



KERALA BUDGET
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Pursepective
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Govt & opposition on collision course over retirement age

RECORD SHOW | Finance minister K M Mani set a record by presenting his 10th budget in the assembly. Again, it was for the first time in the history of the House that a budget speech was marred by Opposition protests

PROBE INTO LEAK | Speaker G Karthikeyan ordered an inquiry into the allegation that the budget document was leaked to the media before it was presented in the House

TOURISM GAINS | Tourism gets a big boost with the minister providing over 60% hike in allocation for the industry compared to Rs 105 cr last year

MONEY FOR SCHOOLS | Rs 200 crore for infrastructure and skill development of government primary and upper primary schools. Higher secondary schools to get Rs 66 crore and vocational higher secondary schools Rs 10 crore

GO FOR GREEN TECH | Rs 100-crore garbage-free Kerala programme for solving waste disposal issues. Subsidies to be given to government-recognized green technologies for waste treatment

Mani flatters to deceive

Pay more for plastic bags or go with green technologies

TEAM TOI

Setting the policy for a clean and green state, K M Mani has proposed a Rs 100-crore Garbage-free Kerala programme for solving the waste disposal issues. All local self-government bodies and Kudumbasree groups will be roped in the programme.

Mani said subsidies to the tune of Rs 100 crore will be given to government recognized green technologies for waste treatment. Cost subsidies up to 75% will be given for vermicompost and for biogas up to 50%.

The rest of the cost will be shared between local bodies and the beneficiaries. The minister in an effort to cut use of plastic bags made it dearer by raising the tax from 12% to 20%.

The government will also allocate Rs 45 crore for setting up three greenhouses in each panchayat. This will help in growing vegetables and fruits using hybrid technologies in controlled environs.

Cooperative banks, societies, or farmers can set up these green houses on 10 cents of land at an investment of Rs 10 lakh upwards.

This project will be implemented by the district agricultural department with support from experts.

The project will be set up with 75% funding from Centre and state governments. The rest will be in the form of a bank loan or direct investment by the investor.

In a fillip to sanitation, Mani announced a tax cut of 5% on e-toilets. Kerala is likely to have 450 functional e-toilets by the end of this fiscal. This will make Kerala the first state in India with Connected Toilet Infrastructure, on a par with



FOR CLEAN AND GREEN STATE

- ₹ 45 cr for three greenhouses in each panchayat
- 5% tax cut on e-toilets
- 450 e-toilets by fiscal end
- ₹ 100 cr garbage free Kerala programme
- Subsidies to the tune of ₹ 100 cr for green technologies
- Tax on plastic bags up from 12% to 20%
- Greenhouse projects to be implemented by district agri dept

health and hygiene standards of developed countries.

"It is okay to announce policies but no implementation is taking place. Clean and green technologies are welcome especially in the background of the

present waste crisis.

But we have to wait and watch on how these move from paper to the field," said S Seetharaman, environmental activist, Environmental Protection Forum, Aluva.