

## Family get together and New Year celebration

The Quilon Management Association (QMA) held its family get together and new year celebration on 18/01/2025 at the Quilon Beach Hotel. The event was honored by the presence of **Sri Devidas N, IAS** District Collector, Kollam. Sri N Jayachandran QMA president chaired the meeting.



The District Collector (DC) of Kollam emphasized the importance of responsible growth and the role of organizations like QMA in guiding the youth towards a positive path. Kollam district, has been highlighted as a key area for development, particularly in the realm of tourism.

One of the key drivers of Kollam's development is its tourism industry. The city is blessed with a stunning coastline, scenic backwaters, and a rich cultural heritage, making it an attractive destination for tourists. The development of tourism infrastructure, such as hotels, resorts, and tourist amenities, has created employment opportunities and generated revenue for the local economy. The Kerala government's initiatives to promote tourism, such as the development of the Kollam Beach and the Ashtamudi Lake, have also contributed to the growth of the sector. Tourism is a significant contributor to Kollam's economy, with the district boasting a rich cultural heritage and natural beauty. The district's rich cultural heritage and natural beauty make it an attractive destination for tourists. The DC's speech underscored the need to harness this potential to drive development and create opportunities for the local population.



Another area of focus for Kollam's development is its infrastructure. The city's strategic location makes it an important hub for trade and commerce. The development of the Kollam Port, one of the oldest ports in India, has facilitated the growth of maritime trade and commerce. The expansion of the National Highway 66, which passes through Kollam, has improved connectivity and facilitated the movement of goods and people. The development of the Kollam Railway Station and the introduction of new train services have also enhanced connectivity and boosted economic growth.



In addition to its tourism and infrastructure development, Kollam is also focusing on the growth of its industrial sector. The city has a strong presence of small and medium-scale industries, particularly in the sectors of textiles, food processing, and manufacturing. The Kerala government's initiatives to promote industrial growth, such as the development of industrial parks and estates, have created opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors. The growth of the industrial sector has also generated employment opportunities and contributed to the local economy.

Interestingly, Kollam stands out as a district in Kerala with a high influx of foreign money. This is evident from the numerous foreign exchange services available in the area.



The QMA's role in guiding the youth is crucial in this context. By providing mentorship and support, QMA can help shape the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs in Kollam. This, in turn, can contribute to the district's overall development and growth.

The development of Kollam junction, Paravur station, and Karunagappally station has been identified as a key area for growth. Vizhinjam port - Kollam port - Punaloor triangle high way will be another major infrastructure development.



Despite its development potential, Kollam faces several challenges that need to be addressed. One of the major concerns is the high suicide rate among the youth, which is attributed to various factors, including unemployment, poverty, and social pressures. The city also grapples with issues of drug abuse, which affects the youth and has serious social and economic implications. The need for effective interventions, including counseling, education, and job creation, is critical to addressing these challenges.

The District Collector expressed concern over the high suicide rate in Kollam, emphasizing the need for effective interventions. The DC also highlighted the issue of drug abuse among youths, stressing the importance of proper guidance and support. The need for proper guidance and mentorship for youths was emphasized, to ensure they make informed choices and lead healthy, productive lives.

The development potential of Kollam is significant, with opportunities for growth in tourism, infrastructure, and participatory spatial planning. However, social concerns such as high suicide rates, drug abuse, and the need for proper youth guidance must be addressed to ensure holistic development and well-being of the community.



The organization like QMA plays a vital role in guiding the youth and shaping the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs in Kollam. The district's growth and development are closely tied to the responsible harnessing of its tourism potential and the guidance of its youth.

A memento was presented to DC by QMA president. The certificates to newly joined members were distributed. The event started at 7.00 pm with musical concert and QMA Secretary General Sri P N Appukuttan welcomed the gathering. Dr, A.S. Shaji introduced the chief guest to the audience. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by QMA Secretary Administration Sri. Prathap Chandran and dinner thereafter.

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