Restriction on Transfer and Restoration of Land to Scheduled Tribes Act, 1999 in letter and spirit now that the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the Act. Orders have been passed setting up touring special courts with headquarters in Manjeri and Kalpetta for examination of POA offences. My Government has ensured that the victims of atrocities get the assistance in time.

58. Kerala Social Security Mission has been entrusted by my Government to issue disability certificates and identity cards to all the disabled persons of the State. Disability identification camps have been conducted in all the Panchayats in the State. 2,31,000 identity cards have already been issued. 95 new ICDS Projects have been started. Pension scheme for Anganwadi workers and helpers has been introduced. Ashwasa Kiranam Scheme was introduced by my Government for assisting the care givers of physically and mentally disabled bed ridden patients, who are family members or relatives of the bedridden patients as these care givers are not in a position to take up employment for self sustenance.

59. My Government has accorded sanction for providing monthly assistance of ₹ 2000 to bed ridden endosulfan victims and an amount of ₹ 1000 to other endosulfan victims and smart cards

have been issued to them for free medical treatment. The schemes for free medical aid & appliances, free education facility, special school for the victims, employment opportunities, vocational training, free ration, mobile medical unit, counselling and palliative care will also be introduced to provide aid to the endosulfan victims. Four new short stay homes will be started at Kollam, Alappuzha, Thrissur and Manjeri with the help of Women's Organizations. Scheme for the rehabilitation of unwed mothers and their children will be introduced. New mahila mandirams will be started at Wayanad & Idukki. New observation homes will be started at Idukki. A new old age home will be started at Ernakulam (Vypin) for providing care and protection for the elder persons. State cash award to the handicapped persons and institutions for the handicapped, anganvadi workers and helpers will be enhanced.

60. My Government is very proud of the achievements of State PSUs that have become a model for the country. We have restructured and revitalised them. Now the task is their modernisation and expansion. My Government will set up support industries/ ancillary industries in those PSU premises where infrastructure is available. My Government's efforts on traditional sector are showing results. Khadi, Handloom, Bamboo workers are now receiving better remunerations for their product. Palakkad - Coimbatore is already an industrial belt. Coimbatore industrial corridor will commence this year. High speed rail corridor project which is first of its kind in the country is a dream project of my

Government. The implementation of this project will be speeded up by establishing a company for the purpose. My Government has made a noticeable achievement in cluster development. Engineering clusters, rice cluster, footwear clusters, furniture clusters etc. are some of them. This approach will be spread into main areas.

61. My Government will organise Mega Khadi Silk Fest during the Grand Kerala Shopping Festival season to promote Khadi. The construction of the Container Freight Station at Eloor will be completed this year. The Cargo Terminal at the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport will be relocated to Vallakkadavu. Mineral Separation Plant for the recovery of valuable mineral will be commissioned this year. My Government proposes to construct an International Trade and Convention Centre at Kochi with modern facilities for conducting trade exhibitions, business meets, conventions, and business activities. It is also proposed to utilise land of closed PSUs for developing Industrial Parks. It is also proposed to set up twelve Standard Design Factories to meet the demands of small entrepreneurs. The construction of the Marine Park will be completed this year. Life Science Park and Electronic Hardware Park will be established this year. A mega power project at Cheemeni will be established on PPP model. My Government has started the setting up of an Oceanarium of International Standards at Kochi. This will be a boon to the tourism industry in our State.

62. My Government recognizes that information technology is the world's fastest growing economic activity, which can provide high quality employment to the educated man power without putting

too much stress on the resources of the State. In view of the emerging boom in IT industry all over, Kerala has already become one of the best and most sought after destinations for IT investment in India. I am happy to say that major companies like Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys Technologies Ltd and Wipro have started investing in the State in a big way. Many reputed national and international companies have come forward to invest in the State which proves beyond doubt that Kerala is going to become an IT Power House in the country. My Government is also progressing fast in the establishment of a 25 KM IT corridor alongside the Kazhakoottam-Kovalam by-pass in Thiruvananthapuram. Technopark is today home to more than 200 IT/ITeS companies with 4.5 million sq.ft built up area and provides 28,000 well paid IT/ITeS direct jobs. I am also very happy to state that the IT corridor is expected to emerge as a major hub in attracting many IT/Bio-Technology and other high tech industries to the region.

63. My Government is in the process of developing Technopark Phase I, Phase II, Phase III, Kollam and Technocity Special Economic Zone Projects which will together create employment opportunities for 2,00,000 IT/ITeS professionals directly when fully completed. Apart from the development of Technopark, substantial growth was witnessed in all spheres of Infopark Kerala activities with respect to infrastructure development, employment generation, software export etc. Infopark Phase I has already created approximately 31 lakh sq.ft space. I am happy to inform

you that Infopark Kochi Phase I will have 51 lakh sq.ft of space by the end of 2012. Infopark, Koratty - the third IT Park in the State which was operational from October 2009 now houses 24 companies employing around 350 personnel. Necessary infrastructure for Infopark Cherthala - the fourth IT Park in the State was created in a record time of less than 2 years and the first phase of the first IT building of 2.4 lakh sq.ft was completed and commissioned in January 2011. With a view to create job opportunities for the rural educated youth in the BPO sector my Government has launched a new venture called Technolodge Scheme. I am happy to inform you that already 11 Techno lodge Centres have been accorded sanction.

64. My Government has taken up several e-governance projects including a comprehensive Mobile Governance Platform and has enhanced the reach of e-governance by providing over 30 mobile services to the citizens of the State and developed a unique SMS for providing a citizen with the details of health infrastructure ubiquitously. Steps were taken to establish e-payment Gateway for the State enabling the citizen and Government departments to pay the fees and receive the same online.

65. My Government also recognizes that e-governance is an important tool for improvement of service delivery to citizens. It was a landmark year for Akshaya, it has not only added value to the existing services but also launched many new services through which

its average revenue reached 5 times (₹ 1 crore/month) more than the last year. I am happy to say that Akshaya won the coveted Manthan Award-2010 for excellence in e-governance (e-literacy, G2C and B2C services). Akshaya has been designated the agency for enrolment of UID along with Keltron & IT @ School.

66. Today tourism is the biggest revenue generating industry in Kerala with its focus on quality tourism, sustainable methods of development, constant identification of new products and adoption of international quality materials to market the products. Kerala has set a benchmark for tourism development. Kerala Tourism has become a model not only for the other States in the country but also for other international destinations.

67. Major projects relating to development of tourism destination and circuits like and Development of Ashtamudi lake cruise circuit, Development of Kerala Kalamandalam as a Cultural Tourism Destination, Destination Development of Alappuzha Heritage City, Rural Tourism Projects in Village Clappana, Kollam, etc are under various stages of implementation. A conservation development project has been developed for Musiris heritage project. The program 'Grand Kerala Shopping Festival' has been successfully implemented by Department of Tourism in co-ordination with Industries, Commerce and other related Departments. The event was conducted all over State between 1st December 2010 and 15th January 2011. Revenue earning has showed remarkable increase during the month of December, 2010.

68. One of the major problems faced by tourism in the State is the absence of responsible agency at tourist destinations to manage the facilities in the destination. Hence my government proposes to constitute destination management council at important tourist centers for the same. A master plan has been prepared for Munnar and Alappuzha tourism development and for Wayanad, it is under preparation. One of the major problems faced by the tourism industry today is lack of trained manpower to cater to the need of the industry. In this context Kerala Tourism has designed an innovative HR initiative named "LET'S LEARN" to impart training to employees of existing hotels and travel and tour operation companies.

69. Vizhinjam International Port is a high priority project for Kerala. My Government has approved revised action plan for Vizhinjam Port & committed infrastructural development along with connectivity. Land acquisition for an extent of 120 ha for the purpose is done on fast track basis and the acquisition for road, truck terminal, back up area etc. are nearing completion. My Government has approved Landlord model as the structure for the development where ₹ 2500 crores is required for phase I development and financing through consortium of banks under the leadership of State Bank of Travancore. The proposed bankers consortium will be activated and it will ensure the required financial resources for the project. Sufficient financial resources will be provided for implementing the project for rehabilitating those affected on account of land acquisition.

70. At Beypore, a MoU with Lakshadweep administration has been approved for dedicated wharf facilities to Lakshadweep traffic. The development of the Alappuzha Port as a marina cum cargo harbour through PPP will be started this year. Developmental works in Kollam Port at a cost of ₹ 20 crores has been completed. Further development of the Kollam port at a cost of ₹ 160 crores will be undertaken this year. Commencement of the Ponnani Port development will start this year. My Government has set up the Kerala Maritime Society for the purpose of establishing two maritime institutes in the State. It is proposed to start various courses in the maritime field with the approval of the DG Shipping, Government of India. As an initial step, two maritime institutes have started functioning at Neendakara and Meenja of Kasargod for imparting training programs to the boat crew and other persons employed in the maritime field.

71. Presently development of minor ports and Coastal Shipping & Inland Navigation in Kerala are looked after by various agencies including Departments of Port, Irrigation, Fisheries and agencies like M/s. Kerala State Maritime Development Corporation Limited and M/s. Kerala State Inland Navigation Corporation. A number of difficulties are now experienced due to lack of effective co-ordination between the various agencies in the maritime sector. The formation of the State Maritime Board will facilitate effective implementation of the schemes in the maritime sector. Furthermore, in order to ensure an effective coastal security system, the setting up

of Maritime Board is quite essential. As an initial step, Port Department, Hydrographic Survey Wing and the Kerala State Maritime Development Corporation Limited are proposed to be merged into the Board. The legislation regarding the formation of a State Maritime Board is in its final stage.

72. The new international airport terminal in Thiruvananthapuram, which is a long cherished dream of the State, has been materialized. The State Government will acquire and hand over necessary land free of cost for the expansion of the terminal for accommodating domestic terminal and its connected facilities. The foundation stone for the construction of Kannur Airport has been laid after acquiring necessary land for it. Its construction work is in progress. The State Government has allotted 15 acres of land free of cost to Air India for setting up an Engineering Base at Thiruvananthapuram Airport. Its construction is nearing completion. This Base will boost the operation of Air India and the development of the State as well. Considering the tourist potential of Idukki and Munnar, my Government has decided to set up a green field airport at Idukki.

73. The current transport infrastructure policy paradigm of Government of Kerala is focused on twin objectives of expansion of primary road networks and promotion of sustainable all weather corridor connectivity. The State has global recognition for marvelling in social development indicators despite relatively low level of

economic development. My Government has identified transport sector as priority investment segment, which requires significant institutional and policy paradigm shift.

74. Four-tier road network in the State of Kerala is having a length of 1.52 lakh kms. The effective transport network along with seamless road comprises 24000 kms of National Highways (NH), State Highways (SH) and Major District Roads (MDR). The linear geographical position of the State along with western coast of India adds to tremendous potential for economic development through maritime trade as well as fishing and allied activities. Development and growth of minor ports along with consolidation of infrastructure facilities in major ports and container terminals require western coastal express way which in turn will work as feeder supplementary road to the adjacent national highway network running from Kasaragode to Thiruvananthapuram. The existing road network in the State has varied physical structure starting from village road to national highway, and with majority of network developed with the Panchayathraj institutions funded plan. The connectivity between block to district and intra block still remains poor. The corridor integration program will emphasis upon inter block head quarters and inter taluk head quarters to district head quarter towns through provisioning of road with consolidation of existing primary road network. Also, my Government proposes to construct a hill highway from Kasargode to Thiruvananthapuram giving ample openings for short cut access to National Highways, MC Roads and other main roads.

75. The State of Kerala has a lot of bridges over minor streams to major rivers like Bharathapuzha and Periyar. Some of the critical bridges are in dilapidated physical condition as well as are out paced by tremendously enhanced level of traffic volume. These bridges have remained narrow in spite of widening of the connecting roads and act as bottleneck in the smooth traffic flow. My Government will undertake a new initiative to design and reconstruct the bridges over State Highways and Major District Roads commensurate to the level of projected traffic in years to come with international sophisticated level of technology.

76. The State of Kerala has 1.52 lakh kms of road network and majority of which is village to other district roads. The State has tropical agro climatic features with very high road density. The scarcity of land makes it difficult for expansion of road and competent claims for utilization of land enhance the cost of road construction to procurements of new corridors. Simultaneously, the existing designs and strength of majority of road network does not provide for all weather sustainable roads. Incessant monsoon prolonging over six months in the State causing removal of almost entire road tops along with potholes in the major sections has become the prime concern of Public Works Department. Fusion of new technology for road construction & maintenance like cement concrete roads, cold milling road construction, carbon concrete road construction, bitumen macadam road construction will help to build and consolidate a new life for the physical infrastructure in the

State. My Government proposes to replace the existing archival road technology with global standard technology for construction and repairs, which would provide all weather roads in years to come.

77. At present, the works of PWD are carried out by a limited number of contractors, who have got monopoly in this field. Because of this there is no competition. This results in poor quality of work and higher rates for work. In order to bring in new contractors to this field, my Government intends to train technically qualified new blood into this field.

78. My Government has decided to introduce the social auditing and monitoring the construction of roads and its maintenance. A panchayath level social audit team consisting of Panchayath President, MLA and AE will be constituted. The details of work such as name of work, its estimate, name of contractor, period of completion etc. will be exhibited in the local area of the work arranged. After completion of the work, a proforma with the signature of the contractor, AE concerned, Panchayath President/ Municipal Chairman with the counter signature of MLA should be furnished to Chief Engineer. This will ensure social responsibility of the department towards the people.

79. The quality control units now functioning in the state are not effective. In this context, the Kerala Highway Institute at Thiruvananthapuram, which is the main quality control unit of the

State, will be elevated to an apex body of the said units. The institute will be developed to a well-equipped research centre providing necessary expertise and facilities. Its functions will be decentralized to district level as well.

80. My Government will take all possible efforts to strengthen the vigilance wing under PWD to ensure corruption-free governance. An officer not less than the rank of an IG of Police will be appointed as the head of the vigilance wing. My Government will introduce e-tender and e-payment system to ensure transparency and accountability in awarding work and making payment to the concerned.

81. The share of KSRTC in public transport in the state has increased from 13% in 2005-06 to 27% in 2010-11. 2610 new buses have been built from KSRTC workshops. 50 numbers of new Thiru Kochi services, 46 number of A/C Volvo Low Floor Buses and 62 number of Non A/C Low Floor Buses have been started in Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi cities under JNNURM Project. 1000 new KSRTC buses will be launched during the financial year 2011-12. Automated self cleaned toilet facility will be introduced in bus terminals. Online reservation facility has been introduced and all the new buses have been insured. During the last 5 years, 19783 new appointments have been made in K.S.R.T.C. A new bus terminal-cum shopping complex has been inaugurated at

Angamali. Similar projects are undergoing in Thiruvananthapuram, Thiruvalla and Kozhikode. New projects are envisaged at Malappuram, Karunagappally, Nedumangad, Thodupuzha and Palakkad.

82. My Government introduced Fast Track Counters in all motor vehicle offices for the speedy disposal of the applications. e-Payment facility for remittance of tax, smart card and new scheme for allotment of fancy numbers are nearing completion. Due to the effective functioning of the Road Safety Authority and the introduction of modernized equipments and Road Safety Clubs, the accident rate has reduced substantially. Ten Electronic weigh bridges will be established in motor vehicle check posts. Surveillance cameras will be installed in all motor vehicle check posts.

83. In water transport, insurance for passengers and crew on board for 3 years will be ensured during this year. Communication system for ensuring safety of passengers will be introduced in all boats and station offices. Eleven more boats will be made available for water transport service. Seven more steel boats will be constructed. Electronic Ticketing Machine will be introduced in State Water Transport Department as in KSRTC. Tourism oriented "See Kuttanad" service with upper deck will be started in 2011. All BOT projects of KTDFC will be completed in the scheduled time. A comprehensive transport policy will be formulated.

84. In anticipation of approval by the Government of India, my Government has already started the preparatory works for implementing the Kochi Metro Rail Project with its own resources. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has been entrusted to execute the preparatory works for an amount of ₹ 158.68 crores. Government of India is constantly being persuaded by my Government to accord approval for Kochi Metro Rail Project on Delhi Metro Rail Corporation pattern. Hon'ble Union Railway Minister had made an announcement in the Budget Speech for 2008-2009 to set up a Rail Coach Factory in Palakkad. The total area required for the Factory is 426 acres. The land is ready to be handed over to the Railways. My Government has agreed to the salient features of the project proposed by the Railways subject to the condition that the land value would be treated as the equity of the State Government, if the project were converted into a joint venture. The Railways have now given a new proposal and it is under consideration of my Government.

85. My Government is targeting to become the first State in India achieving total electrification of households. Four districts in the State have been declared fully electrified. 52 assembly segments could achieve 100 % electrification. The remaining will be completed by this year. My Government is in the process of converting KSEB into a world-class integrated power sector organization in the public sector. It demands addition in generation capacity and reduction in Transmission & Distribution (T&D) losses by strengthening transmission and distribution network.

86. During the last 4 years we could enhance the generation capacity by 204 MW. In the generation sector, installed capacity would be enhanced by 152.05 MW/491.52 MU with the completion of the ongoing projects. The work of another 16 hydel projects having a capacity of 273.2 MW is proposed to be started during 2011-12 including Athirappally hydroelectric project.

87. Special importance will be given to harness more power from non-conventional energy sources by setting up more wind energy projects in power sector with private participation. 1100-1200 MW gas-based power plants at Cheemeni village in Kasargode district and 1026 MW gas based plant at Brahmapuram are proposed to be set up. Also, steps for utilizing the coal from Bhaithrani west coal block will be initiated. My Government is giving high importance to conservation of energy. The Energy Management Centre (EMC) has received the Energy Conservation Award 2010.

88. Through concerted efforts my Government could not only stabilize its forest areas but also could increase its extent. My Government has notified an extent of 17066.49 acres (6909.5083 hectare) comprising in the Kannan Devan Hills Village as 'Reserve Forest' invoking its powers conferred under section 4 of the Kerala Forest Act, 1961. With this addition, the total extent of reserve forest in the state has enhanced to 1137859 hectare. 'Haritha Keralam', 'Ente Maram', 'Nammude Maram', 'Haritha Theeram'

and 'Vazhiyora Thanal' schemes have brought the unprecedented mobilization and awareness in favour of the tree planting campaign. As a token of recognition of this good work, Government of India had honoured my Government twice by awarding the prestigious Indira Priyadarshini Vrikshamithra Award. UNEP also has recognized this mammoth achievement of the Forest Department by awarding its certificate of recognition for tree planting. The second phase of the 'Haritha Keralam Padhathi' was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India on 5-6-2010 at Angamali. To avoid man-animal conflict, a project for construction of boundary wall in vulnerable places is implemented in 8 forest divisions. In addition to the 94 forest stations already established, it is proposed to establish 10 more forest stations during this financial year. In order to impart meaningful and high standard forestry education to the forest staff as well as to other stakeholders, it is proposed to establish a world-class Forest Academy at Arippa. It is proposed to establish new wildlife sanctuaries at Kottiyoor, New Amarambalam and Thirunelli. Besides, the buffer zone of Silent Valley will also be declared as a wild life sanctuary.

89. As a part of strengthening the environmental management, a Department of Environment and Climate Change was formed in 2010 for effective and appropriate co-ordination of activities in environment management of the State. A strategy for dealing with

the response to climate change impacts, especially on the natural resources of the State will be formulated. My Government has issued notification banning use of endosulphan in any form in the State of Kerala until its use is proved safe.

90. Considering the growing concern about green house gas emissions and its impact on climate change, the need of the hour is the wider adoption of green technologies and strengthening their delivery at the grass roots level. It is proposed to establish Green Technology Centres in 25 Panchayats during 2011-12 on a pilot scale. These Centres would make available a wide range of green technologies in areas of agriculture, animal husbandry, energy, water conservation, water supply, sanitation including waste management etc. and provide maintenance services, which are grossly inadequate or non-existent now.

91. With a view to imparting training to the entire rural youth of the State at different levels for their development activities, a prestigious project viz. 'Yuvasakthi' was implemented by my Government. State level 'Keralotsavam' was conducted in Thiruvananthapuram district from 2nd to 5th January 2011. In the National Youth Festival conducted at Udaipur, Rajasthan from 12th to 16th January 2011, the winners of the State level 'Keralotsavam' had participated and they won three first prizes in drama, nadodipaatu and folk dance. Adventure programs like para-gliding,

trekking, mountaineering, water sports etc. were conducted to foster the spirit of adventure in youths. Besides the Adventure Academy at Devikulam, a sub centre of the same at Muzhuppilangadi has also been established. Financial Assistance has been extended to youth clubs for conducting adventure activities.

92. The Information and Guidance Centres namely 'Jalakam' functioning in all district youth centres are now fully equipped with computer and internet facilities. In order to tackle psychological and educational problems of the adolescents, my Government has already taken steps to form Teens Club in all higher secondary schools. My Government is planning to form youth groups called "Yuvakarmasena" who will be trained for disaster management, rescue operations, fire fighting etc. It is also proposed to start "Yuva Athithi Mandiram" in all districts. A youth commission will be formed exclusively to deal with the problems of the youth.

93. My Government has paid much attention for the promotion of sports and games in the State with unflagging determination through the last four years and more. The State is preparing for the conduct of the 35th National Games in a befitting manner. Further, in accordance with the recommendations of the State Sports Commission, it is proposed to establish a Sports University in Thiruvananthapuram during the year. The University will offer various courses in physical education, sports coaching and other related subjects besides conduct of research in sports

sciences. My Government also proposes to come out with a Sports Policy for the first time in the history of the State. The policy will set the tone for future development of sports and games in the State in a far bigger scale than at present. It will also define the proposed setting up of the Kerala State Physical Fitness Mission to ensure healthy living of all people across the State.

94. As part of the conduct of 35th National Games in the State, my Government will create the state of the art sports infrastructure facilities at the cost of ₹ 550 crores. After creation of the above facilities, the State will be poised to conduct any major sports event including national and international ones like Common Wealth Games, Asian Games etc. Inspired by the spirit and performance of our athletes in the recently concluded Common Wealth Games and Asian Games, my Government has launched an innovative scheme called “Go for Gold”, an elite athletic training program aiming to achieve a medal in the upcoming Olympics. The much delayed construction of the Pirappancode International Swimming Pool, Sreepadam Stadium at Attingal, High Altitude Training Centre at Munnar will be completed before this financial year. Sports infrastructures will be created in all districts including indoor stadium at Palakkad, Malappuram Football Academy, Kottayam Indoor Stadium, Kanhangadu Indoor Stadium, Kothamangalam Stadium and Muvattupuzha Stadium.

95. Kerala has some of the most significant resources of beach sand minerals like monazite, ilmenite, rutile, zircon and silimanite, garnet, etc. These minerals have to be effectively utilized

with appropriate value addition, which requires development of new technologies. Access to strategic minerals is becoming a major issue in the development of hightech industries. Nanotechnology is revolutionising the industrial sector and Kerala has immense potential to develop high valueadded products taking advantage of its unique mineral wealth. To support this research driven industry segment, it is proposed to establish an integrated Centre of Excellence, "Kerala Minerals Research Institute".

96. The coir industry, the age old traditional industry of Kerala, plays a significant role in the rural economy of the State. It provides livelihood for more than 3.5 lakhs people in the coastal belt out of which the women constitute about 80%, which is perhaps the highest representation for women in any industry modern or traditional. The Purchase Price Stabilization Scheme has now proved to be a great success and the small scale producers were liberated from the shackles of so called "Depots"- the notorious cartel of middlemen exploiting the petty producers and workmen. The recommendations of Coir Commission have been implemented and tangible results were made. A public limited company namely "The Kerala Coir Marketing Company Limited" will be formed in which all stakeholders in the coir industry will have ownership. The wages of coir workers will be enhanced further to cope with the present living standards and the assistance will be provided under income support scheme for the same.

97. My Government proposes to initiate research and development programs for the development of traditional toddy sector in the State. New liquor testing laboratories are proposed to be established in all districts for instant testing of adulterations so as to have effective steps for quality control of alcoholic products. Own buildings and other infrastructural facilities will be provided to all excise offices in the State. Scanners will be introduced at major check posts. Excise Department will implement awareness programs to curb the menace of alcoholism. With a view to protect the health of those who are addicted to liquor, de-addiction/rehabilitation centres will be established.

98. CAPEX will modernise its factories by installation of cutting machines, peeling and grading tables, providing solar lights/fans etc and start 5 new procurement centres at Kannur, Malappuram, Kasargode, Thrissur and Kozhikode for efficient supply of raw nuts. Further, possibility of expansion of domestic and international market will be explored. Continuous employment will be given to all the workers during the next year.

99. Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation proposes to give continuous employment to workers during 2011-12. Possibility of expansion of international market for CDC cashews will be explored.

100. KSACC proposes to take up cashew cultivation in 5000 hectares during 2011-12 at an estimated cost of ₹ 425 lakhs. Arrears of subsidy to cashew cultivators during the previous years will be disbursed. Funds have been set apart for detailed research project in cashew cultivation.

101. NORKA Centre with a view to bring all agencies of NORKA Department under one roof will be completed this year itself. It is a sad fact that a number of Keralites are languishing in jails abroad for intentional as well as unintentional offences. To accord greater priority to the issue, my Government has constituted a Special Sub-committee to systematically collect statistics on those jailed abroad and co-ordinate with other departments and foreign missions to secure their earlier release. My Government has started a computerized job portal to facilitate overseas placement and launched campaign to advocate safe migration following all legal norms. These important initiatives helped in fetching more jobs overseas in a safe manner. NORKA Cells in District Collectorates will be strengthened in 2011-12. The Non Resident Pension Scheme was launched this year by the newly constituted Kerala Non Resident Keralites Welfare Board for NRKs and returnees.

102. In order to provide opportunities to the children of Non-Resident Keralites living in various States of India and abroad to get familiarized with the Malayalam language history and the cultural heritage of Kerala, the Malayalam Mission was launched on

22-10-2009 with the Chief Minister as chairman. The curriculum textbooks, teachers/parents' handbooks currently being developed with the active involvement of parents and teachers in Delhi will be introduced in the Study Centres under the Malayalam Mission III Delhi from the academic year starting in June 2011. With suitable modifications, these will also be introduced simultaneously in the Study Centres to be set up in Mumbai, Chennai and the UAE during 2011-2012.

103. My Government has provided all infrastructure facilities for the establishment of High Court Bench at Thiruvananthapuram during the current year. A new cell has been constituted in the Law Department to take follow up action on all reports and recommendations made by the Kerala State Human Rights Commission. Law has been made to enhance the welfare amount to advocates from ₹ 3 lakhs to 5 lakhs. In the case of advocate clerks, the welfare amount has already been increased from ₹ 1 lakh to 2 lakhs. Central Laws are being translated in to Malayalam so as to enable the common people to understand them.

104. The Kerala Police force has functioned very effectively during the last year. Number of murders including political murders have registered a marked decline in the State in 2010. Further, the Police could nab culprits immediately after the occurrence of incidents in almost all sensational cases, which occurred in the State during the previous year.

105. Janamaithri Suraksha Scheme has been a successful intervention which was taken up in selected police stations and later extended to 70 additional stations. Rate of crime in such areas has noticeably come down. My Government propose to extend Janamaithri Suraksha Scheme in 50 more police stations immediately. This will be introduced in all police stations in Kerala in a phased manner. For the effective implementation of Janamaithri Scheme, Electronic Beat System based on Radio Frequency Identification Tags (RFID) Technology will be implemented.

106. To deal with the threats from terrorists / antinational elements the coastal security has become vital. With the central assistance, Coastal Security Scheme is being implemented in the State. Accordingly coastal police stations have already been opened at Kollam, Vizhinjam, Fort Kochi, Azheekal, Beypore and Bekal. Two more coastal police stations will be opened shortly. In the second phase, ten more coastal police stations will be opened up. Further, 'Kadalora Jagratha Samithies' have been formed in 76 police stations in coastal belt to keep constant vigil and support the local police. It has been a highly successful intervention which has been lauded at the national level. Community Policing in all police stations in the coastal belt will be strengthened through Kadalora Janamaithri Samithies to counter infiltration of anti national elements through coastal line by fully utilizing the maximum capability of fishermen. High speedboats have also been procured and they are already operational at all coastal police stations.

107. My Government is aware of the new links among terrorists and would leave no stone unturned in tackling the terrorists' menace effectively. My Government would continue to give new thrust to terrorism – linked investigations. A dedicated Anti-Terrorists Investigation Squad has been formed with specialized training and effective linkages with various intelligence and investigating agencies. An innovative scheme Student Police Cadet was introduced for the first time in the country in Kerala. The scheme implemented on pilot basis at 22 schools during 2009-10 has been extended to 100 more schools in the Government/aided sector in the current academic year. A new scheme named 'Our Responsibility to Children' has been started in Kozhikode city by the police.

108. Modernisation of police force is a continuing process. Technology has been effectively utilized to enhance efficiency of police force. A Cyber Police Station with jurisdiction over the whole state has been functioning. e-mail facility has been introduced in all police stations as well as in circle and sub divisional offices and district police offices. Mobile phones have been issued to more than 50% local police officers. Facility for receiving complaints by e-mail has been made operational in the hightech cell at the Police Headquarters. Full fledged cyber cells and automatic finger print identification system will be established in all districts.

109. The scheme of incentive to those who help road accident victims to reach hospitals will be extended. More Highway Suraksha Jagratha Samithies will be started to reduce accidents and

for security in Highways. Women Help Desks have been started in 150 police stations. More stations will be made women friendly in the coming years. In 2010, my Government could recruit about 10,000 persons in police force. Moreover, we could start a new battalion named India Reserve Battalion with Central Assistance. During the previous year six new police stations were opened in the State.

110. Modernisation of fire and rescue services is a matter of priority. With high-rise buildings sprouting in our cities and towns, fire and rescue services need to be modernized and equipped to meet new situations. My Government proposes to completely modernize this Force within the next three years. Modern equipments like hydraulic rescue tools, inflatable tower light system and skylift have been procured. Procurement of more equipment and vehicles are on the anvil. Training of personnel also will be strengthened. Police personnel will be given special training in basic fire fighting and rescue operations. Infrastructure facilities in fire stations are also being improved. In 2010, five new fire stations were opened. Three more stations will be opened shortly.

111. It has been a matter of satisfaction that the conditions of our prisons have considerably improved. This process will be strengthened. New facilities for video conferencing between the prisons and the court halls have become functional in the central prisons. The security and welfare of the prisoners will continue to

receive the active attention of my Government. Rehabilitation and skill development of the prisoners is an area that will be taken up on priority. In 2010, three new jails were opened and a new Prison Act was enacted.

112. With a view to making vigilance enquiries and its follow up action more effective, Government proposes to make a special drive to complete long pending cases. Special steps will be taken to ensure that follow up action on erring officials is completed within a time frame. During the previous year two family courts were opened – one at Thalassery and another at Vatakara. A sub court will be opened immediately at Karunagappally. As already stated, functioning of police during the previous year was very effective. This is evident from the awards won by the State for the maintenance of law and order.

113. During the financial year 2011-12, 9626 beneficiaries were distributed surplus land. About 1,50,000 landless poor have also been given land since my Government came into power in 2006 in addition to 21,000 Record of Rights given to the tribal under the Forest Right Act. Measures have been taken for speedy disposal of ceiling cases pending before the Land Boards and High Court. Land Reforms Review Board was reconstituted to review the progress of work relating to the Kerala Land Reforms Act. Surplus land yet to be acquired will be taken over and the process of giving titles to eligible landless families will be accelerated.

114. Being the trustee of natural resources, Government is committed to protect public land. With this objective, my Government has established Kerala State Land Bank. So far, 70551.48 hectares of Government land have been deposited in the Land Bank. Amendments to the Kerala Land Conservancy Act have been made to take stringent punitive action against those encroach government land.

115. Tsunami Rehabilitation Projects with a financial outlay of ₹ 1148 crores are being completed. About 11000 houses in the coastal region, three major bridges, major drinking water schemes for the coastal regions, infrastructure facilities to 719 schools, improvements of electrical distribution network, new hospitals, renovation of beaches, livelihood to 1.5 lakh fishermen families, special package to Arattupuzha, Alappad, Andhakaranazhy and Edavanakkad are some of the major achievements of my Government.

116. Coaching centres for giving short term coaching to the educated muslim youth for competitive examinations like Civil Services, UPSC, PSC, Banking Service, Entrance etc. based on the recommendations of Shri. Paloli Mohammed Kutty Committee Report, were started in Kozhikode, Kannur and Malappuram districts and posts were created in coaching centres in Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam districts. Kerala Madrassa Teachers Welfare Fund Scheme has been implemented with the

co-operation of the Postal Department and Kozhikode District Co-operative Bank Ltd. A Department for Minority Welfare with the Special Officer for Minority Development as the Head of Department has been constituted. Six more coaching centres will be started in minority concentrated locations of Alappuzha, Kottayam, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargode Districts. "Girl Friendly Toilets" ensuring sufficient water availability will be built in Government schools where there is no toilet for girl students. The Christian community in coastal areas who are engaged in fishing and the converted Christians will also be considered for the benefit of welfare of minority schemes.

117. "Sutharya Keralam", the unique e-governance program for the grievance redressal of the public could deliver remarkable service during the last years. To cater to the interest of the Malayali Community in Delhi as well as to propagate the richness of the State in art, culture, literature and other related fields in the nation's capital, a Government society under I&PRD will be established in New Delhi.

118. Traditionally, the Commercial Taxes Department had an unpopular image of cumbersome procedures; multiple unnecessary office visits for the dealers and corruption. By embracing e-governance, my Government could digitize the registration information of the dealers and now dealers can electronically renew their registration every year. The outreach of the Department

services to registered dealers has been extended through common service centres (Akshaya) closer to their doorsteps and through internet “anytime, anywhere” service standards. e-Tax Administration Project of my Government has been recognised at national level and it has won 2 National Awards viz, e-India Award 2010 and CSI Nihilent Award 2010.

119. The core banking solutions will be implemented in all treasuries in the State this year itself. It is proposed to construct 105 new treasury buildings and upgradation of the existing civil infrastructure in 112 treasuries. It is proposed to open a Pension Sub Treasury in Thiruvananthapuram exclusively for women to support women community, especially women pensioners. Like collection of KVAT through e-payment, it is planned to extend e-payment system to Motor Vehicle Department. My Government is also planning to set up an e-District Treasury in Thiruvananthapuram.

120. My Government had reconstituted the Travancore, Cochin and Malabar Devaswom Boards and steps are being taken for the protection of water resources like temple ponds and wells. A project for pilgrim tourism connecting the important temples under the Travancore, Cochin and Malabar Devaswom Boards will be initiated. All possible steps will be taken for recapturing the alienated lands of the Devaswom. Steps will be taken for the prevention of theft in temples and vigilance in the temples will be strengthened. The implementation of Sabarimala Master Plan is going on. For the

effective implementation of the Master Plan a fund in the name “Sabarimala Master Plan Infrastructure Trust Fund” has been formed to raise funds by way of donations from the devotees and sponsorships. Steps will be taken for passing all the pending bills related to Devaswom Boards and for effective implementation of the “Haritha Keralam-Devaranyam” scheme. A scheme for monthly finance assistance to the “Achara Sthanikars” and “Koladharis” in the North Malabar areas has been introduced. In view of the stampede tragedy, which happened at Pullumedu during this year’s Sabarimala season, my Government will take all possible remedial measures to avoid such incidents in future and take all steps to make Sabarimala pilgrimage safer and accident free.

121. My Government could achieve such great heights in development and deliver all services planned only with the teamwork of committed, highly qualified and effective human resources in the Government sector. My Government could put the State in a high growth trajectory. I am sure that in the years to come this will be written as the golden period in the long history of the State. The Kerala Model of growth with equity and social justice is now being recognized across the country and the globe for others to follow. Let us all work together, move together and grow together leaving aside all differences to make Kerala really a God’s Own Country.

JAI HIND
