



## JUSTICE BEHIND THE WORD ADVANCED KERALA

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The State of Kerala, situated in the south-west part of India formed in November 1, 1956 as part of the linguistic reformation of the Indian States by merging the three Malayalam-speaking regions -the princely states of Travancore and Cochin and the Malabar district of the Madras Presidency. Its land area is 38,863 sq. km, stretching 580 km in length and 30-130 km in breadth and is surrounded by Karnataka to the north and northeast, Tamil Nadu to the east and south, and the Arabian Sea on the west. Trivandrum is the state capital. Kochi and Kozhikode are other major cities.

According to a survey by 'The Economic Times' five out of the ten best cities to live in India are located in Kerala. While in terms of area, Kerala forms only 1.275% of India, its population (in 2011) of 33.3 million accounts for 2.76% of India's population. Population density in Kerala is 859 persons per sq. km, one of the highest in the country (Third). This high population density is often camouflaged by the spread of a lush green biotic environment. Moreover, the population is spread across the State and as such there are no big urban agglomerations. The biggest city of Kerala, Kochi (often referred to as Cochin), has a population of only about 0.27 million.

Kerala has three predominant religions. Christians and Muslims account for a greater share than seen in other Indian States and even all-India. In the 2001 Census, they accounted for 19 per cent and 24.7 per cent of the population, respectively, with the Hindus mostly contributing the rest. Christianity and Islam, as practiced in Kerala are specifically Keralites. Ecology plays an important role in the Kerala economy by providing a diversified natural resource base, enabling a large degree of occupational diversification.

Geographically, the region comprises three zones namely low land, mid land and high ranges. The low land, where the population density is the highest, consists of sandy and fertile soils of the river valleys, lakes and backwaters, providing the basis for fishing, rice and coconut cultivation and horticulture. In the midland region, coconut, rice, cassava, areca nut and cashew along with rubber, pepper, and ginger on the slopes predominate. The high ranges, where the population density is the lowest, and which once consisted almost wholly of natural evergreen tropical forests, gave way to plantations of tea, coffee and rubber during the colonial times. Over the past century, the high ranges have also received migrant peasants, big and small, from the midland and coastal tracts. The agro-climatic conditions in Kerala suit the cultivation of both cash crops and food crops. Under the colonial initiative, however, given an enabling legislative framework and market conditions, cash crops came to predominate. Agriculture forms the raw material base for a number of agro-processing industries, such as coir, cashew, wood and edible oil. These industries continue to occupy an important place, especially in terms of employment. A small segment of large modern industries based on minerals, chemicals and engineering have also come up, along with an increasing segment of small and medium industries, some based on modern technology and management.

A striking feature of Kerala's development experience is the growth of the service sector. Historically too, this sector has been more pronounced in Kerala than in the rest of the country. The largest shares of and employment are generated in the service sector. Kerala's economy is no longer predominantly agrarian. Kerala has an active political society compared to the rest of India. There is a high degree of political activism, the consequences of which are subject to differences of opinion. No single party has been able to form a Government of its own since the formation of Kerala. Currently, two coalitions have been ruling the State; neither of them having managed to win a consecutive term. While one is led by the Indian National Congress, the other is led by the Communist Party of India (Marxist). There are also parties that do not belong to either of the two coalitions, but these are yet to gain any electoral representation in the State Assembly.

**Now days the following projects were undertaken to dismantle the problems by Kerala. They are:**

**Five Year plans for Panchayats:** The ultimate aim of the plan to avoid the wastage of fund utilization in the completion of planned projects. Now the provisions were available through online too. Work on 30 modern slaughterhouses nearing completion. Optical fiber network connectivity completed in almost of the Grama Panchayati..

**70 New Panchayat:** 70 new Panchayati were formed. Steps were taken for enabling voting by nonresident Keralites in the next local self-Government election.



**Kudumbashree:** The membership has increased from 33 lakhs to 41.2 lakhs. This was possible by allowing the fish workers, scheduled tribes and other backward sections to participate on the same. Their activities were diversified via agriculture, commerce, BUDS school, marketing of goods and wares, projects especially for child and women, 'Ashraya' catering units and micro enterprises. Project mediashree implemented, developing and appointing women as media persons in all ADCs to document highlights of the village and its heritage. Training was also giving women for employability and skill development. Crime mapping done by women members of Kudumbashree in 70 Panchayats is first of its kind in India. The Findings of this study can be used to prevent incidents of violence against women and children.

**750 crore for infrastructure facilities:** For the improvement of infrastructure facilities, about 978 grama panchayat received 750 crore rupees under World Bank Funded Kerala Local Government and Service Delivery Project. 848 panchayats were identified for the next proposal. The second phase of 'Kerala Local Government and Service Delivery Project have to be implemented. Thrissur KILA conducted constituency wise seminars on development. KILA elevated as a University.

**Nirbhaya shelters:** Nirbhaya scheme implemented in Kerala to avoid the instance of violence against women and children. There are currently 200 inmates in 11 Nibhaya Shelters of the state. The inmates are being rehabilitated through education, job and legal support systems. State Policy on Elderely and Nutritious Food Policy announced.

**Employment to disabled persons:** Disability Policy formulated. Over 2000 disabled persons temporarily appointed through employment exchanges regularized. Remuneration for Anganwadi workers raised to Rs 5000; states share increased to Rs 2000. Model Anganwadis, under construction in all constituencies at the rate of Rs 25 lakhs.

**Increased, the welfare pensions:** The amount for welfare pensions is increased to Rs 600 & pensions for persons over 80 years, made Rs 1200. Monthly grant for inmates of orphanages, geriatric homes and disability centres increased to Rs 1000. Over 20 lakh persons have received various welfare pensions.

**Disability Management:** 40 crore State Initiative on Disability project implemented in all districts of Kerala to identify disabilities and developmental delays during pregnancy.

**Relief days:** For treating the cancer patients below 18 years, an amount of 17.71 crores allotted. Rs 18.08 crores allotted for children with congenital cardiac problems, hereditary conditions and other serious issues. Rs 92.31 crores given to 50000 plus persons engaged in the care of bedridden patients and persons with physical and mental challenges under the 'Asawsa Kiram' scheme. The snehasparsam project for rehabilitation of unwed mothers has distributed Rs 3.41 crores. Free cochlear implant surgeries conducted for 470 children with hearing and speech impairments under the 'Sruthitharangam' scheme, spending Rs22.75 crores. The 'Snehapoorvam' scheme aimed at bringing up and educating children who have lost their father or mother or both have over 30000 beneficiaries.

**She taxi vayomitram :** Projects such as Kerala Women Development Corporation's She-Taxi, Gender Park's She-Taxi, Sandesh have received national recognition. Vayomitram project that gives free treatment, drugs and counseling to persons over 65 years through mobile clinics started in 32 cities, benefiting 1.27 lakh elderly. An amount of Rs 22.25 crores allotted for free supply of food to patients in Government medical hospitals and district hospitals. Social Welfare Department has been renamed Social Justice Departme.

**Wild animals: compensation increased.** For avoiding man animal conflicts relief measures were adopted. Death compensation increased to Rs 5 lakhs. Compensation for crop damage increased. Permission to shoot down the wild boars that destroys crops.

In conclusion the achievement was greater in Kerala scenario. The above mentioned were the achieved things, not the goals to be satisfied.

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