KAS
A BIG LEAP FOR KERALA
Another milestone

Minister for Tourism & Cooperation Kadakampally Surendran inaugurates radioKerala, the internet radio, run by the Information & Public Relations Department. Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Mayor K. Sreekumar, I & PRD Director U.V. Jose, Councillor Palayam Rajan witness the historic moment.

Editorial

U.V. Jose  I.A.S.

India has the third largest HIV positive persons in the world. But the State is in the forefront of eliminating such kind of diseases by implementing National AIDS Control Programme through the Kerala State AIDS Control Society (KSACS). KSACS have been able to bring a significant reduction in the number of new HIV Infections in the last 5 years.

December is the last month of the year but it brings joy to our hearts. Christmas is celebrated across the world and Kerala is no exception. We celebrate every festival with equal importance and with much gaiety. We wish all readers a merry Christmas.

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BUSAN PORT AUTHORITY TO TRAIN FISHERMEN

The Chief Minister of Kerala has requested the Busan Port Authority to train and give assistance to one lakh experienced fishermen and harbour officials, and also requested to offer a helping hand to upgrade Kerala harbours and ports to an international level. The BPA president has informed that they already had tie-up with many nations by sending other nations' officials to BPA for working and study purpose. So that they have decided to form an agreement with Kerala regarding this matter. The team under the leadership of Chief Minister has visited Busan Port which is the biggest port in Korea and fifth busiest port in the world.

KERALA: THE LEAST CORRUPT STATE

Kerala is the least corrupt state according to India Corruption survey 2019 conducted by Transparency International India and local circles. This is the effect of strict actions taken by the Kerala Government against the corruption. The reasons for the low levels of corruption in Kerala could be many, ranging from strict measures taken by the Government to high literacy rates because of which the citizens are more aware of their rights. Kerala bagged first position in the survey because the democratic setup of the state is strong and Government aims to wipe out corruption completely in the administrative sector in a transparent and vigilant manner.

INTERNET INITIATIVE

Information & Public Relations Department has launched a novel beginning, radioKerala, for Malayalis across the world.

It was Carl Malmud who developed and launched the first internet radio station “Internet Talk Radio” in 1993, providing the then sparse internet community with access to interviews from prominent people in science and technology fields. The profusion of the internet and expansion of the World Wide Web led many other companies to follow suit.

In India, the prevalence of internet radios is mostly due to traditional radio companies moving their branches online. The International Telecommunications Union, a part of the UN specialized agency for information and communication technologies released data from the 2010-16 period that showed internet penetration in India jumping from 92 million in 2010 to 320 million in 2016. Cheaper mobile phones and internet plans from telecom giants like Jio have also allowed more and more people to get online. It follows that the new, younger generation of mobile users in the country with one of the greatest populations of youngsters would be a fertile market for internet radio stations to exploit. Internet radio giants like Pandora already have millions of listeners in the US and around the world.

In Kerala, where internet access was recently declared crucial to the right to education, a highly literate populace and heavily urbanized environs contribute to more Malayalis using the Internet to keep in touch with one another. The Malayali diasporas are scattered around the world. It is fitting therefore that the Kerala Government, in conjunction with the Information and Public Relations Department, launch their first official internet radio station RadioKerala should launch this year, providing Malayalis in every nook and cranny of the globe a means to access news and entertainment from their homeland.

Like any group of people who are away from home too long, Malayalis have a strong sense of nostalgia and a longing to keep in touch with their heritage. RadioKerala is an initiative which aims to bring the culture and arts to anyone and everyone who is interested. Although internet radios in Kerala exist, this is the first initiative from the government of Kerala...
Welcoming the world and states of India to invest in the state Kerala became different in 39th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2019) in the way it presented the theme. Kerala Pavilion organised by Information Public Relations Department left no stones unturned to earmark a unique presence in the TradeFare while ensuring a leadership role in presentation of theme ‘Ease of Doing Business’ in practice. The 14-day event was remarkable with the presence of Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan who inaugurated Kerala Day as part of Trade Fair and Minister Kadakampally Surendran who presided over the Kerala Day function. Finance Minister Dr. T.M. Thomas Issac, Members of Parliament A.M. Arif, T.N. Prathapan, Remya Haridas also visited the Kerala Pavilion.

The Special Representative of Govt. of Kerala in Delhi Dr. A. Sampath inaugurated the Kerala Pavilion in the presence of I&PRD director U.V. Jose. The objective of the Kerala Pavilion in the IITF 2019 was to promote Kerala as an investor friendly state both technologically and policy wise. Introducing flagship program of the State Kfone, K swift etc and showcasing how they are going to ease atmosphere in Kerala along with many other new policies, the pavilion attracted media and public attention. The project Kfone, a project of ensuring high-speed internet access to all which is free for offices and all poor households and cheap for all others through launching optical fibre internet network has been discussed by many economic media.

The Kerala Pavilion was also different with its selfie point which is a centre of attraction for many people from different states. It gave them a direct welcome to the plans and policies of the State in ‘ease of doing business’. The State had 12 stalls -two by Panchayat and each by KSIDC, START UP MISSION, KINFRA, Industries and Commerce, Coir Development, Animal Husbandry, Textiles and Handlooms, Kudumbasree, FIB and SAF.

I&PRD secretary P. Venugopal reviewed the Pavilion and activities conducted during trade fair days by the team. He distributed mementos and certificates to the team members.
Our government’s exemplary performance is the true testimony to the commitment we have towards the people of Kerala. We are set to fulfill all the promises we had made in our election manifestos by the fourth anniversary of the government’s formation. The Government had to face many challenges while traversing the path to fulfill those promises.

Implementation of Kerala Administrative Services (KAS) was such a challenge.

Soon after assuming office, the government set up a six-member secretariat-level committee chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (Home and Vigilance) to initiate the process. KAS became effective on January 1, 2018. It not only fulfilled the promise made to the people by the Left Democratic Front, but has also paved the way for the transformation of the Kerala government services. Now, the first ever KAS exam has been notified and candidates have applied for the screening exam.

The need for transformation of the bureaucracy was raised even before the formation of Kerala. Before the formation of Kerala, the bureaucracy of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar was not focused on serving the people. But the service sector of Kerala had the bearing of that colonial bureaucracy. It was an embodiment of a centralised bureaucratic system. Its main objections were the maintenance of law and order and the collection of tax.

The first Kerala government under EMS initiated efforts to reform the former civil service. EMS formed the first Administrative Reforms Commission and he became its Chairman. The EMS government created a bureaucracy which was focused on serving the people. Land reforms, banning eviction, education reform, setting up public health care and universal public distribution system, were all actions of the first government that helped to popularize the state’s civil services. Incidentally, all these initiatives formed the basis for the development of the world renowned Kerala Model of Development.

In 1965, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, chaired by M.K. Vellodi proposed a state-level special civil service for the higher bureaucracy. In 1996-2001, under the chairmanship of the then Chief Minister E.K. Nayanar, the Third Administrative Reforms Commission was formed. The three administrative reforms commissions pointed out that democratization of civil services helps to serve the people better. They underlined that the formation of the state.

Administrative service was essential for the modernization of the service sector. The LDF governments, which have been in power at various stages since the first EMS government in 1957, have taken steps to empower the civil service, in accordance to this goal.

Our government ensured that KAS was not implemented unilaterally. We have consulted with all stakeholders at all levels and allayed their apprehensions.

The employees’ unions had submitted proposals - particularly on reservation principles and age limits - to the Government at various stages regarding the formation of KAS. The overall development of Kerala and the aim of creating a people-oriented civil services were kept in mind while considering their proposals. Our aim was to facilitate the positive growth and reorganisation of the civil service, so as to provide better services to the people. Ultimately it would also enable state government personnel to enter into the IAS.

Accordingly, KAS posts have been categorized into four categories: Junior Time Scale, Senior Time Scale, Selection Grade Scale and Super-Time Grade Scale. KAS aims to create a second line of administrative and managerial talent for effective implementation of government policies and programs. It will provide an opportunity for the growth of bright, talented and committed officers. It will prepare them for senior-level administrative and managerial positions.

KAS officers should be able to utilise the skills and experience of the existing staff to strengthen the state’s middle-level management systems.

As mentioned above, the KAS order issued by our government was the culmination of a successful phase of 60 years of reform efforts. The formation of KAS has become a powerful step towards the much-needed structural change in our bureaucracy. KAS can play a key role in empowering civil service by leveraging the advantages of modern science and information technologies.

KAS was not implemented unilaterally. We have consulted with all stakeholders at all levels and allayed their apprehensions. The employees’ unions had submitted proposals - including applying reservation principles and adequate age limits - to the Government at various stages regarding the formation of KAS.

KAS will ultimately do a lot of good to the state.

Adv. M.K. Sakeer / Parvathy Vijayan R.
The notification for KAS has induced fresh hopes among the younger State. By overcoming many hurdles, the Government has been able to implement the decision which will promise a more efficient and prompt service to the general public.

In an interview, exclusively for Kerala Calling, KPSC chairman Adv. M. K. Sakeer says that with the advent of KAS more and more efficient people will be inducted into the executive cadre that will ultimately do a lot of good to the State.

What is your general opinion about the KAS?

- The KAS will conduct examinations in three streams. The first is the general one. In the second, government employees other than gazetted officers, and in the third, First Gazetted officers of the state government can apply. All the three fall under the direct recruitment category, and the examination is common to all. So far, three lakh five thousand candidates have applied for the KAS. This examination is a miniature model of the Civil Services examination.

How will the KAS bring about a change in the state's administrative process?

- By selecting candidates through such a high-level examination, we will be able to induct better and more efficient people into the executive cadre of our administration. This will do a lot of good to our state. The KAS will appoint serving officers into the Second Gazetted rank directly. This will be done strictly on the basis of merit. Here, the candidates will have to appear for two examinations and an interview.

What preparations and security arrangements has the PSC made and put in place for the KAS examination?

- The PSC has made all arrangements will a lot of care, considering the importance of the examination. We have taken great precautions at every level, from preparing the syllabus to setting question papers to publishing the final list. Besides, we have decided to use the system of OnScreen Marking Technique developed by the PSC itself for evaluating the performance of candidates at the examination. All the technological preparations required for this process have been completed. The list of those qualified to take the Mains will be published only after candidates who have passed the Preliminary examination produce their eligibility certificates. Such an arrangement will help bring more thoroughness to the examination system. Besides, special instructions have been given to invigilators and the Chief Superintendent.

What is the kind of better opportunity that this system offers the young generation?

- The KAS opens the doors to a huge avenue to youngsters of Kerala who are talented and educated. Those who are preparing themselves for examinations like those of the Civil Services will get opportunities to reach high posts in the administrative setup very quickly. So the KAS is an inspiration to members of the younger generation who are prepared to work really hard. It is no small matter that they will be able to start their career as Under Secretary.

When the KAS comes into being, will it affect the promotion chances of other government officials?

- Not at all. The KAS is a special cadre. Their promotion is not in anyway linked to that of government officials. Ten percent of every post will be set apart for the KAS cadre, and the appointment as well as promotion of KAS candidates will take place only within this structure.

To which departments and for what projects will the KAS appointments take place?

- The appointments will be to 29 departments. Besides, there may be appointments to the general sections. The first direct recruitment will be to the Second Gazetted rank, that is, to the post of the Under Secretary and upwards.

How many vacancies will be filled immediately?

- The number of existing vacancies has not been ascertained yet. When the examination list is publicized, appointments will be done according to the number of posts sanctioned by the government.

What should the candidates keep in mind?

- First of all, the candidates should take a very serious approach to the KAS, and prepare themselves for the examinations with a corresponding degree of seriousness. Only then will the exams progress smoothly. Secondly, after they qualify the preliminary examinations, they should take care to upload their eligibility certificates properly. If any mistake occurs in the process, their names will be dropped from the Main examination list. Therefore, each stage should be completed with meticulous care. They should read the KAS-related notices with attention, link their Aadhar card, and remember to send a confirmation regarding the examination.

Will the examination be affected when fresh candidates and officials in government service take the test to the same post?

- No, such a problem will never arise because appointments will be done in the ratio of 1: 1. Candidates appearing for all the three streams will enjoy equal opportunities.

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SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

There are three stages - the Preliminary, the Main, and the Interview. The Preliminary has objective multiple-choice questions. The Main follows the descriptive pattern. The Interview is a personality test.

Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t—you’re right.

Henry Ford, the genius who is the father of the automobile industry, advises that you are right if you think you can. When we launch our preparation for the Kerala Administrative Service Examination, the words ‘I can win’ should ring in our mind.

B. S. Warrier, Career Expert
KAS PREPARATIONS SHOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR TACKLING THE CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

T.P. Sreenivasan
Former Ambassador of India and Governor for India of the IAEA

On the 64th birthday of Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan announced his government's decision to introduce the much-awaited, prestigious KAS. He said that it would attract vibrant, socially committed young candidates who are capable of implementing government policies and programmes effectively for the welfare of the state and its people. The KAS will provide a gateway for the induction of intelligent, talented and committed officers into Government Service and prepare them for high level administration and managerial positions in public service.
For most of Kerala's talented youth, the KAS is a dream come true. It will create an exceptional cadre for direct recruitment in several prominent Gazette II departments, including those in the Secretariat. The KAS will also create jobs for dynamic youngsters who can make changes in driving the current administration in top gear. If one looks at Kerala's success rate in the IAS, it has to be admitted that hardly 10 to 15 IAS aspirants of the state have been qualifying the All India Civil Services examination every year. In this scenario, the KAS can bring more aspirants to the administrative services, and offer them the dream job for themselves. When it comes to the point of cracking the KAS exam, the first name that comes to our mind is T. P. Sreenivasan. He spurred others by setting a good example. T. P. Sreenivasan (IFS batch, 1967) served in the Foreign Service for 31 years. After retirement, he has been engaged in training aspirants for the Civil Services. Let's hear from the stalwart himself.

The aspirants of the KAS are in the right spirit for cracking the first edition of the KAS. What is your opinion about the KAS and how do you define it?

State Level Administrative exams are new to Kerala, but not to other states. This is an opportunity for the people of the state to reach high positions. The KAS is also a golden opportunity for those who couldn't take the Civil Service Examination. Kerala also used to have occasional exams for the selection of the Deputy Collectors. Those who joined service as Deputy Collectors have ended up in the IAS in Kerala cadre itself. They have been performing very well as they know Kerala very well. There are still some uncertainties regarding the number of posts available. But still this is a very good opportunity for bright youngsters to reach high levels in the Government. Those who join the KAS are likely to be conferred the IAS rank within eight years. I had expected that KAS examination would be in the same format as the UPSC Civil Service Examination. That would have ensured that the UPSC would not question the competence of those selected for the KAS to move to the IAS. In fact, the syllabus for the Preliminary examination for KAS is even more elaborate than that of the qualifiers of the KAS. One important point is that this year there is very little time for the preparations. Therefore, the KAS aspirants will have to put in extra efforts in a way similar to that of preparing for the main examination of the civil services.

As the Kerala Administrative Service exam is in its first edition, the aspirants are in a state of dilemma. They are not clearly aware about the question patterns and preparation methods. What do you think about the proper ways of exam preparation?

I have prepared a list of the "First Steps" for KAS aspirants. The first step is to improve English language skills, both written and spoken. Though Malayalam is the official language, English is important to communicate with other states and countries. Reading an English newspaper thoroughly every day and taking down notes on International issues, National issues, State issues and Sports are very important. Reading links us to the past, prepares us for the future. ‘The Hindu’ is recommended for its opinion articles and editorials. Prepare summaries based on them. You must read a news magazine regularly, especially ‘The Week’. Read general books, novels, biographies and autobiographies. Books will live forever, whether in print, with their intoxicating aroma, or as images on Kindle and other electronic devices, and reading will continue to make the world worth living. The word preceded humanity and will outlast it.

Along with that, read NCERT Books of Standard 6 to 12. Watch international, national and regional channels at least for an hour. CNN/BBC should also be watched. Cultivate interest in all subjects such as politics, economy, science, environment, development and sports for greater success in cracking the exam. All these competitive examinations demand self-preparation. Coaching and study materials alone cannot help a person to succeed. You need to attend mock tests to understand where you stand on the ladder of preparation. You can also create a small group and exchange study materials with other aspirants. Newspaper reading is an art and you need to train yourself to read the newspapers. And make sure that you don’t miss anything. The middle pages are the most important.

For the KAS, matters related to the state should be given emphasis, along with National and International affairs. Try to refer to the previous question papers of Civil Services. Last but not least, listen to TED TALKS as much as possible at least once a week.

As KAS opens the window of opportunities to the youth and officials to a vibrant administrative system, what according to you are the most valuable traits of a good officer?

First and foremost, I would say is that they should be incorruptible. Corruption is the biggest virus which infects the bureaucracy. Good officers will not abuse their power for personal gains. They will abide by the code of ethics. This will help in cultivating ethical behaviour and ethical decision making.

Secondly, I think that the officers should be familiar with the state. They should know about the day-to-day affairs of the state. Knowing the pulse of the people and working for them in your own home state is obviously considered to be great. An officer who comes from outside the state. So, I think, the KAS should turn into a core group. I welcome the decision of the State Government about conducting this examination. This is a great opportunity for young people to make a career in Kerala. Retention of good people and good brains in the state will be the main advantage of KAS.

Books
1. MODIPLOMACY THROUGH A SHAKESPEAREAN PRISM (Konark)
2. EDUCATION OF AN AMBASSADOR-Reflections on Higher Education Reform in Kerala (Konark)
3. ENKAT FOREVER- A Tribute to Ambassador Venkataraman (Konark)
4. APPLIED DIPLOMACY THROUGH THE PRISM OF MYTHOLOGY (Wisdom Tree)
5. MATTERING TO INDIA (Pearson)
6. ENCOUNTERS (Ed.Centre House, Malaysia)
7. WORDS, WORDS, WORDS- ADVENTURES IN DIPLOMACY (Pearson)

Without a doubt, joining a coaching institute for the preparation of KAS examination helps a lot. In the institutes, you get to know about the correct strategy to plan your studies to qualify one of the toughest examinations. It is difficult to compete with a large number of aspirants who appear for the exam. Therefore, it becomes important to join a coaching institute which can streamline your studies. When it comes to joining an academy in the state, the renowned name is Kerala State Civil Service Academy (KSCSA)

Kerala State Civil Service Academy was established by the Government of Kerala in February 2005 under the aegis of Centre for Continuing Education Kerala (CCEK) with the specific objective of giving intensive coaching to the young men and women who aspire for top posts in the country's Civil Services. Academy's administrative centre is at Thrissur, Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram. The main academic wing serves at Ambalakam, Kollam, Government Press Compound, Mannuthy. The comfortable classrooms, the well-equipped library with thousands of books and journals and highspeed Wi-Fi accessibility provides the aspirants the conducive ambiance and vibe required for their preparation to qualify the UPSC Civil Services Examination. KSCSA has a total of 10 Sub Centres at Kollam, Kollam, Chengannur, Muvattupuzha, Alloor, Palakkad, Kottur, Kollam, Kollam, Kurissery and Kollam. Let's hear from Director of KSCSA Dr. P. Anadhi Eknath, about the KAS and the strategy to adopt to get it through.

How do you view KAS and also regarding KSCSA?

Kerala had a significant presence in the civil services examination in the 90s, but then it began to show a gradual decline. This uprising trend was triggered by various factors. Perhaps the most critical of these was the lack of proper orientation to the civil services examination and insufficient mentorship. Once we took note of the coaching facilities available in our state, there was a wide gap between what was expected and what was delivered. To fill this void, the Kerala State Civil Service Academy (KSCSA) was established. The objective of the academy is to enable our aspirants to realize their cherished goals through comprehensive, integrated and interactive modes of instruction.

And obviously the government’s decision to implement KAS is really a wonderful opportunity for youngsters because within 8 years they will be able to get IAS. So that is the biggest attraction and it is kind of middle level entry and definitely as far as Civil Service is concerned the vacancy position is also reduced and you have an opportunity to work in Kerala itself, where they could get into group one service.

Regarding KAS exam and syllabus it is a little bit tough; because you have a...
Would you share your experiences of preparing for the exam?

See the problem here is we have limited time, the notification came in November and the exam is scheduled to be conducted in February. So we have hardly two months now and the syllabus is vast. So, we have given more emphasis on economics, history, polity and of course English, Malayalam, Current affairs etc. We are also planning to conduct test papers at the end of the course. Students will be exposed to the syllabus thoroughly and prepare them for the examination. We have classes from Monday to Saturday and we have insisted more prominence to Kerala history compared to civil service. We have appointed eminent scholars for Kerala history alone. Economics is also very important in KAS and civil service. It is a core subject in the preparation of development without economics, nothing will happen. Economics is important and I think we have very good faculty for economics. In addition to economics, Kerala model, role and the function of the Planning Board, disaster management is also given. This is not there concerning civil service. Kerala history is given much weight as much difference lies in the fact that it gives much importance to Kerala history and Kerala model compared to other states. It came on November 1st and immediately we started initiating applications for KAS coaching and we have 3 batches as of now: morning, afternoon and evening batches. Even before the notification, we started a course for KAS programme. Then we waited for the official announcement of the exam. So we have few students who joined that time and they are waiting.

There’s more rush in evening batch compared to other batches and we have fresh entrants in this course along with that people who are working in various sectors of the government offices have also joined.

The academy has an impressive array of excellent faculty who have several years of expertise in handling civil service coaching classes. Most of the faculty members are serving as well as retired professors, eminent scholars and other experts who excel in their respective fields.

KAS: An Overview

Special Rules / Notifications / Modifications

The objective of KAS is to bring in KAS after getting over the hurdles. We are extremely glad that this will bring radical change in the current administrative scenario.

Important student unless you know your language. Most students are not able to do justice to their country. Time management is also very important. Don’t have any previous examination papers to rely on. Probably, the faculty themselves have to prepare anticipated questions. They can refer only the Civil Service exam question paper. If I’m not wrong, 2 to 3 years back there was an exam for Deputy Collector so probably that can be taken as a precedent to KAS exam partially. The primary intent of KAS is not to bring in young and energetic minds to governing positions.

The Government needs an appreciation for the core subjects mainly history after getting most of the hardships. We are extremely glad that this will bring radical change in the current administrative scenario.

Preliminary Examination

The purpose of the Preliminary exam will be that of a screening test and to select the candidates for the Main exam. There are two papers in the Preliminary Examination, General Studies Paper I and General Studies Paper II and Language Proficiency. Each paper will be of one and a half hours duration and will comprise objective type (multiple choice) questions for 100 marks. The candidates will have to choose the correct answer from among the four distractors given in each question. There will be negative marking, the stipulation which demands the candidate to choose the answer carefully. The mode of examination as given by the KPSC is OMR. Online and hence the possibility of the online mode cannot be ruled out. The medium of the questions will be in English.

Syllabus (The details of the Syllabus/Main Topic are available on the official website)

A remarkable feature of the Syllabus is that due space has been given to Kerala State, socio-political and economic facts relating to its and its official language, Malayalam. Kerala History (from 18th century) and the Cultural Heritage of Kerala are included in the Paper I of the Preliminary Examination. History and evolution (not just regeneration) of Malayalam language and literature is also included under the topic, Cultural Heritage of Kerala. Economics of the Economy of Kerala, such as Kerala model development, decentralised planning etc. find place in the Paper II of Preliminary examination. Language Proficiency in Malayalam/ Tamil/Kannada and English is evaluated in terms of the grammar questions.

The questions to be asked

As per the recent notification dated 14/02/2019, the scope of the questions to be asked in the KAS examination is further extended to other topics related to the educational qualifications prescribed for the post. It is also stated that all the topics covered under subhead ‘Main Topics’ may not be covered in the question paper. Hence, there is no guarantee that there will be a question from every topic mentioned in the syllabus. Instead, the questions can be expected from any area.

Main Examination

Main examination is written/descriptive in nature. There will be three papers of 2 hours’ duration and 100 marks each. Though the questions are asked in English (as of information available now) the KPSC will consider the question paper in Malayalam, our official language.

Further details of the main exam are yet to be released by the KPSC. Going by the standards of the UPSC, the objective of the Preliminary examination is to make an assessment of the written skill of the candidate: how he/she comprehends and analyses an issue and how convincingly those ideas are communicated. Originality matters; matter of fact presentation counts much here as the answers are to be put in a nutshell (short essays in 180 or 250 words) and the answer must be to the point. The time factor is also very important in the examination.

Interview

The interview, as in the UPSC Civil Services Examination, is an opportunity to make a direct assessment of the personality of the candidate. Marks awarded will be out of fifty. The soft skills of the candidate such as adaptability, integrity, leadership quality and above all the communication skill are assessed in the interview. It is highly recommended in this connection that the entire examination, the Preliminary, the main exam and the interview is an evaluation of the personality of the candidate.

The public of Kerala is looking forward to the fulfilment of the objectives of this new venture.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT KAS...

Aparna S Mohan

Aspirant

First of all, we are all happy that we got such a wonderful opportunity because KAS is Civil Service of Kerala. It is the first time we are facing an exam of such quality in Kerala. We are really lucky that we got into the right place. The course I have joined in this academy is shaping me for my future endeavours. Regarding the syllabus, I feel it’s a little bit vast which we might not be able to complete within this short period. And I must say compared to many institutes available in the city, KSCSA is mentoring us in the right way to approach for the exams.

Balgurah Aspirant

I am a former student here preparing for the UPSC. I think this KAS will be aoothing stand to improve my UPSC level as well. All of these can improve my knowledge. The academy’s faculty is extremely good and the courses are run out by encouraging us in all ways. They are giving us proper guidance on every required topic for cracking the exam.
KAS is a big opportunity for those who aspire to excel. A big window of opportunity and challenge is awaited for those who cleared this first edition of administrative service of Kerala. Thousands of candidates are aspiring for civil service and has started for the exam. There may be pieces of advice from different coaching centres, experts or fellow aspirants on the methodology for preparation. A couple of tips for those who prepare for this exam are the highlight of this article.

Approach

I request everyone to consider Kerala Administrative Service as a competitive exam. Those who desire to clear this exam should have a positive approach when I wrote my civil service in 2007, the approach I followed was very simple. I believe that there are only two gurus in the syllabus and second is previous years question papers. Those who are aspiring for civil may also follow a similar approach. Priority should be given to the syllabus and candidate should try to read the syllabus multiple times and understand the perspectives and requirements of this exam. Further, it is essential to analyse the previous year’s question paper to know the priorities and methodologies of questions as well as the depth and variety also. Unfortunately, this is the first edition of Kerala Administrative examination, but there is previous years question paper. There are comparisons to the Civil Service examinations and expert’s opinion is that questions will be similar to that union UPSC civil service examinations. So the aspirants may prepare with others which are corresponding about each word or phrase in the syllabus the various perspectives of question can be asked could be identified. So this approach of planning to write the examination with syllabus and question papers may be followed by the aspirants may ensure a smart work during preparation.

A POSITIVE APPROACH WILL DECIDE YOUR FUTURE

A positive approach will decide your top rank in the Civil Services Examination 2008.

KAS

Harikishore S. IAS
Executive Director, Kudumbashree

Learning method

Most of the job-profile after getting Kerala Administrative Service requires a lot of analytical and comprehension abilities and the ability to grasp new subjects at the earliest. In this regard, the selection process will also test these parameters. Hence candidates should not expect direct questions or questions based on facts. The questions may be testing a candidate’s opinion or testing the analytical ability of the aspirants or may be to analyse the different perspective of a problem. The aspirants must focus on specific views. Clarity of thought and clarity of concept is very essential for Kerala Administrative examination. Hence in this regard whenever the aspirant is preparing for the exam they should try to assimilate the essence of each matter of each subject and should form his or her own opinion about it. Also, various angles perspectives and approaches of the subject concerned should be known to the candidate. Hence I wish to give an opinion on the learning methodology focusing on the clarity of concept and the aspirant’s analysis of the same. More knowledge of facts figures dates and other basic details may not be sufficient for clearing this exam. The Government is looking for candidates who are willing to take challenges who can see multiple perspectives and who can analyse the given problem and should be able to solve it. In this regard, the same approach may be reflected in the question paper also. So the learning methodology which every candidate should imbibe should focus on understanding the core concept, understand various perspectives and forming candidates own opinion on the matter.

Perseverance, focus, commitment, and determination are the essential qualities which helped me secure a top rank in the Civil Services Examination 2008.

Covering the syllabus

Keralas Administrative Service has a well-defined and clear syllabus. It is expected that all the aspirants acquire knowledge regarding every subject or point mentioned in the syllabus. So it is essential that everyone should cover the syllabus to the best of his or her capacity. Covering the syllabus means studying the topics mentioned in the syllabus in required depth and width. Due to time constraints all the aspirants may not in the positions to study all the topics in the required depth. I suggest that there is no need to worry if you are not able to cover all the topics intensively. This is a time management issue and all the aspirants preparing for the KAS are at the same level. They might start preparation very late and they might be in a newer position concerning the knowledge. So what difference between the winner and mediocre performance is the priority that the winner gives to certain topics. In this regard, I wish to suggest that the aspirants should go through the syllabus thoroughly and should have his or her judgement regarding the priority of topics. Those topics which should be studied with priority and high intensity. The crucial decision is going to decide whether you are going to clear the exam or not. So every aspirant should know where one should devote time. They should identify the topics which are relevant and they should be able to focus more on this topic. We should need a strategy to cover the topic with smart work. Those topics which aspirants feel are of high priority should be studied intensively and to the required depth. There will be some topics which the aspirants not able to devote much time. These topics should be prepared at least superficially. They should be able to answer basic questions about the topic and should know what and where and how about the topic. So it is suggested to follow two strategies. For this, the first activity to do is to decide regarding the priority of the topics. Once the priority is decided, the second action to be done is to study intensively. At the same time study the topics which you think as low priority. Since there are no previous question papers and guidelines regarding the priority, I leave it to the judgement of aspirants. Decisions should be own on the basis of the aspirants rather than getting information from different corners. This judgement will decide whether you will be able to complete the entire syllabus within time. From the next year onwards we will have question papers of 2020 KAS and it will help the candidates to decide over the priority.

Be confident

All the aspirants should understand that KAS is just another exam. And for any competitive exam, our preparation will never be perfect. There will be many topics which we have not prepared for the required intensity. However, we should understand that since the completion is relative and everyone is at the same level we should avoid comparison with others. We should feel confident about our preparation. Our preparation may not be sufficient but at the same time, all other people are also on the same level. They also might not get enough time to cover the topics intensively. So in this regard confidence is the key matter of concern. With your available time and background knowledge, you have prepared well for KAS in the last 1 to 2 months. Even if you have not covered the full syllabus at the decided level, there is no reason to be not confident. All the aspirants entering examination should feel confident and courageous about the preparation. This is very important because, in every competitive exam, your presentation, state of mind and performance during the exam is important. Even in the civil service exam, in my opinion, the candidate who had covered all the topic in high level might able to get only 60 per cent question only known to him. Even if we have prepared by covering entire syllabus, 60 per cent will be those which you have not covered. In these circumstances, the presence of mind, the ability to give best and ability not to get tired, ability to write in precise and concise are logical manner during the exam is what matters. And the next month, the preparation may be perfect however every candidate should be confident, courageous and deliver his or her best during the time of examination. This key aspect of performance during the exam is related to your confidence. So be confident about your abilities and don’t compare your level of knowledge and preparation with others which might take you to lower off your confidence. Think that is a golden opportunity to be in a position where I can make an impact on society. This driving force should be in the mind during the exam hall. If we write the exam in this mindset I am sure that all your dream of KAS will come true in future. Best wishes to the aspirants.
The High Court of Kerala had cleared the air and given green signal to the Keralam Model Bank by rejecting 21 petitions filed before it. The judgement of the High Court is hailed as the said pronouncement will place the cornerstone in the financial road map of India which can eventually create a "Kerala Model Banking System" for the rest of India.

The Government of Kerala had made an unconventional but unflinching stride by integrating the banking system in Kerala with the proposal for the merger of the District Cooperative Banks with State Cooperative Bank, and branding it as Kerala Bank. The in-principle approval of Reserve Bank of India for the proposal Kerala Bank is giving wings to the long cherished dream, "Own Bank", of Reserve Bank of India for the rest of India. The Government of Kerala had made an unconventional but unflinching stride by integrating the banking system in Kerala with the proposal for the merger of the District Cooperative Banks with State Cooperative Bank, and branding it as Kerala Bank. The in-principle approval of Reserve Bank of India for the proposal Kerala Bank is giving wings to the long cherished dream, "Own Bank", of Reserve Bank of India for the rest of India.

The present co-operative banking system of Kerala has a very strong structure at the primary level and have 30% market share in the deposits and loans. It follows a three tier system with Kerala State Cooperative Bank (KSCB) on apex, District Cooperative Banks (DCBs) on middle and Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) on ground level. Though the PACS is having different terminologies such as Farmers’ Credit Cooperative Societies; Primary Agricultural Credit Cooperative Societies; primary co-operative rural banks; multipurpose co-operative societies etc, all those are functioning as financial intermediaries by collecting deposit from members and extending the credit facility for agricultural activities. The PACS cater smaller customers from a specific locality and hence less formal than mainstream banking system. Though such PACS are easily approachable for common man and act as a solicitor for their regular financial needs the same is classified as a risky due to geographic and portfolio concentration of risk. The peculiarity of the cooperative system of banking when comparing to the modern day banking is its inability to deal with non-members. But said restriction is the very essence of the term "cooperative" as the activities of the cooperatives are being carried out with its member’s economic participation and hence gives its own identity in the market. The PACS are accepting deposits and lending money to its members, it cannot offer interface based services to the PACS and its members. PACS, while maintaining its independence and member profile, shall continue to collectively hold control over the new bank thorough majority shareholdings and board representations. Kerala Bank will provide financial, technical and support services to the PACS and its members in a manner that the members of PACS need not look elsewhere for any financial product and/or service.

Kerala Bank is being created with a vision of Safe and Reliable Banking for Everybody. It envisages a most modern, accessible, friendly and safe banking services for the common citizen of Kerala. The Bank is proposed as a full service universal bank, which is technology driven, serving distinct segment of customers under the direct supervision of Reserve Bank of India. While being a modern day bank with all advanced features and characteristics, the Kerala Bank will continue to serve the PACS and its members. PACS, while maintaining its independence and member profile, shall continue to collectively hold control over the new bank thorough majority shareholdings and board representations. Kerala Bank will provide financial, technical and support services to the PACS and its members in a manner that the members of PACS need not look elsewhere for any financial product and/or service.

Envisioned to excel

Only through the introduction of
It was on 10th December 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out certain rights, that are the basic and minimum set of human rights for all citizens. Setting aside a day to commemorate, educate and reflect on the principles that are incorporated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights means celebrating the rights we exercise every day as human beings and acknowledging that enjoying these rights carries with it the responsibility to promote these rights for all people.

There can be no peace without development, no development without peace and justice in the world by international cooperation, led to the creation of United Nations. The charter of the UN called for establishment of a set of universally accepted and observed basic human rights, so that people would never again have to go through the abuses that they had just suffered. It was this resolve of the member nations that culminated in the adoption of a document on 10th December 1948, that would set out for the first time a set of fundamental human rights for everybody. It is this document that is known as Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In this Act the expression "human rights" has been given a very wide meaning as the right relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed under the constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India. If we look at this provision of the Act, it becomes obvious that the concept of human right as envisaged in the Act, is a reflection of the fundamental rights recognised in the constitution and more particularly, Article 21. The scope of the rights guaranteed under Article 21 are not static but are expanding with the passage of time. These therefore are the inalienable rights of every human being born in this country and he acquires these rights on his birth and he cannot be deprived of those rights.

At the national and state level, Human Rights Commissions have been established, with the responsibility to discharge the functions that are enumerated in section 12 of the Act. Nelson Mandela has said that, "To deny people their human rights, is to challenge their very humanity." We are living at a time when social, cultural and religious conflicts are the order of the day. Recently we have seen an instance where a journalist who walked into the Consulate of a country was murdered inside and even his dead body has not been traced out so far. Instances of similar brutality are being reported from various parts of the world.
Kerala @ IITF 2019 Delhi
Photo: Prasanth R. & Dalu Parameswaran

Rhapsodies in Coir
Scenes from Coir Kerala 2019
Photo: Dalu Parameswaran

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan inaugurates Kerala Day Celebrations

Finance Minister Dr. T.m. Thomas Isaac Visits the Kerala Pavilion

Dr. A. Sampath visits the stalls

Special Representative of the Kerala Government in Delhi
Dr. A. Sampath & I&PRD Director U. V. Jose release the brochure

I&PRD Secretary P Venugopal is at the Pavilion
Kerala has been bestowed with another enviable award nationally. The State has bagged the award for the empowerment of the differently-abled in the year 2019. The State has been awarded for its modular work for protecting the rights and empowerment of the disabled, and guiding them towards the mainstream.

IN KERALA THEY ARE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING

K.K. SHAILAJA TEACHER
Minister for health

Kerala has taken several initiatives to enable persons with disabilities to lead a normal life. The state government has introduced various schemes and programmes to provide education, employment, and other facilities to persons with disabilities. The government has also established special schools and colleges for persons with disabilities to provide them with vocational training and education.

Screening and early identification of disabilities, early intervention to reduce the adverse impacts due to disabilities, modern disability management services, special projects for disabilities like Autism, hearing disability, disabilities due to blood-related disorders and disabilities caused due to chronic neurological disorders etc. These activities are done in convergence between different departments to provide better services to persons with disabilities.

Anuyatra is the subproject of Anuyatra. Kathorm adopts a 1, 3, 6, 18, 42 months’ timeline intervention. Under this project, the hearing screenings of all neonates are done within one month of birth, confirmation of disability if any, within three months, hearing aids, along with audio-visual habilitation training for 6 months and in indicated cases cochlear implant surgery within one month of birth.

Facilities for newborn screening, early screening and identification of hearing impairment, provision of Hearing Aids, follow up in 60 Government Maternity Homes (GMMHs), including audiogram (BERA) for hearing screening. This shall be followed by post-implantation habilitation till 42 months.

An M Power Incubator and Different Centers functioning at Thiruvananthapuram, Kottayam, Alappuzha, Thrissur, Kozhikode Medical Colleges provide Service of Pediatrician, Medical Officer, Physiotherapist, Audiologist & Speech Therapist, Clinical Psychologist, Optometrist. Early Educationalist.com Special Educator, Staff Nurse for identifying and facilitating special therapies to children with disabilities.

Twenty-five Mobile Intervention Units (MIU) is deployed in the rural areas of the state to provide all the above disability-related services. Each unit gives service to six-block panchayats. Each unit consists of one Speech Therapist, one Physiotherapist, one Special Educator, one Clinical Psychologist and one Speech Therapist cum Audiologist. NHM is implementing this project for Social Justice Department.

Facilities for post-implantation habilitation till 42 months. This shall be followed by post-implantation habilitation till 42 months, a baby born with hearing impairment, by the time she/he reaches 3.5 years, goes to Angamaly with almost perfect hearing and speech.

What can be more rewarding for us than seeing persons with almost perfect hearing and speech.

The government of Kerala is committed to providing better facilities and services to persons with disabilities. The state government has introduced various schemes and programmes to provide education, employment, and other facilities to persons with disabilities. The government has also established special schools and colleges for persons with disabilities to provide them with vocational training and education.

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Differently-Abled

NIPMR opens a new horizon for the differently-abled

Keerthana T R, Information Assistant, District Information Office, Thrissur

National Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Thrissur

Department with the aim of rehabilitation of children with special abilities. The centre which is located at Kalletumkara in Trinjalakkads offers a support system to those who are unable to go ahead with the treatment owing to financial constraints. Equipped with a pool of expert doctors and state-of-the-art facilities, the NIPMR has risen to be the best institution in the state in identifying special children and imparting them required training. It mainly focuses on various therapies, and offers specialized treatment for those born with physical disabilities and those afflicted by injuries caused by accidents affecting physical movements. The physiotherapy wing of the institute provides special treatment for children and adults. NIPMR, through occupational therapy, also extends help to the ailing and the differently-abled to lead a normal life. It offers health services for autistic kids under the government’s special programme called RARRC. Behavioral therapy and speech therapy are being imparted as a part of RARRC project, besides offering services for the hearing-impaired patients through ‘Sruithi Tharamangal’ project. Problems related to speech are treated through speech therapy. Special transition school functions at the rehabilitation centre to develop the creativity of the special children. Various services, apart from providing health care, are rendered at the NIPMR for the benefit of the mentally-disabled patients. It makes available the service of a dietician to guide on food intake, and conducts job training programmes. The institute has taken effective steps to deal with socioeconomic problems of the patients and their families through social work, and handle growth-related issues of children through child guidance programmes. Mechanisms such as virtual reality are being used for yielding better results in treatment.

World Class Sensory Garden

Kerala’s first EPDM sensory park has been set up in an area of 4880 sqft to attract children with special abilities. It has been designed to stimulate and nurture the senses of touch, smell, sight, hearing etc. The park which was part of the second phase of sensory garden has made use of the EPDM floor mechanism. Thrust-based CostFord, while designing the park, has stipulated on the use of the EPDM synthetic rubber flooring to curb chances of injuries as children do not hurt themselves when they fall. The kids can play here without the fear of getting injured. The unique feature of the park is that each child can overcome his or her sensory disabilities through games. The sensory park has been constructed adhering to the minimum fire safety standards and the rides are arranged in such a way that the seven sensory abilities of the child are aroused through games. Activity sites such as rocking boat, rhine wheel sea saw, A to B climber and playground climber in the park are suited for each therapy and can be enjoyed even by wheelchair-born children. Further, steps will be taken to make the activities helpful for studies by including letters, numbers, science experiments etc in the next phase. The fund of Rs 56 lakhs to construct the park was sanctioned by the Social Justice Department.

Rehab on Wheels

Mobile therapy unit has started functioning since 2016 under Rehab on Wheels project to attend BDM school children and those who are unable to reach the institute for treatment. It offers services pertaining to physiotherapy and hearing-related examination and modified ambulances with modern facilities.

Setting an example in outstanding service

In 2012 the government, under the initiative of Social Justice Department, took over the institute led by N K George which was functioning under the N K Mathew Charitable Trust for treating children with cerebral palsy. Since then NIPMR has emerged as a temple of mercy and role model in giving all possible help to persons with special abilities to ensure their better future. Going further in the rehabilitation of the differently-abled, DEI courses will be started in the areas of occupational therapy, autism and cerebral palsy. NIPMR will also start the state’s first hydrotherapy centre based on the water treatment called speeder recovery technique that aids in the stress free movements of children. A horticulture training unit and cloth printing unit will be launched and changes will be brought in the vocational training unit to create employment opportunities for the differently-abled persons.

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Millet Village

By 2009, due to Government intervention cultivation of BT cotton was reduced. But cotton still remained to dominate the fields. In 2016, a new project "Millet Village" was launched by the Department of Agricultural Development and Farmer's welfare in association with Department of tribal welfare at Attapadi. This innovative project was conceived by the visionary leader and Minister for Agriculture V. S. SundarKumar. During 2009 he happened to visit Attapadi as part of "Njumaa Vaithi Samithi" in connection with higher incidence of infant deaths. One of the demands put forward by tribal families was to revive their traditional food habit.

While launching the project, initially the tribal farmers were reluctant to replace cotton with millets. The field staff of the concerned Departments arranged Millets procured from the Attapadi hamlets will be made into value added products and marketed as ‘Organic Attapadi Millets’.

Back to Tradition

Customs associated with millet farming was also revived. Mixing of various millets, pulses and other seeds and sowing them after ritualistic worship of earth known as “Kambala” is the traditional practice in Attapadi. Farming in the hamlets is lead by Chieftain. Known as “Chettiar”, head of farming, “Manmooonam”. Traditional song and dance accompany the sowing. 515 hectare was planted with millets and other food crops during the first year which gradually increased to 650 hectare by 2019. 480 farm families are involved in the scheme now. Per season production is about 800 tons.

Traditional grain and seed storage practices followed by tribes were also rejuvenated under the program. The produce left after consumption by tribal families is procured by the Department of Agriculture. These are processed and made into value added products by Krishi Vigyan Kendra, coimbatore.

Tribal women are employed to do this work. Products are sold with Organic label by Department of Agriculture. Attapadi is home to many traditional varieties of millets, oil seeds and pulses. Under the project, efforts are being taken to conserve and cultivate them in the fields. Studies have begun at the "Intellectual Property Rights Cell" at the Kerala Agriculture University to present the case of Attukombu Amara, a variety of Lablab Bean and Attappadi Thovora, variety of red gram for the Geographical Indication tag.

Celebrating the holy grains

The traditional millet dishes also made comeback in the hamlets. Millet dosa, pappu, portarige and roti are some of those tasty dishes. Consumption of millets has resulted in substantial improvement of the health condition of tribal people. According to the study done by tribal health nodal officer during 2018, rate of infant deaths in Attapadi reduced to 13 from 31 in 2013 while abortions were reduced to 31 from 77 in 2013. This is a good indication that revival of millets is having good impact on the community. Tribal farmers are eager to continue the farming of millets. The Department of Agricultural Development and Farmer’s welfare, Kerala will extend the project for further 5 years under ‘Rebuild Kerala Initiative’. Millets procured from the Attapadi hamlets will be made into value added products and marketed as ‘Organic Attapadi Millets’.

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Scientists have began the process for Attapadi millets will be conserved and cultivated in the fields. Studies have begun at the "Intellectual Property Rights Cell" at the Kerala Agriculture University to present the case of Attukombu Amara, a variety of Lablab Bean and Attappadi Thovora, variety of red gram for the Geographical Indication tag.

Return of the Super food

In the era of global warming and climate change, millets are gaining importance. Rice plant requires nearly 2.5 times the amount of water required by a single millet plant of most varieties, according to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid, ICRISAT. Crops like rice and wheat cannot tolerate temperatures of more than 38 degrees Centigrade, while millets can tolerate temperatures of more than 46 degrees C. Requirement of inputs like fertilizers and pesticides are also much less compared cereals like rice and wheat. They can also grow in saline soil. Millets could therefore be an important solution for farmers struggling with climate change – sea level rise, which can cause soil salinity, heat waves, droughts and floods. These nutrient-rich grains are making a quick comeback in the Indian agrarian landscape after decades of neglect.

Valley of the wind

Attapadi is one of the largest tribal settlements in Kerala. The three tribes in Attapadi are Irula, Muduga and Kurumba. Apart from collection of forest produce, farming of traditional crops like millets as well as cattle and goat rearing have been their main livelihood options. Millets occupied a prime space in their diet.

Millet Village

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While launching the project, initially the tribal farmers were reluctant to replace cotton with millets. The field staff of the concerned Departments arranged awareness programs in all hamlets and succeeded in convincing the tribal communities that returning to traditional cultivation and traditional crops will help them to overcome the health hazards.

Seeds of millets and other crops were distributed free of cost. Goat and cattle rearing being common, organic manure is available here in abundance. During 2016 itself Millet farming resumed in the valley.

G.S.Unnikrishnan Nair

Ministry of Agriculture.

Millets could therefore be an important solution for farmers struggling with climate change - sea level rise, which can cause soil salinity, heat waves, droughts and floods. These nutrient-rich grains are making a quick comeback in the Indian agrarian landscape after decades of neglect.
But, here are some extra-ordinary people, not well known to the world, who showed how to succeed in life with grit and determination. They real heroes who refused to quit.

Heroes could be musicians, Olympians, movie stars, religious leaders etc.

PAPPAA@ 88 STAR AMONG THE STUDENTS

Paappa, a student of the literacy programme of Kerala State Literacy mission authority at Attapadi tribal settlements in Palakkad, had a tough childhood, teenage and adulthood. A native of Nakkupathi tribal village, Attapadi, Paappa got married and gave birth to her children at a very young age. She collected honey, medicinal herbs and twigs from the forest, and sold them in the market downhill to earn a living. But the inability to read and understand market standards always troubled her as she got tricked. Now, at 88, paappa cleared the literacy examination conducted by KSLMA with good marks.

@ 52, RESSY FIGHTS AGAINST ODDS, ENROLLS IN COLLEGE

52-year old Ressy Mathew returned to Alphonsa college campus in Pala, after three decades. She who discontinued her studies in 1985 due to financial difficulties, is back in the campus as an undergraduate student. Nothing changed but her urge for learning has increased. After discontinuing her studies, soon she started working as a daily-wage ternland labourer. She travelled alone to Mumbai when she was 20. Thereafter, she built a secure house for her parents, married away her sisters, tied knot with her factory co-worker and gave birth to two children, all with in the age of 26. When her husband left her at 30, Ressi returned to Kerala with her children and started living on her own, working as a domestic helper, starting 3:30 AM everyday to support her children's studies. At present, she cleared KSLMA's higher secondary equivalency examination, and enrolled for her bachelors in History at Alphonsa college, also eying to acquire an LLB to raise voice for struggling single women.

FAHAD REALISES HIS LLB DREAM ON TRACK

Fahad, 32, always wanted to be an educated person. Determination helped him get admission to MCT Law college. Fahad, running a beauty parlour in Arimbra started dreaming of education when he failed in SSLC exam. He was forced to go abroad for a job due to financial problems. After 7 years abroad, he returned to his native place, started the beauty parlour and worked as a beautician and hair stylist. He joined KSLMA's class 10 equivalence programme and successfully completed SSLC and Plus Two fulfilling his dream. Today, he is a BBA-LLB student. Wife Nadeera and two sons Fahweel and Fahmeen is his family.

DISABILITY FAILS BUT ANIL WINS

If life appears to be very hard and miserable, meet K.S. Anil kumar, 39, from Punalur, Eastern Kollam. With 70 percent disability inflicted by polio at the age of 3, he has fought all odds. A determined mind, Anil, a first batch student of the KSLMA higher secondary equivalency course, learnt to write using the toe of his left leg. Studied until class X, joined for pre-degree course at SN College, Punalur. Anil could not continue his studies. Abandoning his dream to learn, Ht started repairing electronic goods at home and sold lotteries to make a living. He attended weekend classes at Punalur GHSS. His elder brother Suresh Kumar took him to school. KSLMA started the equivalence course for higher secondary in 2015, first time in the country. This June, the state government had issued an order approving the higher secondary equivalence course to be equivalent to Plus Two courses in the state. K.S.Anil kumar making paper pens and writing using his leg.
KANAKA, THE LOTTERY SELLER, EYES A NEW DAWN

Kanaka, a 56-year old, lottery seller from Maneedu leaves nothing to chance but puts in the hard yards. That determination has seen Kanaka, a literacy class participant under Naveechethana, at Rajeev Gandhi Colony, Maneedu, a KSEMA literacy project for Scheduled Caste colonies. “It often filled me with sadness all these years thinking how I was speaking words without ever knowing the letters and singing songs the lines of which I may never read. That is why this class gives me so much happiness. At least now I can do away with the humiliation of having to ink my thumb and can put a signature with dignity,” a beaming Kanaka says. A hunt for a suitable lodging brought her to Maneedu in Muvattupuzha where she had to start life afresh.

Karthiyayani Amma: The Name of Fame

Commonwealth team honoured her

Karthiyayani Amma, the ‘Aksharalaksham’ literacy exam topper is one of the rare celebrities whose fame seems to transcend the country’s limit, inexplicably grows with age. The internet is abuzz with the praise of this granny who reside in Alappuzha at Cherpapad panchayat. Karthiyayani Amma bagged first rank in Aksharalaksham exam of literacy mission scoring 98 marks out of 100 among 40,000 candidates becoming the senior most to do so.

Commonwealth Learning vice president Dr Balasubramanyam led the team of Commonwealth delegates to Kerala and honoured her with a memento. Karthiyayani Amma never studied in school. She appeared in the exam to attain 4th standard. And now, she hopes to get a job after passing 7th and 10th standard equivalence exams. While attending the felicitation ceremony of Aksharalaksham exam, she expressed her wish to study computer. Education minister C. Raveendranath gifted a laptop to her in order to fulfil her dream. At present, this grandmother who turned a star with an exam, is studying computer along with learning and writing.

Commonwealth Learning vice president Dr. Balasubramanyam honouring Karthiyayani Amma

@ 80, AUSSIE GRANNY IN A HURRY TO LEARN MALAYALAM

Not very often you get to see an 80 year old foreigner studiously reading a Malayalam textbook, but Kathleen Marie Huolohan, an Australian, is one determined ‘Ammumma’, the first foreign student having to ink her thumb and can put a signature with dignity, to Maneedu in Muvattupuzha where she had to start life afresh.

Kanaka goes around selling lottery tickets in Maneed, Muvattupuzha

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Good governance would require that the government machinery works with full transparency of operations and is fully accountable. In order to have people’s faith in governance, the four pillars of citizen’s charter, namely, information, transparency, accountability and redressal of public grievances should be strengthened.

Good governance is not a one-time process, rather it needs gradual and consistent efforts. With the advanced state of Technology, particularly Information Technology, growing global interaction, enormous powers enjoyed by government agencies, and equally great expectations of people, the most challenging task is how to minimize the mischief by those involved in the governing process and how to make them do maximum good ie, make them provide good governance.

Rapid development in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in the past two decades has brought changes in the ways governments function world over. This information age paradigm shift has redefined the fundamentals and changed the institutions and mechanisms of delivery forever.

Knowledge based society enables in sharing vast amount of information on a global scale almost instantaneously, which consequently helps in selecting, absorbing and adapting relevant technology and services. E-governance has the potential to revolutionize the governance across the world. E-governance, through a technological innovation has changed it all basic character of governance, operational methodology, functional style and ideological orientation. It straight away offers a package of efficiency, time-boundness and cost effectiveness. By making use of ICTs, government makes the best possible use of technology to communicate and provide information through national and state websites. These websites provide information
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Government to Citizen (G2C) refers to the relationship between governmental organisations, as for example, national, regional and local governmental organisations, or with other foreign government organisations. Governments depend on other levels of Government within the state to effectively deliver services and allocate responsibilities. In order to realize a single access point, collaboration and cooperation among different governmental departments and agencies is compulsory. Online communication and cooperation allow government agencies and departments to share databases, resources, pool skills and capabilities, enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of processes. Government to Business(G2B) consists of the electronic interactions between government agencies and private business. It allows transaction initiatives such as e-procurement and the development of an electronic market place for government. Companies everywhere are conducting business to business e-commerce in order to lower their costs and improve inventory control. The opportunity to conduct online transactions with government reduces red tape and simplifies business. It allows e-transaction of the electronic interactions between businesses and government to partner in place for government. Companies are central to this integration. Web based political participation and institutionalization of stakeholder participation with tools like citizen polling mark important benchmarks in this stage. Complete transformation of the organisation in a digital manner occurs and there will be paperless governance in all forms.

Paperless Administration

According to the State of the Global Paper Industry Report, 2010 by Environmental Paper Network (EPN), paper use increases year on year and has quadrupled over the past 50 years. In 2014, global paper production hit 400 million tonnes per year for the first time. (Statistically the same year that atmospheric CO2 levels exceeded 400 parts per million). More than half of this paper is consumed in China (106 million tonnes/year) and India (10 million tonnes/year), more than all other countries put together. It is the weight of paper allergies, paperless interface and humanistic.”

The Njanpith Award winner Akkitham is not a mere poet to the Malayalis but a symbol of noble poetic culture which propounds the principle of love, love that can transform darkness, paradoxically born out of the light of sensory knowledge, into a salve, and lead to the greater light of spiritual awakening.

As I shed a drop of tear for others, a thousand suns rise within my soul.”

AKKITHAM’S POETRY - NECTAR CHURNED FROM THE OCEAN OF TEARS

DEEPA K. GOPAL,
ASSPROFESSOR OF
MALAYALAM, M.S.M. COLLEGE,
KAYAMKULAM
The sorrows of lost childhood became the theme of many of his poems. "Sadhu Podukku Kuruvakkali" [Childhood in the Presence of Humans], "Balidarshanam" [The Vision of Bali], and "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Kuthirnna Mannu" [Sodden Earth], published in the Mathrubhumi weekly, are perhaps the most characteristic of his works. The sacred thread worn by the brahmins "Parangodan" reveals that superiority of one's caste and community is a tragedy that eventually dries them up. The poet feels that being born into a higher caste but his poem "Nahindam" [Not mine, not mine these tuskers, not mine] reveals the anguish suffered by the post-Independence generation of Indians, culminating in "Ithihaasam" [Legend of the 20thCentury], a poem that criticizes what he saw when he wrote about its creation: "What I jotted down in that book were words that boiled out of my unconscious, and questioned the impales of my intellectual plane. This does not mean that it is either good or bad." But the poet was pilloried following its publication. However, as far as Akkitham is concerned, it is the Gita of sincere love towards the human race, and a scream against violence. As I shed a drop of tears for others, a thousand suns rise within my soul.

To most – who have had the experience of seeing brilliant stars collapsed all around, and wishing to cast them out many like-minded people, and gone to the camps of social, political and cultural organizations that are anxious to realize their goals, only to realize that they are hostiles over contradictions, and finally ended up thinking independently about the times – "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Kuthirnna Mannu" might seem like their own personal confession. In it, Akkitham creates the picture of a soul that journeys over the ocean of emotional experiences.

Vayalar's proclamation in the lines: "Never will I love any philosophy that loons not a grieving soul" came immediately after Akkitham's declaration: "Unconditional love will surge in time - in "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Kuthirnna Mannu". 

Weeping, I said that day to a future citizen: "Light is sorrow, child. Darkness, so comforting!" These words of sorrow come from the dark depths that offer no footing. They form the most powerful and eternal lines in Malayalam poetry. This strong spiritual streak is the bedrock of later poetic works like "Manuhasu Sanshitali" [In the Presence of Humans], "Balidarshanam" [The Vision of Bali] and the social standpoints he had great faith in. "Irupathaam Noottaandinte Kuthirnna Mannu" is the distillation of the angst suffered by the post-independence generation of Indians, in the last days of a century that knew the soul of Kerala survived, and all that it creased for during the last two decades.

With its employment of listless metre, dry syntax, searching phrases and verbal pictures painted in loud colours, the poem points to the mysterious spirit of the times that inspired its birth, and simultaneously serves as a conscience of that period.

One comes to see how language reflects a culture, a lifestyle and a material world all at the same time, one mores and traditions. The traditional Brahminical elements of his poetry locked born with new ideas, ideologies, harsh realities as well as old and new styles, and transformed themselves into a new brand of Brahminism that could arrive at truths. The concepts of simplicity, righteousness, truthfulness, the philosophy of nonviolence and the wisdom of love that Akkitham internalized came from being influenced by Gandhi. They became the foundation of his personality. His poem "Thiruvakrasastra" [The Sun of Righteousness] is an example of his deep-rooted devotion to Gandhi. Most of Akkitham's poems reveal his partiality for his sister, but they will not be placated. Finally he quotes his poems: "Iblazhu Poliya Lokani" [The Dilapidated World] presents the pitiable condition of children. With a tender mind that will not permit even the nipping of a flower, the poet sits in the dilapidated world, and asks: No children - the inheritors of flowers - in this world even today?

In the poem "Balidarshanam" the poet describes the sweetness of childhood as "the consecrated waters of Kashi in the heart". Akkitham's poems are a powerful response to the crises of contemporary life. It is peopled with those who exploit the hard work of the labouring classes and enjoy themselves in palatial houses, as well as those who forget the legacies of culture and chase luxuries.

"Poonoolkaar [The History of the Brahmins] sings the victory song of the brahman class, "Kumakarni Vilakal" [The Star Shells of Kumakarni] shows solidarity with the poverty-stricken vessels of sea, necklaces and chains. If "Kuthirnna Mannu" [Sodden Earth] tells the tale of agricultural labourers' resurrection, "Balidarshanam" [Bali's Vision] is not only a success story but also a protest song. Poems like "Santhyanthram Naandavan" [At the Immortal Human] and "Oyo Red Indian Swapnam" [A Red Indian Dream] glorify humanity. There is perhaps no poet in Malayalam (except Valiyopilla) who has described gender equality and love within a marriage so beautifully and with so much intensity as Akkitham. The concept of love in his poems is developed in such a manner as to place stress on the spiritual aspect of man-woman relationship, without ever running down its sexual dimension. "Aparadhita" [The Wrong-doer] projects the love of a man who feels helpless without the presence of that girl. The poem "Parashuramvaal Bhaktiyevam" [The Vision of Parashuraman's worship] is not only a success story but also a protest song. The poet "Kumaran Asan's equally famous line "Love is the greatest essence on earth", there are instances of such a phenomenon. Similarly, Akkitham's "Light is sorrow, child..." broke through all levels of meaning and became known all over the world. They have the power to lead one from darkness to light, from death to immortality, and to breathe the soul to life. Thus Akkitham is not a mere poet to the Malayalis but a symbol of noble poetic culture which propounds the principle of love, that love can transform darkness, paradoxically born out of the light of knowledge, into a sake, and lead to the greater light of spiritual awakening.

The complexities, conflicts and sanctity of family relations are explored in Akkitham's poems. Besides humans, birds and animals also feature in them; a man born into a higher caste but his poem "Parangodan" reveals that superiority of caste and community is a tragedy that eventually dries them up. The poet feels that being born into a higher caste or community is accidental. It is not a condition that is freely chosen by anyone. Therefore there is no meaning in publicly enmity in the dock and subjecting them to a trial. Poets indulge themselves in their creative pursuits. Their poetic output may be accepted, rejected or interpreted. Or even he contented to lessons for people. These attempts may sometimes go beyond what the poet intended or what the lines warrant. Vallathol's famous line "Bondage inside a gold cage is bondage nonetheless on earth" and Kumaran Asan's equally famous line "Love is the greatest essence on earth"
Akkitham: I feel happy. I can't say anything special beyond that. Every morning after breakfast, I lie in my bed.

Do you think the nation's most prestigious award for literature came to you at the least expected moment? What are your thoughts on that?

Akkitham: There were several who deserved it. I got it because of my longevity. That is all. Many had told me earlier that I would get it. But it did not happen then. Most things in my life have happened late. At one stage, Streedevi [Akkitham's wife] expected it. But today she's not with us.

Two Jnanpith Award winners - yourself and M. T. Vasudevan Nair - are alumni of the same school. Any memories about your Kumaranalloor High School?

Akkitham: Until then, I used to chant the Vedas. And I learnt some Sanskrit too. In those days, if one studied Siddhanaropanam and Amaranaksham, one was considered literate in Sanskrit. Later I had a wish to learn English. But it was difficult to get permission for that. And I got beaten too. It was Ummakhina Meenon who taught me English. And that must have made me what I have become. When I was in the Third Form (eighth standard), MT was in the First Fifth standard. MT's siblings also studied there. Later MT joined Victoria College. I went to Guruvayoorpam College. I could not complete my studies. MT sincerely wanted me to win the Jnanpith Award.

V. T. Bhattachiripad, EMS - do you remember the politics of those days?

Akkitham: VI meant the world to me. I learnt everything from him. From among the Nambudri community, that was steeped in darkness in those days, only VI was capable of that [initiating reform]. Whenever EMS came to Kumaranalloor, he sent someone to fetch me. He would inevitably be in billing, and I went to where he was. Thereafter we shared the same room, sitting and lying on two cots side by side, and talking about many subjects. We were together at Travoor too. In the Yoga Vahana Sabha. There were no costs. We had to unfurl a mat on the floor and lie on it. Later I became his Secretary. I copied parts of his autobiography for him. I always had a very close bond with him. K. Damodaran has also stayed here in the barn house. We used to talk for long hours about politics, literature and many other things. . . .

How did poetry come about?

Akkitham: I used to dabble in poetry during my childhood. For instance, in protest against certain children vandalising the temple wall, I wrote four lines of verse on it with a piece of charcoal.

If, like this, temple's joy fills with sobriety, the Almsbowl will appear, and destroy all, far and near.

This was the kind of poetry I composed then, that had meter like Stephens and Stendhal's.
Mitigation of climate change

Soil makes up the greatest pool of terrestrial organic carbon, more than double the amount stored in vegetation. Soil, the key source of life on this planet is a very dynamic and heterogeneous natural resource. It originates from parent rock and its horizon development and properties vary from place to place. The formation of soil results from the co-action of various factors such as climate, plants and other living things towards the parent material of a soil in a specific area through an interval of time. The most important factors influencing the soil formation consist of five factors including climate, parent material, topography, organism and the time that controls the process of addition, change, movement and loss of matters and energy that occur in the soil. The formation of all soils is controlled by these five factors all the time and the influence of all five factors in each time interval may be different.

Mitigation of climate change

Soil makes up the greatest pool of terrestrial organic carbon, more than double the amount stored in vegetation. Soil mitigates climate change through carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Soil is also important for storage of organic carbon on land, counteracting in this way the impacts of climate change. Plants absorb CO2, an important greenhouse gas from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. As plants die and plant litter falls to the ground it is physically broken down by earthworms and other biota into particulate organic matter.

Management of soil for sustainable future

Our soils are at danger because of expanding cities, deforestation, unsustainable land use and management practices, pollution, overgrazing and climate change. The current rate of soil degradation threatens the capacity to meet the needs of future generations. Therefore the promotion of sustainable soil and land management is central to ensuring a proactive food system, improved rural livelihoods and healthy environment. As long as soils are at risk, sustainable agriculture, food security and the provision of ecosystem services are compromised. Managing soil sustainably is cheaper than rehabilitating or restoring soil functions. Across the globe, human pressure on soils is reaching critical limits leading to global warming and consequent climate change impacts, such as floods and droughts threatening the very existence of life.

Impact of flood on soil characteristics

The flood that caused widespread loss to lives and property across Kerala has triggered alarming changes in soil quality. The results from the detailed survey of soil and sediment samples collected from the flood-affected areas reported fundamental changes in soil chemistry and structure and the microbial ecosystem. The soil samples collected from flood-affected areas in Thrissur district portrayed huge deposits of fine particles of clay on soil surface impeding aeration, water penetration, and loss of microbial life in the soil.

A study conducted at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute (CTCRI) from the soil samples collected across the state revealed wide variations in the soil pH in flood-affected areas. Soil pH below 3.5, indicating abnormally high acidity, was reported from a sandy deposit in Vairaparamp grama panchayat in Kollam district. The organic carbon content of the samples studied ranged from 0.06 to 4.55% and a very high value of 4.55% was recorded in a sample collected from Kasaragod district. Analysis of major, secondary and micronutrients also indicated changes in soil chemistry. In one of the samples collected from Neyyattinkara municipality, the available phosphorus content was to the tune of 755.87 kg a hectare, which is extremely toxic for plant life. In another sample, collected from Kottayam district, the organic carbon content was 4.55% which is an abnormally high acidity. The soil pH of below 4.55% was recorded in a sample collected from flood-affected areas in Thrissur district portrayed huge deposits of fine particles of clay on soil surface impeding aeration, water penetration, and loss of microbial life in the soil.

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An ideal good textured soil with optimum content of essential nutrients, diverse microbial population, absence of toxic materials and plenty of humic substances can produce healthy food.

World Soil Day 2019 (#WorldSoilDay) and its campaign “Stop soil erosion, Save our future” is envisaged to raise awareness on the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing the increasing challenges in soil management and, raise the profile of healthy soil by encouraging governments, organizations, communities and individuals around the world to engage in proactively improving soil health.

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oil, the key source of life on this planet is a very dynamic and heterogeneous natural resource. It originates from parent rock and its horizon development and properties vary from place to place. The formation of soil results from the co-action of various factors such as climate, plants and other living things towards the parent material of a soil in a specific area through an interval of time. The most important factors influencing the soil formation consist of five factors including climate, parent material, topography, organism and the time that controls the process of addition, change, movement and loss of matters and energy that occur in the soil. The formation of all soils is controlled by these five factors all the time and the influence of all five factors in each time interval may be different.
Giving a Strong momentum and breakthrough to Electric Vehicles, Kerala Government and Japan’s Toshiba have signed a memorandum of understanding on transferring technology of Lithium Titanate Battery for the state public sector enterprises in the presence of Kerala Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, Industries Minister E.P.Jayaraj and Transport Minister A.K Saseendran and Chief Secretary Tom Jose in their visit to Tokyo in the last week of November 2019.

Kerala which has a large scale deposit of Ilmenite, Rutile, one of titanium. Even though India does not find to have Lithium deposits but the abundance of Titanium Dioxide one of the component of Lithium Titanate Battery for the use of Electric Vehicles will help boost large scale production of Lithium titanate battery. It is estimated that 30 per cent price of Electric Vehicles (EVs) is the cost of batteries.

Tomohiko Okada, the Managing Director of Toshiba India has given and signed a memorandum of understanding and handed over it to the State Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan about the modalities of transferring technology of Lithium Titanium Oxide Battery to the public sector undertakings of Kerala. The State is planning to encourage the use of Electric Vehicles in a big way. The Technology transfer would help the cells from Chinese companies and assembling them overseas and getting the part module here. India as envisaged converting most of the vehicles on road to electric in six years. The Govt of India is pushing for full transition of 3 wheels by 2023 and two-wheelers by 2025. So indigenous production of batteries cells forms a crucial part towards achieving this goal and the Central Govt. has taken certain steps in this direction. The Govt. has slapped 5 per cent customs duty on import of lithium cells to support local manufacturing. It is also noted that the GST rate of batteries has been reduced to 18 per cent from 28 per cent. The Govt. of India is planning to set up 50 Giga watt-hour (Gwh) of lithium-based battery manufacturing in India, under big private players.

The transfer of Lithium Batteries technology Kerala will certainly open innovation in the field of electronics and EVs. It will be a breakthrough in controlling air pollution and eco-friendly technology with integrated and comprehensive development of the state.

Lithium Battery Technology to Kerala

M. Muhammed Haris,
Finance Manager, ANERT

State Public Sector Enterprise to manufacture Lithium Titanium Oxide Batteries on large scale for the use of Electric Vehicles. No companies in India manufactures such batteries so far. If it is materialised this will boost the industrial production of Electric Vehicles Sector. The State-owned Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) Chavara manufacture titanium dioxide, one of the components of Lithium Titanate Battery. This is one of the added advantages of Kerala. Battery is the major development in the field of chemistry took place in the 21st century for which the Nobel Prize of chemistry 2019 is given. Manufacturing of battery cells for electric vehicles (EVs) is yet to take off in India in the absence of strong local market despite a steep fall in the price of battery cells and the recent trust by the Government and some public and private players to promote it. The Chinese-owned car brand Morris Garages (MG) unveiled the sale of ZS model second all-electric SUV after Korean auto-major Hyundai’s Kona in the Indian Market. It may be noted that our neighbouring country Afghanistan is the Lithium capital of the world. The primary ingredient of lithium-ion cells is still the majority imported from China and South Asian countries. One of the raw materials used for Lithium Batteries is graphite abundantly available in our neighbouring country Sri Lanka. The Lithium Titanate Battery is very safe compared to Lithium Cobalt Oxide Batteries used in mobile phones. Moreover, large sizes of automobile battery, safety is more concerned. So Lithium cobalt batteries are not preferred for large cells due to its explosive tendencies. It may be noted that Lithium Titanate batteries are having high energy density and high cyclic life, therefore less weight. This type of battery has cyclic life above 10000 while as lead-acid batteries have cyclic life around 1000. The EVs manufactured with Lithium Titanate batteries having a life around 15 years when compared to 2 years life of lead-acid batteries used in automobiles.

The price of battery cells has come down to $200 per kilowatt-hour (KWH) as against $1200 per KWH three years ago. Before the invention of lithium-based batteries lead acid batteries reigned for 200 years, ever since the discovery of phenomena of electricity. The Kerala owned KSRTEC has introduced 10 Low Floor AC buses in its fleet on wet lease, operate using electric power. Now, the transport Corporation issued a tender for 1500 electric buses for 10 years. Kerala Neem G, the three-seater environment-friendly auto-called manufactured by Kerala Automobiles Ltd., is the first electric-auto produced by a public sector undertaking got approval in India. The development of lithium-based batteries enhanced the scope of electric vehicles and Kerala Government in tune with development needs give trust to electric vehicles.

The lead-acid batteries are being manufactured in India by many firms, for which the components for its manufacture are abundant in India. The invention of Lithium-ion batteries opened the gateway of EVs. Even though Electric Vehicle battery prices fell sharply but local manufacturing is yet to take off. The main reason is India does not have any reserve for lithium, the chief component of lithium batteries which is the most popular type of batteries currently in use. There is not even a single lithium cell supplier in India. Now the Electric Vehicles manufacturing companies are buying the Lithium batteries from China.

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Participation and organizing made the fair a unique experience. Coir Kerala has become a cultural gathering of Alappuzha. It was a thrilling sight as children and families gathered to watch the arts and cultural programs. The expansion of venues with such a secular gathering is essential.

Coir Kerala 2019 has come to the fore with the reshaping of the coir industry in Kerala. The fair, which normally trades around Rs 20 crore, received an order worth Rs 399 crore this year. This will benefit everyone from the ordinary coir worker to each and everyone in the industry. According to the Government, the employment and wages of the coir workers are important.

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Feel the pulse of Kerala

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