

Momentum builds for Emerging Kerala Global Connect

Prime Minister to inaugurate event in September

Thiruvananthapuram, July 16: Emerging Kerala 2012, the flagship global connect programme of the state government, has begun racking up an impressive guest list with a host of invitees from within India and around the globe confirming participation.

Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Manmohan Singh will inaugurate the three-day summit which will be held at the Le Meridien Convention Hall in Kochi from September 12 to 14.

Besides ministers from Kerala who are in the Union Cabinet, Union Ministers expected to attend Emerging Kerala 2012 include Kumari Selja, Shri. Anand Sharma, Shri. Kamal Nath, Shri. Ghulam Nabi Azad and Shri. Vilasrao Deshmukh, with others expected to confirm their participation ahead of the event.

Alongside state and central ministers, the government has extended invitations to dignitaries including senior government officials, corporate leaders, heads of governments, diplomats and foreign trade delegations, heads of financial institutions, leading economists, renowned scholars, business leaders and other eminent personalities.

An official delegation from China's Yunnan Province will be led by Mr. Zhu Fel, the Deputy Director General of the Department of Commerce.

Dr Francoise Cluzeau, Senior Adviser at the UK-based National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, will deliver a keynote address on ensuring quality in healthcare services in Kerala.

Policy experts and thought leaders including **Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia**, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of India; **Dr Sam Pitroda**, Advisor to the Prime Minister and Kerala's Mentor; **Prof. Gita Gopinath**, Professor of Economics at Harvard University; leading industrialists and top executives of some of India's best known companies such as Tata, Infosys, Godrej and Mahindra and Mahindra will also attend.

The League of Arab States has resolved to take part in the event and their trade and diplomatic delegations are expected to arrive two days in advance for high-level discussions and dialogue.

Diplomatic delegations from several other countries, including the UK, US, Australia and Singapore, have already visited the state in the run-up to the event and expressed interest in inter-governmental and business partnerships.

An invitation-only event, Emerging Kerala will feature sectoral conferences, policy dialogue sessions, B2B and B2G meets and other networking opportunities.

Spread across three days of the Emerging Kerala summit will be plenary sessions on subjects ranging from a review of the existing Kerala development model to infrastructure growth and financial reforms.

Special sectoral sessions will cover 11 areas that have the potential to become Kerala's growth engines, including IT and ITES, Knowledge services, Tourism, Healthcare, Energy, Science and Technology, Infrastructure and Financial Services.

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