



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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1. Introduction

Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) is a Kerala State Government enterprise, setup to foster, promote and implement modernisation of educational institutions in the State of Kerala. Through its operation spanning two decades, KITE has revolutionised the education system of the State. Its spectrum include Information & Communication Technology, Capacity Building, Content Development, Connectivity, e-Learning, Satellite based education, Support and Maintenance mechanism, e-Governance or also physical infrastructure upgradation of schools. KITE pioneered use of FOSS (Free and Open Source Software) in Education. Through the Rs.493.50 Cr Hi-Tech School in 4752 Secondary schools and Rs.300 Cr Hi-Tech Lab in 11275 Primary schools, KITE has transformed the public schools into Centres of Excellence, benefitting to 16026 schools and covering 4.5 million students from classes 1 to 12. The mandate of KITE goes beyond IT & School education and now include general infrastructure building in Higher education also. www.kite.kerala.gov.in

KITE VICTERS is the complete educational channel of KITE which is operational since 2006. VICTERS was inaugurated by H.E. A P J Abdul Kalam the President of India on 28th July, 2005 in Thiruvananthapuram and the channel was inaugurated by Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala on 3rd August 2006. The channel which is telecast for 24X7, is unique in the sense that it caters to students & teachers on a need based manner, and programs are aired on demand, sensitive to school curriculum and even timetable. KITE VICTERS covers over 93% of entire households in the State. VICTERS is now available in all DTH networks in addition to Cable networks, Live streaming via www.victers.kite.kerala.gov.in and even as a Mobile App which is available in PlayStore and Apple Store.

KITE has its State Office at Thiruvananthapuram, which also houses the Main Studio and Uplinking Station of KITE VICTERS. It also has district offices in each of the 14 districts, which also act for Content Production for the channel.

2. Important programmes implemented



A. First Bell Digital Classes

In view of the Covid-19 outbreak, even though the State schools have remained closed, the Academic Year has commenced on 1st June itself, as in previous years, through First Bell online classes aired through KITE VICTERS educational channel. The classes are telecasted daily from 8.30 AM to 5.30 PM with repeat telecasts on weekends and the contents are prepared by KITE, SCERT and SSK which are vetted by a team of academicians before telecast. KITE has also facilitated LIVE broadcast of the classes through its Facebook page www.facebook.com/victerseduchannel and also through YouTube channel www.youtube.com/itsvicters for offline / deferred viewing.

Government have approved this programme vide GO.(Rt.).No.1756/2020/G.Edn dated 29.05.2020. Director of General Education has issued a Circular No.QIP(1)/9141/2020/DGE dated 30.05.2020 directing the school authorities to ensure necessary arrangements for students for viewing the classes. A Circular was also issued by KITE (Circular No.KITE/2020/1515-6(2) dated 02.06.2020) for all Hi-Tech schools to make available the services of 1.20 Lakh Laptops and 70000 Projectors deployed as part of the Hi-Tech projects, especially for those students who are deprived of a Cable Connection or Television at their homes. KITE VICTERS channel is now available in all DTH/Cable networks throughout the State. Tremendous response has been received from students, parents and public on 'First Bell' classes which is evident from the fact that as much as 27 TB (Tera Byte) of data was downloaded in a single day through VICTERS web. The YouTube channel of VICTERS now has over 1 Million subscribers, while over 16.50 lakh downloads of the Mobile App of VICTERS have been recorded from Google Play Store. The viewership of some classes exceeded 40 lakhs. Apart from India, the classes are also viewed by hundreds of people from Middle East as well as from America and European region.

KITE has also facilitated Tamil and Kannada medium of First Bell classes, for the benefit of students in Kasaragod, Palakkad and Idukki districts. These classes have been prepared in association with SSK and DIETS of that region, and the classes are made available in YouTube channels www.youtube.com/drcpkd and www.youtube.com/kitekasaragod respectively, thus ensuring that not even a single student misses out the learning opportunities.

Number of Digital Classes made in 2020-21.

Total Classes made: 9081

Class	No of Digital Classes made by KITE VICTERS
Kilikonchal (Pre-Primary)	176
Std 1	212
Std 2	203
Std 3	241
Std 4	241
Std 5	258
Std 6	251
Std 7	268
Std 8	409
Std 9	448
Std 10	645
Plus One	915
Plus Two	1093
Sign-in Language for Std 10	12
Tamil medium	1602
Kannada medium	1952
Yoga	65
Hello English	20
Little KITES	18
Health	3
Sports	23
Covid prevention	13
Mental Health	12
Kalapadanam	1
Total	9081

When the Government decided to start the Digital Classes through KITE VICTERS channel, KITE had already used the same model for training of over 81000 Primary teachers in March and May 2020. For rolling out the Digital Classes, the existing infrastructure of KITE VICTERS studio was made use of, without compromising on quality. Critical upgradations with respect to systems were undertaken. Initially SCERT and SSK were also part of Content production, but due to frequent issues needed repetitive re-edit and sort, KITE was assigned with the sole responsibility of preparation of digital classes. After a point when the number of classes were increased and the Head Office of KITE VICTERS alone could not take the load, the District Offices of KITE were assigned with dedicated content development, for which the made use of the DSLR Camera provided as part of Hi-Tech school project. In some places, the services of a professional in content making was utilised. However after months of digital classes, our teachers are now confident to make the classes on their own.

KITE has ensured complete reach of KITE VICTERS channel throughout the State using multiple platforms. The DTH operators who were once reluctant to carry the channel queued up for including the channel due to high demand from students and parents. The Mobile and Web interfaces of the channel further enhanced its reach among the target populace. Today the YouTube channel of KITE VICTERS has over 2.3 Million subscribers, a milestone even the commercial channels are yet to achieve. A daily production of 10 hours of fresh content is also almost unachievable for any other channel. The FaceBook page of the channel now has over 1.25 Lakh followers.



First Bell rings in the 'new normal'

Lakhs of schoolchildren watch on TV, online platforms as teachers take lessons remotely

R.K. ROSHNI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The rain kept its date with school reopening on June 1, but everything else was different. The school gates did not open, there was a deafening silence, and even the first bell that rang was a virtual one. On the first day of the 2020-21 academic year, students watched on television and other online platforms as teachers took lessons remotely, scripting a new chapter in school education.

First Bell, the programme on the KITE Victers channel and other online mechanisms, began with a message by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan reminding students of education's 'new normal' where owing to the restrictions necessitated by COVID-19, traditional classes were not possible.

The classes got under way with a half-an-hour English session for Plus Two students. After two hours, it was time for Class 1 students to hear the recorded classes. Up next was a slot for Class



Scripting a new chapter: Students attend online classes aired on the KITE Victers channel from a house at Chengalchoola in Thiruvananthapuram on Monday. *S. MAHINSHA

10 students.

The online lessons, for students from Classes 1 to 12 except 11, are available on the Victers channel through the cable network and a couple of direct-to-home service providers. They are available live on the portal www.victers.kite.kerala.gov.in and on Facebook ([facebook.com/victerseduchannel](https://www.facebook.com/victerseduchannel)), and on the Victers YouTube channel [youtube.com/itsvicters](https://www.youtube.com/itsvicters) after

transmission. The programmes will be telecast again - the same day or the weekend. The telecast in the first week will be on a trial basis. The classes will be repeated in the same order from June 8.

The Samagra Shiksha, Kerala, estimates that nearly 2.6 lakh to 3 lakh of the 43 lakh schoolchildren in the State have no access to television with cable connection

or phones or computers with the Internet.

Opposite view

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithal termed the government's decision to start online classes hasty, saying it did not benefit over half the students. Children in coastal, tribal, and hilly regions could not view the classes for lack of facilities.

Minister for Education C.

Ravindranath said that to address this problem, local bodies would make arrangements for viewing the classes. Government officials said resources such as libraries, study centres, Kudumbashree units, Akshaya centres, and KITE's hi-tech facilities would now be mobilised.

Vrinda S.K., a Plus Two Science student at Government Higher Secondary School for Girls, Cotton Hill, said though they were familiar with ICT education in school, it was still a new experience to start the school year. The videos were successful in creating the classroom vibe, though doubts could not be asked rightaway. Preetha K.L., Principal, said they had received a feedback that most of the students had watched the classes and liked them. They had also asked subject teachers for notes on topics. A meeting of teachers was being planned to decide how to provide additional support to the students in terms of reference material and so on.

B. Kerala becomes first state to become completely Digital in Education

KITE through its innovative, rigorous and meticulous activities has enabled the State to become completely digital in Education. Hon. Chief Minister made this announcement on 13.10.2020.

CM: Kerala first in nation to make edu sector fully digital

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@TPuram

KERALA has become the first state in the country to make the public education sector fully digital, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday.

The chief minister, who made the official declaration through video-conferencing, said the Public Education Protection Campaign — under which the project was implemented — was the state's best model to the world on how development projects can be successfully carried out with people's participation. Under the project, all government schools in the state have be-

come hi-tech with smart classrooms.

Though ₹793.5 crore was allocated from the KIIFB for the project, it could be completed with ₹595 crore. He said the government was able to execute the project in the shortest possible time and that too with minimum cost. The chief minister acknowledged that renovation and electrification of schools witnessed large-scale intervention at the local level. Works to the tune of ₹135.5 crore was carried out by local people. Pinarayi lauded elected representatives, teachers, parents and former students for their contribution towards making the project a success.



State's public education goes digital

Kerala presenting a good model in rejuvenating public education: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Public Education Rejuvenation Mission is an excellent participatory development model that Kerala is presenting before the world, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday.

He was speaking after declaring the State's public education sector as the first to go completely digital and announcing the completion of hi-tech classroom and hi-tech lab projects in government and aided schools.

Kerala succeeded in ushering in major reforms in public education when governments all over the world were gradually withdrawing from public facilities. The step taken by the State would benefit future generations, Mr. Vijayan said.

He said that the credit for the achievement belonged to the entire State and not just the LDW government. "The Public Education Rejuvenation Mission has drawn cooperation from all sides. We were able to transform the notion that the public education sector was in shambles. Today there is no such concern. That schools in the State have registered an increase by five lakh students over the past few years reveals how students and parents have received this



Accessible to all: Infrastructure created in THSS, Muttack, in Thiruvananthapuram, as part of the hi-tech school project.

initiative," he added.

Global standards

Infrastructure facilities as well as academic standards of the schools had been improved in the efforts taken to raise schools in Kerala to international standards, he said. He also urged teachers to sustain the pace of progress achieved in the sector.

Hi-tech classrooms and hi-tech labs in schools were established by the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) with financial assistance from Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB). In

all, 3,74,274 digital equipment were distributed to schools.

In the first phase, 45,000 hi-tech classrooms for Classes 8 to 12 were readied in

4,752 government and aided high schools and higher secondary schools. Hi-tech labs were started in 18,275 primary and upper primary schools for Classes 1 to 7.

Schools to remain shut: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan indicated on Monday that schools in the State will remain shut for the time being, given the COVID-19 situation.

Schools would be re-

opened as and when it was practically possible. The situation in the State did not allow it at the moment, he said. Digital classes on the KITE-VICTERS channel could not be considered a substitute for classroom learning, he said.

C. Special drives in view of Covid-19 outbreak.

In the wake of lockdown due to Covid-19 outbreak, the Govt had called off the school annual examinations upto Primary level in March. KITE imparted specific IT training for over 81,000 primary teachers in the State in an Online mode, through a focussed intervention in 11,274 schools. Unlike the normal mode, the Online version of the ICT training was completed within 5 days, by making effective use of all Hi-Tech facilities made available in schools. By making use of Samagra resource portal, the teachers were able to participate in the training programme either through self-learning using the available resources or through group study. Necessary support systems such as Video Conferencing with a mentor for a fixed number of schools, social media and help desk for doubts clearing and monitoring were also been set-up.

KITE in association with SCERT also introduced a special program called Avadikala Santhoshangal (Happy Vacation times) for kids to recoup the lost class days in schools due to the lockdown declared. The program was intended to also provide an opportunity for enabling a creative and intellectual environment for kids at homes. As a first phase of this program, digital content have been created for all students from Standard 5 to 9 in the SAMAGRA online resource portal developed by KITE as part of the Hi-Tech school project. These contents are developed in specific edutainment form so that the students can acquire the defined skills through various games and activities.

Through the Aksharavriksham initiative of Education Department, over 45000 contents which include articles, short stories and poems made be children on Environment, Hygiene, and Prevention against diseases etc have been published in SchoolWiki portal.



D. KITE featured among the Best Models by NITI AYOOG

KITE was featured among the elite list of best models in Human Resource Development category published by NITI AYOOG. The report highlights the interventions made by KITE in infrastructure upgradation of schools, use of ICT in education, training, content development, internet connectivity, eLearning, Satellite based education, support systems and eGovernance as the model to be followed not only by other States in the Country but also by other nations.


KITE among best models in NITI Aayog list

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thiruvananthapuram: KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education) has found itself among the elite list of best models in Human Resource Development category published by NITI AYOOG.

The report released on November 17 highlights the interventions made by KITE in infrastructure upgradation of schools, use of ICT in education, training, content development, internet connectivity, e-learning, satellite-based education, support systems and e-governance as the model to be emulated by all, a statement from KITE'S CEO Anvar Sathath said on Saturday.

NITI AYOOG has documented 23 best practices covering areas like innovation, technology, gender mainstreaming, convergence, involvement of civil society organizations, etc. These practices have been included based on their key impact and contribution to the wider public policy context, by highlighting lessons



The report released on November 17 highlights the interventions made by KITE in infrastructure upgradation of schools, use of ICT in education, training, content development, internet connectivity, e-learning

learnt which may be useful for scale-up or cross-adoption.

Earlier, in addition to the southern states, there have been inquiries from across the country from states such as Gujarat, Punjab, New Delhi, Odisha and West Bengal on how to replicate the KITE model in education, the statement said.

National laurel for KITE

**STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

KITE (Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education) has figured on the list of best models in human resource development published by the NITI-Aayog.

A report, released on November 17, highlights the interventions made by KITE in infrastructure upgrade of schools, use of information and communications technology in education, training, content development, Internet connectivity, e-learning, satellite-based education, and e-governance as a model to be followed not only by other States but also other nations, a statement from KITE said. As part of the hi-tech school projects, KITE has set up 3.74 lakh ICT equipment in 16,027 government and aided schools and provided broadband Internet in 12,678 schools.

E. ICT Hardware Deployment to 1359 additional Primary schools in the Hi-Tech Lab for Primary schools project.

Govt vide GO(Rt.) No.4978/2019/G.Edn dated 20.11.2019 had accorded Administrative Sanction for providing one Laptop, one Projector and One set of USB Speakers to 1359 Primary schools which were earlier excluded from the Hi-Tech Lab for Primary schools project due to lesser number of students. Subsequently KIIFB vide Proceedings Order No.GED001-01-MISC-01 dated 15.02.2020 has also approved this additional requirement for Primary schools. Accordingly KITE has commenced the distribution of ICT equipments for the 1331 schools at the rate of one Laptop, Projector and USB speaker each.

F. Insurance coverage for ICT equipments deployed to Primary schools.

KITE has facilitated Insurance coverage to the ICT equipments provided to Primary schools also as part of Hi-Tech Lab project, through Public Sector Undertaking M/s United India Insurance Corporation. In total, 440976 ICT equipments deployed to 14693 Govt & Aided schools where the Hi-Tech School and Hi-Tech Lab project was implemented has been provided with Insurance Coverage. These equipments include 114858 Laptops, 66592 Projectors, 4714 DSLR Cameras, 4545 LED TVs, 4720 Full HD Webcam, 23104 Projection Screen, 41878 HDMI Cables, 40614 Faceplates, 41789 Ceiling Mounting Kits, 97825 USB Speakers and 337 Desktops, which are worth over ₹ 547 Cr. It is the first time in India that insurance protection is enabled to IT equipments of such massive scale. By having this facility, the IT equipments deployed in schools are covered from theft, fire, natural calamities (flood, earthquake etc).

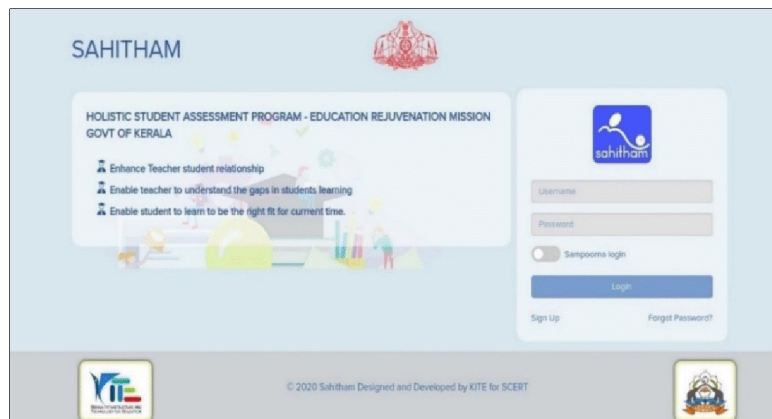
G. E³ English programme



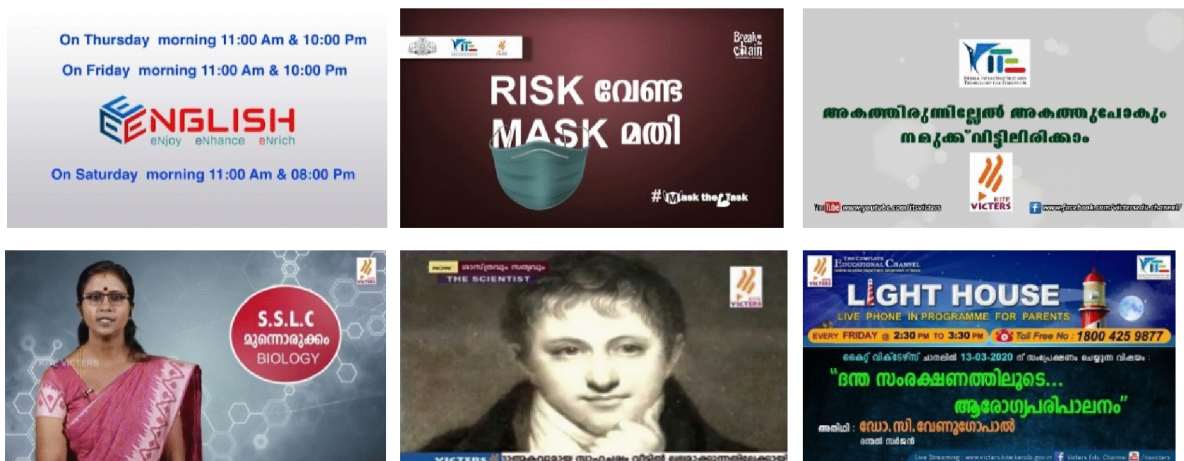
Government vide GO (Rt.) No.804/2020/G.Edn dated 17.02.2020 has accorded sanction for the E³ (Enjoy, Enhance & Enrich) English programme for enhancing and enriching the English language proficiency of students by making use of Hi-Tech lab facilities in schools. The three pronged project has three components viz Samagra e-Library, e-Language Lab and e-Broadcast. Over 300 English stories have been developed for Samagra e-Library in association with Pratham Books. The offline portal for e-Language lab has been completed, which comprises of reading cards, audio clips and work sheets. Videos of stories have been developed in KITE VICTERS channel for e-broadcast.

H. eGovernance

Government vide GO(Rt.) No.763/2020/G.Edn dated 14.02.2020 has rolled out the SAHITHAM programme developed by KITE with academic support of SCERT, to provide mentoring support to students for harmonising their social and emotional skills along with academic competencies. As part of this programme, the mentor teacher gets to closely observe, study and record online the academic improvement of each student along with their the socio-linguistic skills, social awareness, scientific aptitude etc. In addition to that, the teacher would be able to plan necessary corrective learning activities by understanding the learning difficulties of students by observing their social background. Teachers would be provided with even psychological types of training as part of this program.



I. KITE VICTERS educational channel- new programmes of 2020-21



3. Status of Funds

An amount of ₹ 34 Cr was earmarked for KITE (IT) under the Plan Funds of State Govt under the Head of Account- 4202-01-202-80. Out of which an amount of Rs.14.43 was released to KITE in 2 installments. The expenditure incurred was as follows;

Sl. No.	Components	Amount approved (Rs.Cr)	Amount sanctioned (Rs.Cr)	Expenditure as on 31.03.2021 (Rs.Cr)
1.	ICT Hardware Deployment and Maintenance	7	14.43	0.56
2.	Content Development	6		1.08
3.	Infrastructure upgradation	5		1.24
4.	Monitoring and Capacity Building	10		3.90
5.	Best ICT practices, Project management & eGovernance	6		4.45
	Grand Total	34	14.43	11.23

An amount of Rs.3.41 Cr was resumed by Govt on 31.03.2021.

4. Infrastructure Division:

The Infrastructure developments of Government Schools & Colleges entrusted to KITE under the schemes of Modernization of Schools to International Standards as Centres of Excellence & Betterment of Infrastructure facilities [GED] & Augmentation of Infrastructure facilities in Government Arts & Colleges [HED] marked an outstanding progress in the financial year 2020-2021 amid the pandemic circumstances.

Even though the pandemic restrictions have affected the field works in various ways, the progress of works were evident with the inauguration of 182 School projects out of 237 GED projects, and the completion and handing over of 120 projects. The HED projects are also in progress. By the end of financial year 2021, an amount of 597Cr has been released to Contractors against the achieved milestones. The consolidation of the progress of work is given below:-

Projects	Scheme	No. of Institutions	Completed & handed over	Inaugurated Projects	Payment released up to the FY 2020-2021 [in Cr.]
GED	5 Cr	141	67	109	385
	3 Cr	96	53	73	186
HED	-	12	0	0	26
Total		249	120	182	597

A glimpse on the transition of Govt. Schools are given below:

A. GHSS Kunchithanny, [5 Cr] Idukki Dist. Devikulam Constituency.

Before

After



B. GHSS Neeleswaram, [5 Cr] Kozhikode Dist., Thiruvambadi Constituency

Before

After



C. GHSS Cheruthuruthy, [5 Cr], Thrissur Dist., Chelakkara Constituency.

Before



After



5. Recognition for KITE during 2020-21

During 2020-21, KITE won the Technology Sabha Award for its School Wiki / Akshara Vriksham initiative. KITE- VICTERS also won the State Television Awards for Best Students programme and Best Anchor category.

****End of Report****