

Biju Prabhakar IAS

B.Tech, MBA, LLB



Secretary to Govt. (KL-2004)
Kerala State

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Current Assignment

1. Secretary Department of Industries.
2. Secretary Transport-Aviation, Railway & Metros
3. Commissioner, Guruvayoor devaswam
4. Commissioner, Koodalmanikyam Devaswam

Past Major Assignments

Secretary (Transport)
June 2020 - Feb 2024

Additional Charge

(during various periods during the tenure as Secretary- Transport)

1. CMD, Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (June 20 - Feb 24)
2. Secretary (Urban Affairs) (Sep11, 2021 - June29, 2022)
3. Secretary (SC/ST development department) (Aug 2021)
4. CMD, Kerala State Transport Development Finance Corporation (Nov 23- Feb 24)

- ★ Handled subjects like motor vehicles department, KSRTC, Aviation (two airports & aviation related issues), Metro, transport development finance corporation.
- ★ Bold reforms were implemented in the heavy loss making KSRTC which touched record collection of Rs. 245 Cr during the month of December 2023 and crossed Rs. 9 crore per day 3 times first ever in the history of the Corporation.
- ★ Created a new low cost highly efficient state corporation named KSRTC- Swift for long distance, luxury travel and electric buses.
- ★ Introduced for the first time in the history of KSRTC.

- ◇ Sleeper buses (Volvo)
 - ◇ Electric buses (163 numbers)
 - ◇ Electric double decker (2 numbers)
 - ◇ Semi-sleeper buses (20 numbers)
 - ◇ Dashboard cameras
- ★ Increased non fare revenue Rs. 25 crore per month through
- ◇ Establishing 15 fuel retail outlets.
 - ◇ Budget tourism cell.
 - ◇ Marketing division for advertisement in buses and stations.
 - ◇ Courier and logistics division.
- ★ Increased productivity through
- ◇ Reduction of staff and redefining work load
 - ◇ Creation of KSRTC- SWIFT- a new company with different work norms.
 - ◇ Reduction in number of workshops, stores and offices.
 - ◇ Preventive maintenance through pooling of Buses through a District Common Pool (DCP).
 - ◇ Strict disciplinary actions including termination of officers and employees.
 - ◇ Several welfare measures for the employees.
 - ◇ Workshop modernisation.
- ★ Welfare measures for employees
- ◇ Mobile medical units for 7000 employees in Trivandrum district.
 - ◇ Signed long term agreement (LTA) and pay revision implemented after 12 years.
 - ◇ Special incentives and batta for the employees.
 - ◇ Special recognition to drivers who are the backbone of any RTC.
 - ◇ Pay revision after 12 years
 - ◇ Promotion to all levels of employees.
 - ◇ Revised the wages of the temporary employees.
 - ◇ Period medical check up including specialist camps for employees.
- ★ Other Measures
- ◇ Bus washing systems for cleanliness.
 - ◇ Cost centre concept for every buses introduced
 - ◇ Scientific route rationalization through data analysis introduced.
 - ◇ Six unfinished bus terminals and shopping complex completed.
 - ◇ Referendum conducted and recognition to three main unions.
- ★ Other initiatives in transport department
- ◇ Long pending issues related to Artificial Intelligence camera projects and printing of Pet G card for licences and registration certificate resolved. These two system has generated several hundred crore rupees to the government
 - ◇ Revival package formulated for the ailing KTDFC as Chairman and Managing director (November 2023) and Chairman (December 23 -February 24) and government has allotted Rs.425 crore for the revival by 31st March 2024 saving hundreds of depositors.

**Secretary (Social Justice/ Women &
Child Development Dept):
Sept 2017- Sept 2020**

- ★ Initiated, convinced political leadership and issued the historical order for enforcing the 3 % Reservation for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) with effect from 1996 and 4% reservation from 2016, in all government aided schools and Colleges of the State. 1007 persons with disabilities (as on Feb 2024) have so far been appointed in aided schools and vacancies are expected for several hundreds more.
- ★ Women and Child development Department was created for the first time in the State through the bifurcation of the Social Justice for giving more focus to the welfare, health and safety of women and children of the State.
- ★ National Nutrition Mission (Poshan Abhiyan) was rolled out as mission in the capacity as Mission Director in over 33000 Anganwadis with an objective to improve the nutritional status as well as physical and mental health of women and children.
- ★ Organized "Night Walk" a novel program to empower girls and women to walk alone during night in different parts of the state fearlessly.
- ★ Smart Anganwadi scheme – Anganwadis were upgraded to state-of-art facilities with separate areas for physical activities, dining recreation, child friendly toilets etc through out the state.
- ★ Thejomaya – a major initiative to rehabilitate through skilling and empowerment of sexual abuse victims and bring them to the main stream.
- ★ Kaval Plus - an innovative program by the Department of Women and Child Development, for the children in need of care and protection as per Juvenile Justice Act (2015). Kaval plus caters psychosocial care for children in need of care and protection and survivors of child sexual abuse.
- ★ Adoption and foster care were given an impetus with several measures taken to simplify the process.
- ★ Was also the administrator of the Kerala State Child Welfare Council, trivandrum in the ex-officio capacity as District Collector, appointed by the Hon.High Court for more than 2 years.
- ★ Special POCSO courts – Was instrumental in getting Central assistance for the establishment of 56 special courts for POCSO victims, which has now speeded up the delivery of justice to the abuse victims in the recent times.
- ★ SOS homes for the tiny kids were started in the model of world-renowned SOS homes for the WCD department. Several children homes were remodeled and made child friendly. Similarly, the old homes, home for disabled, destitute etc were made refurbished and inducted several activities to make the inmates feel at home.
- ★ 11 mentally ill persons who were in condemned in Mental Health Centres for committing crimes for several decades were rehabilitated with the help of NGOs.

- ★ Around Convicts were released from jail or prevented ... persons who committed minor offences to jail under the Probation scheme with the permission of Hon. Courts. Please bargaining was introduced.
- ★ Started Degree course in Occupational Therapy in National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum and National Institute of Physical Medicine and Reserch (NIPMER), Thrissur district – for the first time in Kerala. This is a much sought after course in the branch of Science that helps people of all ages who have physical, sensory or cognitive problems.
- ★ Scaled up the activities of (NIPMER) and elevated it to the status of a Centre of Excellence in Physical medicine.

Secretary (i/c) of Public Works Department: June 2017- Sept 2017

- ★ During the brief tenure, had tied up with the IISc, Bangalore for introducing the geo cell technology for strengthening the roads in the water logged areas of Kuttanad in Alappuzha District.
- ★ Had prepared a project report for income generation for the 150 PWD rest houses through a web based reservation system and upgrading the standards of services to that of "OYO" rooms.
- ★ Had prepared schematic note for Indias first under sea water tunnel road similar to the "English Chunnel" between Fort Kochi and Vypin reducing the travel time by 2 hours.
- ★ Another project conceived was the 45 km vizhinjam –ambasamudram National Highway and Railway lines with Indias Longest Tunnel of 25 kms, which would reduce the distance between Trivandrum and Tirunelveli (in TN) by over 50 kms and 3 hours. (Both the above proposals have been submitted to GOI for financial assistance)
- ★ Introduced composite tender for buildings changing age old system of seperate tenders for civil , electrical and electronics.

Director of AgricultureDepartment: August 2016 – June 2017

- ★ Brought in the concept of **Special Agro Economic Zones** – a product based integrated approach for a geographically suitable area integrating various schemes and practices of agriculture, dairy development, poultry, pisciculture etc. linked to market through cold chains and products marketed their KABCO
- ★ Foundation was laid for a **Honey Mission** to promote pollination through increased population of honey bees, to enhance the income of farmers and most importantly, to make available unadulterated honey to consumers.
- ★ Conceptualized and Prepared project report for setting up a marketing company to help farmers to find domestic and foreign markets and value addition of products. **The Kerala Agro Business company (KABCO)** was announced in the 2017-18 State Budget and came into existence during 2022-23.

- ★ Conceptualized a project for converting the Neera Producer companies into a 3% Toddy producer companies and for sale of toddy in four and five star hotels as a premium product equivalent to “drought beer” pubs of Bangalore. The project was submitted to the government and the same was announced in the liquor policy by the State government recently in 2017-18 and now in 2023-24.
- ★ Another proposal was to prepare wines from agriculture produces of Kerala – jack fruit, cashew, nutmeg, mangos, to ensure better prices to farmers – and also production coconut liquor (Rum, Brandy etc) similar to what Srilanka is doing.
- ★ Also established first “Coco shopee” exclusively for coconut based value added products including Neera at Ernakulam.

District Collector and District Magistrate of Trivandrum February 2014 – August 2016

- ★ Apart from the normal magisterial and development duties of the District Collector and District Magistrate, the major innovative projects implemented during the period was Operation Anantha, Arteria, Take-a-break the new concept toilet, beautification of east fort etc (Details in next section of this bio-data for details)

Commissioner of Food Safety February 2012–March 2014

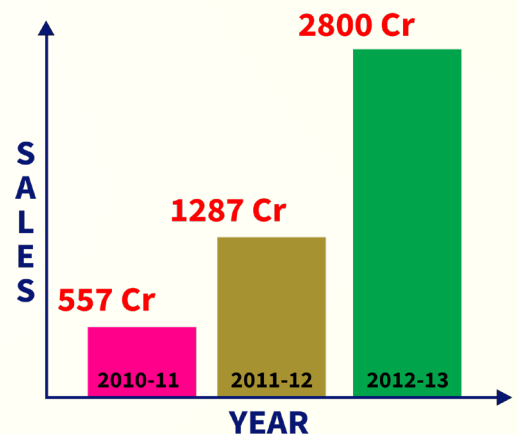
- ★ Issued the orders banning “pan masala” in the State - Second State in India to do so and first state in India to ban under the Food Safety Act,2006, which was followed by almost all other states of India, as directed from the Supreme Court.
- ★ Implemented the new Food safety Act and Rules in the State, before other states started implementation. Awareness could be created among the public on the unsafe practices in the food industry and also forced the Food Business Operators to comply with standards as prescribed under the Act. before other states started implementation. Awareness could be created among the public on the unsafe practices in the food industry and also forced the Food Business Operators to comply with standards as prescribed under the Act.

Managing Director Kerala Medical Services Corporation

- ★ The Government procurement agency for purchase of drugs, essential medical supplies and Hospital equipments handling around Rs. 500 – 600 Cr. annually.
- ★ Started the **Karunya Community Pharmacy chain** in five medical Colleges, where **branded specialty medicines** are offered at a Minimum discount of 45% which had gone up to 93%. The first outlet in Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram achieved an average sale of Rs.10 lakhs per day in 3 months and within one year a turnover above Rs.100 Crs with just 5 pharmacies, established in 5 Govt. Medical colleges. Now the chain has 61 pharmacies is govt. hospitals.

Director of State Lotteries

- ★ Taken over the Department of State Lotteries as its Director in during the turbulent times of July 2010. And since then the yearly gross sales of the Lotteries has grown from Rs.557 Cr in 2010-11 to Rs.1287 Cr in 2011-12 and their Rs.2800 Cr as on 31-3-2013, before moving out. The lottery sale grown steadily thereafter to reach Rs. 9,000 Cr. The biggest contribution in the non tax sector.



- ★ Introduced a new concept lottery '**Karunya lottery**' to finance major surgeries from the profit to create the Karunya Benevolent fund scheme to provide financial assistance for over 1.92 lakh patients requiring surgery utilizing over Rs. 1700 Cr.

Project Director of the Bhoomi Keralam, Survey Department

- ★ Was the founder Project Director of the **Bhoomi Keralam** – a project for completion of the cadastral and geo-spatial survey of the State. Bhoomi Keralam proposed to complete the survey in 3 years using a combination of technologies like aerial wvphotogrammetry, satellite imagery, modern Differential GPS and Total Stations.
- ★ Also served as the „Survey Vigilance Officer“ and unearthed many land related corruption cases involving department staff and also enquired into the Boundary issues of Munnar Kannan Devan Village.

Other Positions Held

★ Director of Public Instruction

During the brief spell in General education department, could initiate several reforms - a pilot project in IT enabled education in GV Raja High school, reforms in the youth festival manual, detection of bogus UIDs in schools etc.

★ Executive Director, IT@School & VICTERS Education Channel, General Education department

Was the founder Director of one of the largest IT projects of Government of Kerala , started from scratch and grown the IT @ School Project into one that is now successfully being implemented the project in over 2750 high schools of the State, Lakshwadeep and Gulf for the past 12 years in a decentralized manner. The project has made nearly 100 lakh students, 55000 teachers IT literate to use the technology in the teaching-learning of Other subjects and now extended by government to UP, LP and Higher Secondary Schools. The project won National EGovernance Award of Govt of India in 2005.

Also founded the first exclusive school education TV Channel, VICTERS, Formally launched by the President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, on 28th July 2005 and an interactive channel on the EDUSAT while in General Education Department.

- ★ Was also one of the first Mission Co-ordinators of the newly formed Information Technology department of the State and streamlined the operation of FRIENDS collection centers in other districts, which commenced their operations in March 2001.

Key achievements / projects undertaken

» Smart Anganwadi scheme



Anganwadis were upgraded to state of art facilities with separate areas for physical activities, dining recreation, child friendly toilets etc through out the state.



» NISH & NIPMER



Started Four year Degree course in Occupational Therapy in National Institute of Speech and Hearing (NISH), Trivandrum and National Institute of Physical Medicine and Reserch (NIPMER), Thrissur district – for the first time in Kerala. This is a much sought after course in the branch of Science

that helps people of all ages who have physical, sensory or cognitive problems. Scaled up the activities of (NIPMER) and elevated it to the status of a Centre of Excellence in Physical medicine.



» Artificial Intelligence Cameras & Pet G Cards



Long pending issues in Transport Department related to Artificial Intelligence camera projects and printing of Pet G card for licenses and registration certificates were resolved. These two system has generated several hundred crore rupees to the government.

» **Milestones in KSRTC**



Created a new low cost highly efficient state corporation named KSRTC- Swift for long distance and luxury travel. Electric buses, sleeper and semi sleeper buses were introduced for the first time in the history of KSRTC. Established 15 fuel retail outlets, budget tourism cell, courier and logistics division and marketing division for advertisement in KSRTC buses and stations. Introduced mobile medical units for 7000 KSRTC employees in Trivandrum district.

» **Karunya Lottery & Benevolent Fund**



This was both a marketing strategy to woo middle class and at the same time introduced a novel kind of health assurance scheme to the poor. The proceeds of the Karunya Lottery scheme was utilised to create a benevolent fund to finance major surgeries for the poor. A poor person, who was

facing financial constraints has to get a consent and estimate from an enlisted hospital, the package cleared by the District Collector, the operation performed to the satisfaction of the poor person and money paid to hospital 1.92 lakh surgeries were performed so far by spending Rs 1726.03 Cr. (as on 25.02.2018). The annual sales turnover of the Lotteries rose from **Rs.557 Cr to Rs.2800 Cr** in less than 3 years. The lotteries is the highest contributor to the State exchequer surpassing the revenue from liquor in 2013.

» **Karunya Pharmacy Chain**

The Karunya Pharmacies are still one of its kind in India selling branded drugs with minimum 45% to maximum 93% reduction in prices. The chain of 5 pharmacies hit Rs.100 Cr. as turnover in the first year itself and made a profit of Rs.66 lakhs by operating

on small profit margin of 1-5 %. All the showrooms were airconditioned and access controlled, with computerized inventory/financial control and management system—another first in Kerala. Family medicine loyalty card, delivery of medicines (including cold chain products) at Home, selling some vital medicines at less than purchase price were some of the marketing techniques used to capture the market. Now the 61st pharmacy is to be inaugurated shortly and the current yearly turnover is around Rs. 250 Cr.



» Victers TV Channel for Schools



India's first education channel on the EDUSAT, inaugurated by Dr. APJ. Abdul Kalam, President of India, may perhaps be the only TV channel for the school education in Indian. The channel now aired through commercial transponders are available on all major

cable networks including DTH. As part of establishing the Channel a studio was designed and set-up in a record time of 1 month in a hired building, to facilitate the **inauguration by Dr.APJ. Abdul Kalam**. The TV channel supplement the school teachers and children with curricular and co-curricular programmes.

» Bhoomi Keralam

Started as an initiative under the National Land Records Modernization Programme (NLRMP) of GOI, it completed the survey of forest land for 45000 tribal families in the first year itself. The survey and preparation of land records of one village in Trivandrum namely the Thycaud was completed in 7 months time, when the State was witnessing completion of land survey taking minimum 5 years, and that too with high degree of error. A new organization named **Kerala Land Information Mission (KLIM)** was established with an objective of competing resurvey of



Kerala through a combination of aerial spectro-photogrammetric, satellite imagery, GPS and survey through Electronic Total Stations. Digitisation and creation of a digital repository of land records, single database and on-line registration of land records etc were other major components of the project.

» Operation Anantha



In 2015, the “Operation Anantha Project”—an non-budgetted operation was initiated in the Thampanoor area of Thiruvananthapuram City which was witnessing frequent floods even during small spurts of rains. Several engineering measures were tried in the past spending Crores of Rupees, to eliminate this menace which brought the opera-

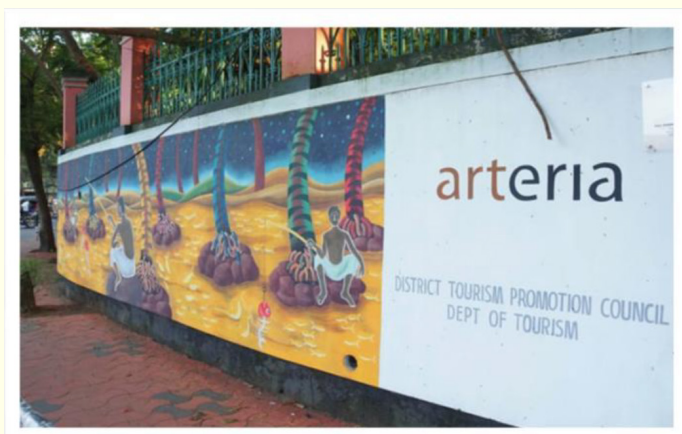
tion at the central railway station and central bus stand to halt at times. The „Operation Anantha□, even though only ¼th complete has been completed eliminated flooding at Thampanoor and adjoining area of Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram. This was possible through implementation of section 25 of Disaster Management Act to remove all encroachments and construction over 26 km of main drainages, reconstruction of drainages with 3.5 m width – all completed in record 10 months time, even though a non-budgetted activity.

» IT@ School Project

Started in 2001 in around 2750 High schools of Kerala, on the basis of recommendations of a High Power committee head by **Prof. U.R.Rao**, was Indias first IT enabled education TN, AP etc moved for IT education in schools, the project trained 55000 high school teachers and implemented the project to teach all subjects and languages through **IT enabled education**. In this 16th year of the project, the State Government is now investing Rs.400 Crores to set up smart class rooms in all major schools as part of this project. It was also Kerala which introduced IT as an examination paper in the year 2005 in SSLC before anywhere in India.



» Arteria



A public art project conceptualized and started with the financial assistance of Tourism department during the tenure as District Collector is still a **major attraction of the capital city. 25000 sq. feet of Trivandrum cities** walls were painted by well known and unknown painters, taking the art from the galleries to the city walls. Leading painters

like Kanayi Kunjiraman, B.D. Dattan etc took part in the project. Many cities have taken up similar art project, but with comparatively very small areacoverage. The wall of University stadium, Museum, Hotel Mascot, many Govt. offices still adore with these paintings.

» **Take - a - Break**

The towns and cities of Kerala, tried several public toilet models – sulph, electronic toilets etc are some of them – but not very popular especially for women and disabled. “Take-a-break” was a new concept. The toilet is masqueraded as a cafeteria, taking away the stigmas attached to any public toilets. A contract was signed with the operators to maintain the toilet as per airport standards – the toilet was designed in such a way that if it is not maintained clean and hygienically, the cafeteria the income generating operation will be affected. Other unique features were women friendly toilet with napkin incinerator, sale of sanitary nap-



kins, butter paper seat for closets and most importantly it is designed as “Disabled friendly”. International signages are used for the benefit of foreign/ national tourists. Buoyed by the success of the first unit, the tourism department constructed 30 such toilet complexes in the State. In the new avatar of such toilet now being designed, a feeding room, ATM, full solar power, vacuum suction to conserve water as in aircrafts are to be introduced. Now around 600 Take-a-Break inlets are built across the state.

» **Land Acquisition of Highways/Projects**



The land acquisition of two major highways was completed with in a period of one year during the

tenure as District Collector. The land acquisition of first phase of Karamana Kaliyaikavila NH was completed and the construction completed in time. The LA and disbursement over Rs.450 Cr for second phase of Kazhakootam–Karode NH was also completed in less than one year. LA for several other roads, 14 bridges were also undertaken during the period.

» **Annam - Punyam**

The project modeled in the lines of Operation Sulaimani of Kozhikode for providing free meal to the poor in the streets or any one with hunger was started in the Thiruvananthapuram district, in association of Kerala Hotel and Restaurant Association. This project now caters to around 500 hungry persons every day and in its 4th year.



» Resumption of land /Major Buildings



Two major buildings which were in the private hands and around 3 acres of prime land in the city was taken over through relentless efforts to defeat the occupiers in court and by taking timely ac-

tions. The operation anatha also recovered large tracts of land on both sides of 26 Km drainage canals of Trivandrum city. 22 acres of rubber estate which was in the possession of private individuals in Varkala taluk was recovered the value of these land run into several hundred crores of rupees. (In the picture is the Chief Secretary's Home –Sumanusham in the prime Kowdiar area, 52 land and building taken over through out of court settlement).

Other Professional Experience/achievements

- ★ Was **third rank** holder in the Dy. Collector Examination conducted by the Kerala Public Service Commission.
- ★ Worked as Plant Engineer and Plant Manager for 6 years in private companies in Mumbai and in the PSU Hindustan Latex Ltd.
- ★ Worked as **Head of Chemical Safety** in Department of Factories & Boilers
- ★ Co-authored **India's first Modern Survey Manual** which is now being adopted by several States.
- ★ Was member of Administrative Committee appointed by Hon. Supreme Court for the **Sree Padmanabha Swamy Temple** of Thiruvananthapuram, famous for its antique treasures worth over 1.5 lakh crore rupees.

Participation in major events/Training programmes attended

- ★ Represented India at Conference of Parties (COP-27) at Sharm- al- sheikh, Egypt during 2023.
- ★ Presented paper at Bus World Congress at Jakarta in 2023.
- ★ Bagged National award for urban transport for MOHUA for Thiruvananthapuram City services in 2023.
- ★ Attended fellowship program at John Hopkins University, Baltimore USA in 2013.
- ★ Attended in service training program at
 - ◇ Korean Development Institute, Seoul, South Korea in 2013.
 - ◇ Syracuse University, New York, USA in 2019.
 - ◇ In service training programme in Bhutan.

- ★ Participated in “Clean Buses of Europe” conference at Amsterdam, Netherlands in 2022.
- ★ Participated in world organic agro exhibition at NuranBurg, Germany.
- ★ Participated as delegate in the study tour along with railway officials for study on Suburban railway in England, France, Germany and Austria in 2013 while holding additional charge as Special officer for trivandrum – Chenganoor sub-urban railway.
- ★ Studied the public transport system of Malaysia.
- ★ Participated as faculty in food safety training program in Dubai as per invitation from Dubai municipality in 2010.
- ★ Attended training program on public transport system in New South Wales University, Australia in 2024.
- ★ Was member of board of studies for engineering in Cochin University of science and technology.

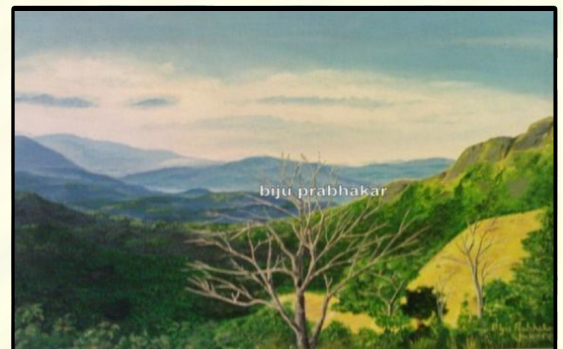
Awards/ Honours for the departments worked

- ★ The Social Justice department won 3 national award consecutively for 3 years during the tenure as Secretary.
- ★ 2017 -Vayo Shreshtha award for KSSM (for the programmes for senior citizens).
- ★ 2018 – Best Channelizing Agency for Persons With disabilities (KSHPWC).
- ★ 2019- Best state in India for empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD).
- ★ National E-governance Award by Government of India for the IT @ School Project, Directorate of Public Instruction while working as Executive Director.

Hobbies

- ★ Painting
- ★ Photography
- ★ Music
- ★ Golf
- ★ Reading
- ★ Travel/off-roading

Paintings



Photography



