

Kerala releases first-ever human development report

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Thiruvananthapuram, March 8: In the first-ever Human Development Report (HDR) brought out by a state, the HDR for Kerala, Ernakulam district figures on top while Malappuram has emerged a dismal tail-end.

The report is a strategic indicator of where the state stands on the human development front.

Kottayam and Pathanamthitta follow Ernakulam in the second and the third slots in the Human Development Index (HDI) for districts in the report. The capital, Thiruvananthapuram, comes ninth in the HDI.

Ernakulam tops the Income Index followed by Idukki and Kottayam. Malappuram is again at a pathetic 14th in this category.

Alappuzha and Kollam districts share the top slots in health, followed by Pathanamthitta and Thrissur.

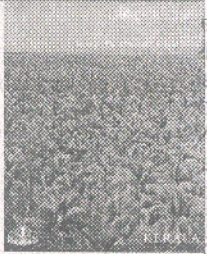
A summary measure of human development, the HDI measures the average achievements in three basic dimensions of human development; longevity (indicator - life expectancy at birth), knowledge (literacy rate combined with gross school enrolment) and standard of living (GDP per capita).

The Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Thiruvananthapuram, has prepared the report for the State Government. For computing the HDI, the CDS has broadly followed the methodology of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Kottayam has the highest literacy rate -

ACTION PLANS

- Study incidence and nature of poverty and deprivation in the state.
- Provide permanent housing facilities to SC/ST and socially disadvantaged groups.
- Provide milk to schoolchildren.
- Regularise payment of monthly pensions to the poor. Strengthen District Planning Committees.



95.9 percent - followed by Alappuzha (93.7) and Ernakulam (93.4).

The state's literacy rate is 90.9 percent.

Kottayam leads the Education Index followed by Pathanamthitta and Kannur respectively. Kasargod district has the lowest Education Index.

Gender indicators show that the life expectancy at birth of a female child in Kerala is 75.5 years and of the male child 73.7 years.

Alappuzha and Kollam offer the female child better prospects of life expectancy at birth - 78.3 years. For the male child, it is Kollam on top - 75.9 years.

The report notes that the state has been able to sustain and improve upon human development.

It also identifies four factors as contributing to this - remittances from NRKs, growth of the service sector, earlier attainments in health and education.