



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Local Self Government Department – Formulation of State Urban Policy- Constitution of ‘Kerala Urban Policy Commission’ - Sanctioned -Orders Issued

Local Self Government (DC) Department

G.O (Ms) No: 219/2023/LSGD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 22-12-2023

- Read.- 1. Letter No SBE/SMMU/AMRUT/21/2023 dated 8/09/2023, from the Mission Director, AMRUT.
2. Letter dated 26/09/2023 from the Director, KILA.

ORDER

There was an announcement in the Kerala Budget Speech 2023 that a new ‘Kerala Urban Policy’ will be formulated, in view of the findings of various studies done by central and state Government agencies that more than 90% of the Kerala would be urbanised by the year 2035, as per parameters for urbanisation defined in Census.

2. Government accordingly decided to formulate a comprehensive Urban policy for Kerala, incorporating short-term and long-term strategies, in line with the development vision of our state, and also taking into account the nature of urbanization in our state and the associated complexities.
3. Government therefore decided to constitute the ‘Kerala Urban Policy Commission’ comprising national and international experts to formulate a comprehensive urban policy for Kerala. The policy would take into account the impact of climate change and the fast pace of urbanisation in our state. The policy would be aligned with the roadmap for the development of our state for the next 25 years.

4. Orders are accordingly issued constituting the 'Kerala Urban Policy Commission' with the following experts for preparing a comprehensive 'Kerala Urban Policy'.

Structure of the Kerala Urban Policy Commission Secretariat

Chair: Dr. M. Satish Kumar, Senior Associate Professor & Director, Queens India Academy, QU Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom.

Co-chair: Adv. M. Anilkumar, Hon. Mayor, Kochi Corporation & Chairperson, Mayors' Council, Kerala.

Co-chair: Dr. E. Narayanan, Former faculty, CEPT University, Ahmedabad and Urban and Regional Planning Consultant, World Bank & ADB.

Member Secretary: Secretary, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala.

Members

1. Dr. Janaki Nair, Professor (Retd), Centre for Historical Studies, JNU.
2. Sri. Krishnadas, Chairperson, Guruvayur Municipality & Chairperson, Chamber of Municipal Chairpersons.
3. Prof. Dr. K. S. James, Former Director, International Institute of Population Studies, Mumbai.
4. Sri. V. Suresh, Former CMD, HUDCO.
5. Sri. Hithesh Vaidya, Former Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi.
6. Prof. Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dean, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi.
7. Dr. Y. V. N. Krishnamoorthi, Former Registrar, IIST, Thiruvananthapuram.
8. Prof. K. T. Raveendran, Academic Advisor, RICS School of Built Environment, Noida.
9. Sri. Tikender Singh Panwar, Former Deputy Mayor, Shimla.

5. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the functioning of the 'Kerala Urban Policy Commission' are approved and appended to this order.

6. The tenure of the Commission will be 12 months from inception. The Commission will, however, issue periodic thematic reports and an interim report after 6 months, based on the outputs and reports from the monthly Kerala Urban Dialogues, Planning Labs etc.

7. Sanction is accorded for establishing the Secretariat of the 'Kerala Urban Policy Commission' at KILA (Kerala Institute of Local Administration) and to establish a special cell under 'KILA Urban Chair' for providing necessary support for the academic activities of the Commission.

8. Funds for the working of the Commission can be sourced from the funds earmarked under 'AMRUT Urban Reforms Incentive fund' with the approval of the State High Powered Steering Committee for AMRUT and also from the KfW grant under the World Bank funded RKI 'P for R' project, with approval of the competent authority.

9. Sanction is also accorded to the Commission to refer to learning outcomes and findings from various urban projects (World Bank funded RKI 'P for R' project, KfW supported Urban Observatory Project, AMRUT, KSWMP etc), in order to develop and formulate policy insights for preparing and formulating the Kerala Urban Policy.

(By Order of Governor)

Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph

Principal Secretary to Government

To

The Principal Director, Local Self Government Department

Director General, KILA

Mission Director, AMRUT

Members, Kerala Urban Policy Commission (Through Director General, KILA)

Principal Accountant General (Audit 1 /Audit 2/A&E) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

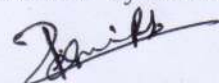
Executive Director, Information Kerala Mission, Thiruvananthapuram

Director, I&PRD / Web & New Media, Thrivanathapuram

General Administration (SC) Dept (ITEM No.....)

Stock File/ Office Copy

Forwarded/ by Order


Section Officer

Copy to:

PS to Hon'ble Chief Minister

PS to Hon'ble Minister for Local Self Government

PA to Principal Secretary Local Self Government Department

CA to Joint Secretary , Local Self Government Department

Kerala Urban Policy 2023

Context:

Kerala is located in a rapidly urbanising southern India, and has itself shown very strong urbanising tendencies over the last couple of decades, with more than 90 percent of its population projected to be urbanised by 2035. The 2011 census puts the urban content of Kerala at 47.71% with a decadal growth rate of 82. 23 %. The urban demographic pattern of the State is unique – dispersed settlements and homesteads instead of concentrated residential and commercial areas (what has been described as ribbon development). This in itself calls for an urban design strategy that is special.

There have also been sub-regional transitions such as ‘Kannur-Kozhikode’, ‘Thrissur-Kochi’, ‘Kollam-Thiruvananthapuram’ and clustering of urban spaces and loci around particular ULB groups, which demand strategic policy instruments and innovative planning practices. The changing dynamics within the associate sectors such as housing and real estate, inter-urban and intra-urban mobility patterns, education and skill market, frequency of extreme climate events, waste management, physical and mental health, ageing and progress towards a digital society together necessitate the creation and sustenance of a system which is capable of shaping Kerala as an ‘equitably resilient’ society. Various spatial planning exercises are currently being taken up through Risk-informed Master Plans for Urban Local Bodies, Spatial Strategies for the state, Rurban Plan for 13 clusters, Corridor Plan for Kochi-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor, and a lot of new planning instruments and strategies are currently being applied in the state.

The challenge

The critical gaps between urban and various sectoral policies such as industry, housing, environment/climate change, transport, information technology and

education need to be rewoven based on the contemporary urban social processes and the Kerala development paradigm. The challenge is to cumulatively produce a society which is equitable, safe and resilient yet attractive to entrepreneurs and investors, and an engine of growth and opportunity.

It is proposed to set up an Urban Policy Commission to develop a forward looking urban policy for the State of Kerala. The following sections deal with the mandate of the proposed commission, its terms of reference, methodology and logistics of functioning.

Mandate

Mandate: To develop an urban policy for a ‘navakeralam’ that appreciates the nature, complexity and issues of urbanisation of the State. It is expected that a state-of-the-art urban policy will be framed which will help the State to navigate various issues related to urbanisation and to lay down a clear frame work for urban governance in general. There should be short term and long term strategies which are closely aligned to the development paradigm of Kerala that are proposed as part of the urban policy.

Objectives:

1. The Commission is to investigate the emerging patterns of urbanisation with special reference to the unique characteristics of Kerala and to assess the spatial impact of urban development in the state
2. Commission is to make suggestions on better local governance frameworks that capture the specific urban growth pattern of the state vis-à-vis the various governance issues like waste management, transportation, technology, migration, fiscal health, infrastructure and local economic development and climate resilience.
3. Commission is to make recommendations for sustainable urban development and growth in relation with appropriate planning and designing with a focus on decentralisation and human face with a special reference to climate change.

4. Commission is to make detailed study on the urban administrative system in Kerala and suggest necessary changes including professionalisation and technology integration.
5. Commission is to review the key dimensions of various sectoral policies such as industry, housing, land-use, waste management design, heritage so that convergence at local level is achieved.
6. Commission is to suggest related changes in rules and regulations with regard to its findings in all the areas mentioned above.
7. Commission is also free to look into any other areas found to be relevant in formulating the comprehensive urban development policy for Kerala.

The Commission is to produce an urban policy which will help in galvanising the power of both ‘spatial planning’ and of ‘local participatory democracy’. (The role of local communities in their own development has been a fascinating story of engagement and empowerment. The potential of a policy for steering the latent tendencies both in the economy and society towards building a more inclusive society are to be explored). It is hoped that a transformational agenda can be identified that could leapfrog identified city governments into global reckoning, as well as figuring out the means of procuring the resources needed to make that possible and the systems to be augmented or put in place to ensure sustainability and equity.

The Commission is to propose institutional restructuring including reinvention of the bureaucratic structure and its interface with the elected institution, as well as clarity on quotidian management and strategic direction. The separation of administrative and political decision making, both of which are intertwined in the fabric of urban governance and run the risk of creating avenues for elite capture and piecemeal constituency centric development is a challenge which must be taken head on, and systemic solutions found.

The Commission is to explore harnessing ‘design thinking’ not for producing an agglomeration of ‘ordinary places’ which fail to evoke both the residents and the visitors, but for developing a mosaic of richly endowed communities capable of displaying the ‘spirit of the place’. This should lead to a well-crafted urban policy along with scientific planning instruments and a culture of place-based innovation.

Composition of the Commission

The State Urban Policy Commission with 13 members will be headed by its Chairperson. She/he will be a person of national/international repute in the field of urban planning/urban governance or a closely associated field with 25 or more years of experience in policy institutions/ academia/multilateral or bilateral agencies. The person should be an established leader with evidences of policies, pedagogy or publications proving his authority in the global discourses related to planned urban development.

The Commission will also have two Co-Chairs one of whom will represent the Urban Local Governments within Kerala. The other Co-Chair will represent policy making/academia/consulting/advocacy institutions providing a balance of knowledge, perspectives and networks representing the key global/national/state level urban discourses.

The 9 Members will be heads/senior professionals from various national/state level/private sector institutions contributing to urban planning/governing strategies, higher/professional education sector, leading R&D centres in demography, design thinking and geospatial technologies which are directly relevant for urban planning and spatial governance of a rapidly urbanising society such as Kerala.

The Secretary, LSGD, Government of Kerala who is the executive head of the Department will be the Member Secretary of the Commission.

Powers

The Commission will be a Class I Commission.

The Commission or its members will have the authority to decide on the following:

1. Performing visits within the state and in the country (wherever necessary).
2. Issue web based 'Call for Evidences' from national and international agencies, state/local level institutions, stakeholder groups, professional associations/citizens and individuals with an interest in Kerala's future.
3. Setting up Task Forces/Working Groups/Special Study Teams.
4. The Kerala Urban Dialogues will be a platform developed and deployed by the Commission to advance its mandate through informed discourses.
5. Seeking the services of experts and institutions to conduct various supporting studies/activities.
6. Organise Consultative Meetings/Workshops/Dialogues.
7. Requesting various Government Departments/Agencies to provide reports.

Methodology

1. Call for evidences on the urban/rural tendencies within Kerala using digital technology, platforms and social media, apart from consulting various stakeholders within the state, both offline and online.
2. Access various relevant studies/publications from International/National/State Agencies/Institutions.
3. Organise consultative workshops with practitioners/experts, related associations and citizens within and outside the state to generate relevant evidences/examine various projects/proposals.
4. Collect evidences about best practices from other states/urbanised/urbanising regions around the world through Kerala Urban Dialogue platform.
5. As part of MoUs with various institutions, KILA has initiated the process of establishing an 'Urban Research Repository'. The Commission can avail the services of this Repository. The reports/studies and data collected by the Commission will be used to strengthen the Repository.

Secretariat of the Commission

Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) will be the Secretariat for the Kerala Urban Policy Commission.

KILA Urban Policy Cell

KILA has already established a Centre for Urban Governance which is headed by the Urban Chair Professor. In order to support the various research/study/coordination and secretarial work of the Urban Policy Commission, an Urban Policy Cell will be established under the chair. Cell is free to engage the scholars and researchers in the field as consultants/ on deputation/ on working arrangement during the tenure of commission in preparing the reports. It is also envisaged that the activities of the Urban Policy Cell as part of the support system of the Urban Commission would enable the Centre for Urban Governance to transform as one of the Centres of Excellence in the area of urban studies in the country.

Duration

The Commission will have a duration of 12 months from the date of Notification of the Commission. The final report of the Commission will be submitted to the Government of Kerala within the stipulated time. However, considering the various activities such as the monthly Kerala Urban Dialogues, Planning Labs and the Commission will periodically release thematic reports and an Interim Report after 6 months.

Expenses

1. Sitting Fee/Honorarium for the Chair and Members
2. Funds for Travel and Accommodation for the Commission Members / Experts
3. State of the Art Website of the Commission
4. Cost of organising monthly Kerala Urban Dialogue Series
5. Cost of sectoral and thematic studies including mapping the geospatial patterns of urbanisation in Kerala.
6. Urban Labs for documenting the regional dynamics of urbanisation to be conducted by Planning Schools/Academic Institutions teaching urban planning/urban studies
7. Remuneration/Consulting Fee for the staff at the KILA Urban Policy Cell
8. Meetings/Consultations/Focus Group Discussions
9. National Policy Forum

10. Cost of hosting the technical secretariat at KILA

11. National and international outreach including organising Policy Forums

12. Documenting, disseminating and printing the report and other miscellaneous expenditure

Source of Funds

The Kerala State Budget 2023 has kept a provision for funding the Urban Policy Commission. Since one of the activities taken up under the KfW funded Accompanying Measures Grant under the World Bank funded Program for Results (P for R) being a draft Urban Policy, costs of studies, documenting, conducting Urban Labs and organising a national level Policy Forum to disseminate the Urban Policy will be covered under the KfW Grant.

The State AMRUT Mission Office is involved in identifying various reforms agendas. Since the draft Urban Policy Framework prepared by Government of India in 2018 has called for State Urban Policies which can lead to a series of urban sector reforms, funds available under AMRUT Mission for urban reforms (100% central grant) can also be availed to support the activities of the Commission. Expenses of the commission will be met without any additional demand from the state fund.

Urban Policy Commission – proposed constitution:

It is proposed that subject to approval of the structure of the Commission, the following persons of eminence may be considered as members of the Commission:

Chair: Dr M Satish Kumar, Senior Associate Professor and Director, Queen's India Academy, Q U Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK

Co Chair: Adv M Anil kumar, Mayor, Kochi and Chairperson, Mayors' Council

Co Chair: Dr E. Narayanan , Former Faculty, CEPT University, Ahmedabad,
and Urban and Regional Planning consultant World Bank and ADB

Member Secretary : Secretary Local Self Government Department

Members:

1. Dr Janaki Nair, Prof (Rtd) Centre for Historical Studies, JNU
2. Sri Krishnadas, Chairperson Guruvayur Municipality and Chairperson,
Chamber of Municipal Chairpersons
3. Prof Dr. K.S. James, Former Director, International Institute of Population
Studies, Mumbai
4. Sri V. Suresh, Former CMD, HUDCO
5. Sri Hitesh Vaidya, Former Director, National Institute of Urban Affairs,
New Delhi
6. Prof Dr. Ashok Kumar, Dean, School of Planning and Architecture, New
Delhi
7. Dr. Y.V. N Krishnamurthy, Former Registrar, IIST, Thiruvananthapuram
8. Prof K. T Ravindran, Academic Advisor, RICS School of Built
Environment, NOIDA
9. Sri Tikender Singh Panwar, Former Deputy Mayor, Shimla