

LIBERAL GROUP - KERALA

(A word or two about us)

We are affiliated to Indian Liberal Group, Bombay founded by Minoo Masani, the veteran freedom fighter and doyen of Indian Liberal Movement in the year 1964. Among other things we believe in

1. Restoration of values or 'Dharma' in society.
2. Dignity of the individual, respect for human freedoms in all walks of life and autonomy of groups and organizations of free men.
3. A Limited govt., and decentralization of powers at all levels, with a vibrant and participatory Local govt.
4. A Free Market Economy, regulated in public interest and on considerations of equity and fairplay.
5. Bringing up Good leadership at all levels as a pre-requisite for good governance.

While our area of activity is limited to the State of Kerala, we collaborate and network with like minded organisations in the pursuit of our common objectives both in India and abroad.

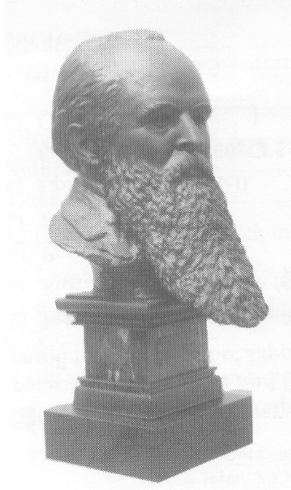
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KERALA & GLOBALIZATION

Dr. V. Ramachandran

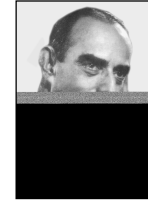
Vice Chairman, Kerala State Planning Board





*“Liberty is not the power
of doing what we like, but
the right of being able to
do what we ought.”*

LORD ACTON



Remembering Minoo Masani

On his Birth Centenary Year:
November 20, 2004 - November 20, 2005

Dear Friend,

Liberal Group - Kerala is a vibrant Liberal Think Tank committed to promote democratic values at the grass root level. As a part of his birth centenary celebrations we are holding an **All Kerala Minoo Masani Memorial Essay competition** on the topic **“Relevance of Liberal ideas in the Kerala context”**. The selected essays will be given attractive **cash awards**. Your essay should not be more than 5 pages of A4 size paper.

Write to us today in the address given below, showing your complete address, Tel. No. and E-mail address if any and the name of your institution. There will not be any entry fee. It will be a continuous affair till 2005.

Do join us in making a **Free and Virtuous Kerala!!** We got Political Freedom from the Britishers in 1947 but we have yet to get Economic Freedom from our political masters. Freedom is our birth right and without Freedom we cannot have progress and prosperity.

Yours Sincerely

(sd/-)

Prof. Babu Joseph

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Kerala and Globalization

(Speech delivered by Dr. V. Ramachandran, Vice Chairman, Kerala State Planning Board at a meeting organised by Indian Liberal Group Kerala on 16th Dec. 2003 at Trivandrum for a young audience. The views expressed here are not necessarily the views of the Liberal Group Kerala).

My Dear Young Friends,

As it is difficult to speak in Malayalam on so complex a subject to a young audience with a fair set of facts and ideas, I would prefer to speak in English with the permission of the President Prof. Babu Joseph. My old friend Sri. Sankara Narayana Pillai has in his own inimitable way not only entertained you but he has also educated you and almost delivered in his inimitable style a keynote address. As regards the core message that has to be conveyed there is nothing more to say than what he has said that **things change constantly and now a days they change very fast** and there is nothing permanent; maybe diamonds are permanent but economic policies, public policies the way societies organize themselves and develop, there is nothing permanent about them. They have to adjust constantly and those who adjust constantly become more and more developed and contribute to further growth and development and those who do not adjust, slowly become frozen and end up as what you now call scheduled tribes and those

who do not adjust slowly withdraw themselves and preserve the life of 10,000 years ago or 20,000 years ago and then those who have adjusted call them tribes. But that is not how Kerala people have conducted themselves the last few thousands years.

This part of the world, this part of our country with the long coastline has always been in touch with the rest of the world. Much before people from other countries like Egypt, Ancient Rome, Greece came to other parts of India, they came to Malabar. Malabar is a word, which is well known in Europe from ancient times. They traded with this part of the world mainly for its forest products, which they did not have in those countries. They gave certain things, which they had. But mostly gold, horses and other things but what they were keen on was the spices and particularly pepper. Pepper was for a few thousand years what now oil is. It was one commodity, which was so peculiar to Malabar and was then available only here, subsequently it has been introduced into South East Asia and for four hundred years it was very peculiar and it was grown in forests. Pepper was not cultivated in those days. People used to gather it from forests and then serve. Even when Vascodagama came, the Samorin gave him pepper collected only from forests and the forest yield of pepper was five times the yield we get now in cultivated pepper. The pepper dominated and as a result of it there was a lot of inter-change with the rest of the world, starting as I said, with the Ancient Egypt. In fact Mohammed who founded Islam rebelled against the Arabian Merchants who made such a lot of money on pepper trade getting it in the South of Arabia taking it on Camels and selling it in Europe that they led debauched life.

Mohammed was protesting against the luxurious and debauched life of merchants; that is why it is a simple religion for all people. Then came, knowing about this pepper which as I said is the only spice available in the world for thousands of years invaders who said that India is so rich and Malabar is so rich. James Mitchner a famous American Novelist called it 'Paradise' and as he says in his book '**Rascals in Paradise.**' Rascals got envious of this wealth and came here. He refers as rascals to the Portugese, Dutch and other shipmen who were openly welcome but who came in to trade but then slowly started occupying, when they found that the people were divided, were quarreling with each other and they could take sides and therefore extend their influence. They themselves never wanted to colonize. It was the internal divisions here, which encouraged them to colonize, and they brought with them a good many things for trade. Now we cannot have a single meal without chillies but chilly is not an Indian plant. Chilly is from Mexico and Amazon. It was introduced by the Portuguese in Malabar as a poor man's substitute for the increasing price of pepper, in which at that time, they didn't have the monopoly, the Arabs had the monopoly.

So in order to destroy the monopoly of the Arabs they discovered when they first went to Americas **Chilly** and there was nobody to grow it there because Amazon was the forest with tribes .So they brought chillies to India introduced it in Cochin, Malabar area and made people grow. Nobody would touch chillies in India because pepper is the spice but what do we say now; you say you eat without chilly, what are you talking? In our homes when we do this annual ceremony to the ancestors what we called '**Sraddha**'

even today chilly is not used because pepper is the spice which Indian ancestors and Gods have supposed to have eaten not chilly. Even when I now perform this 'Sradha' that day's feast is made in pepper. I can eat that food but my children and my nephews and nieces say what kind of food is this that every thing is made in pepper, it is inedible. But for thousands of years people ate only that, they fought for it and came here for it, made millions on it, made Malabar and India rich on it. Now our taste has changed; that you want chillies not pepper that is what he was referring to, "that things change". They introduced many things. 80% of the fruits and vegetables that we now eat are not Indian. All young people must know this, that is why I am mentioning it.

The Portuguese introduced a very large number starting as I said chillies, cashew nuts, cashew then all kinds of this bread fruit and this and that and later when the English came they introduced all the temperate vegetables and fruits like apples, cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, all manner of things potato, without which you cannot now live. You may start wondering what Indians ate four hundred years ago but you may write it down. But they did have something like banana and snakegourd things like that and as a result of this trade increased, introduction by others who came here, everybody would agree that our food, our menu has become highly diversified. It is not a very restricted simple food that we are now having. We have forty, fifty different things, previously there were only three or four things. Even Tapioca, which was a staple food here, was introduced here from Amazon two hundred years ago. I don't know whether all these things are taught to you

in your school and college it is not, I know, that is why now I am referring to them when I see young people.

The big plants on which the Kerala economy grew during the last hundred and fifty years and the growers of which now generally speak against what is now called globalization and I refer to Rubber, Tea, Coffee, they are not Indian. Rubber is again an Amazon Delta plant introduced here. Coffee and Tea were introduced by the British because they can't grow it in England and Europe. They grew it here. They destroyed our forests cut down all the trees, took away the Teak and Rosewood and in its place introduced Coffee, Tea and Rubber mono-culture from which we are now suffering but we say that is best and its price is going down and it is due to globalization. It came due to globalization and if it goes due to globalization then you have to address to it. It is not going. I am only saying. So neither Coffee nor Tea, nor Rubber nor any of the things we are now familiar with, at least 80, 90% of them were brought in, because of what is now called globalization. But in earlier times, earlier years called trade, exchange between people etc. Some introduced quite as a matter of course, some introduced through wars and occupation but nevertheless brought from outside than inside because other countries wanted these things which they didn't have it, we were able to do it, that is how India became a rich country and all that kind of things.

The same applies to the field of **Culture**. Many people say our culture will be taken over now by globalization-could be, but the fact is that culture also constantly adjusts. When I came to Kerala state forty five years ago I saw women only in white clothes. Some mundu and some thing. Then I saw them in sarees. Now I

generally do not see anybody below 30 in any dress other than salwar kameez. Some still in Jeans and all but salwar kameez. Now if twenty years ago people talked of salwar kameez, you would be told, what are you talking? you are destroying Kerala culture. But things change, its dress. There is no traditional Carnatic music performance now. I am just giving you examples and then I will come to globalization. You must know it in proper perspective that is why I am referring to it which is generally not said in a classroom. Generally not conveyed to young people so that they take to streets and start throwing stones. If they know all these they would not. There is a traditional Carnatic music performance of which most of you would have seen if not attended, it comes on and off on TV and cannot be conducted without violin. But violin is not an Indian Instrument. It was introduced hundred and fifty years ago. Expert Carnatic music composers said “this instrument can be very good, such nice sound it makes, why don’t we use it for Carnatic music”. Then they experimented with it, they worked on it, they found that the Europeans who brought it, and used it in a particular way held it like this and they said we will hold it like this and we will change it a bit here and there and now you cannot have better Carnatic music than on Violin or for that matter are mentally so used to it. So is the case with instruments like Saxophone and others all of which are non-Indian. Same is the case in other countries; they got everything from India in the earlier years in the rest of the world starting from zero. India may now be considered a zero but zero started from here.

So every knowledge went for thousands of years from India, all astronomy, astrology, science, and medicine everything went from India up to the 10th century. It is after the invasion and

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destruction of a number of these centers of knowledge, that knowledge became hidden in India. Before that whether it was Ayurveda or Medicine or whatever it was, that went from India to Arabia and through that civilization to Europe and that the Europeans worked more on it and that is the modern medicine which we now get back from them. But the starting point for all modern Mathematics, Physics, Medicine, and Surgery was India for thousands of years. But then in the 11th century as Alburuni wrote on his visit he came to such a country which has produced all this knowledge, something wonderful must be happening there. So he came and spent thirty years in India and wrote a book on India; a book worth reading for every young person and he found that India had become stagnant. He said that this vibrant country has already started thinking that all, end of all knowledge has been achieved because they were frightened by invasion. Their leads, their knowledge all except that which was conveyed orally was destroyed in many libraries and centres of learning so they were hiding it to particular families, particular groups of people so that they can be preserved and as generations passed they thought nothing new can be found. But the world was finding newer and newer things.

The basis being India and as they went on finding it, they developed modern civilization and all that. The only thing that went wrong with it was, in the last 300 years prior to 1947 was that, those countries which came to trade occupied Asian countries like India and it became colonial powers and they exploited the economy at that time, wanted their industry to grow; therefore destroyed all hand industries here. Therefore labor, employment went down in countries like India so that Manchester and others

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could grow. That was a particular type of situation in which it could be done and when they did it one had to fight against it by saying, that you can't take away our jobs. That is why now the Americans are fighting because Indians are taking away their jobs in IT and all. So but at that time you could say as Gandhiji did during Independence movements that you shouldn't let us boycott their goods because they were dumping their goods on us after destroying our Khadi, our Handloom and our Handicrafts and all. It was a fact that they were destroyed and they benefited from them.

But it is the colonial interlude, that subjection that we went through from thousand A.D not so much colonial but nevertheless destruction of knowledge and all that. But subsequently total subjection that had created in the Indian psyche or psychology what he said that somebody else must lead us. We ourselves are unable to think and we still think that anybody would come, some of us, that he is coming to colonize us. Now those days have gone. Now it is this psychology of dependence, psychology of fear, psychology of lack of self-confidence that has been generated in us over centuries because of foreign occupation and what happened in those days, that has resulted in present days reaction to much of what is called globalization and on. But even in those days there were people who were independent, even those days there were people who thought bravely and it is because they thought bravely and independently that we got independence. Then, even after independence our leaders were of such a stature that they did not blindly follow anybody.

If you look at India from 1947 to 1970 or even later, two choices were open to India in the post war world. One was to join

America. Another was to join Soviet Union. India did neither. We said we are a large poor country and there ought to be public big investments, Govt. has to do a lot of things but we are against communism as such. The Indian constitution is one of the most liberal constitutions in the world. You cannot have a nobler constitution than the Indian Constitution. In fact during those days when I used to visit places like Harvard and others everybody used to make fun in one way saying you fellows are very clever, you get free wheat from USA without paying a pie under PL480 on which we lived for twenty years. Younger generations would not know it but all of us know it when there was no food grain in India and you get all steel mills and various other things from Soviet Union, you get things from Germany, England and Japan also. So you are a clever set of people and you know how to get on. Any way I said that is being pragmatic, basically we, according to all the independence movement workers and leaders, believed in freedom. They had an allergy to big Govt. because the big Govt. was subjecting them to affection so they gave us a great deal of stress on individual freedom so we are essentially democratic. We are too big a country too diverse a country, too many different types of languages and people and religion for one single monolithic system to work.

So we are naturally adopting a pluralist democracy, but since we have a large number of poor people, we are also adopting state intervention to do certain big things which cannot now be done. It had a certain relevance at that point of time when everything in this country had been destroyed during the British occupation. We had to start to catch up with the world. But the world is a very different cup of tea now. Now it is not the old type of Industry that

dominates the world. It is not the old type of cold war that you see. Everybody said that with the end of the cold war America will become a super power. America is a uni, single power dominating the world. It may still be a super power, it is still be quite powerful but by no means will the world allow it to have its way. That is why the Europeans have got together more and more; they are 11 countries, 15 countries and now they are going to be 25 countries. So that they are a powerful block to standup to the American power and Americans and Chinese who were at loggerheads for long. Now America has to recognize China which has during the last 20 years more than quadrupled its income and as he said if you had seen China in 1976 and you see China now you cannot see anything now so modernized the country so rapidly grown a country so everybody takes note of it. China can do what it wants. The Americans can say, do this, do that they will not do. So there are a number of strong centers of power developing and it is in that context that with the recent confidence that we have got in our development we can also become another centre.

In fact in world literature now, only the countries which are going to come up very fast in the next 20 years they list four countries BRIC they call it. Brazil, Russia, India and China. In fact the process of development is supposed to be the reverse of BRIC but since CIRB cannot be pronounced they call it BRIC that is China first, then India and then Russia and then Brazil. That is because these big countries have enough man power and diverse man power. They can develop and they are developing it.

Now it is in this context that during and after the collapse of Soviet Union the word globalization got some currency. But globalization as I said has been going on over the last 3500 years.
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Now what is this new globalization? This new globalization actually started in seventies with the oil price hike, the formation of OPEC and the need for OPEC countries to develop very fast and not having enough people with whom to develop. Therefore they wanted large numbers of people just as in the nineteenth and eighteenth centuries to grow indigo, sugarcane in Fiji, Indigo in Mauritius or Caribbean; labour went from India; Bihar, Madras, Andhra they went. Nobody went from Kerala in those days because Kerala was a rich place, was a paradise that you must remember.

Migration from Kerala has started after 1950 not before. Before Kerala was receiving people from Tamilnadu and all over because there were a lot of things growing here and that migration which started to the rest of India as a result of education in Travancore and Cochin after which all the people went to Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi in forties, fifties and sixties that also gave further fillip; was it given to it by the problem of oil pricing and the need for manpower in the middle east and therefore lacs of people went from here and this state has lived prosperously as you can see from what has been all around last twenty years, as a result of the remittances of hardworking 1.3 to 1.5 million people in the middle east. 25% of the people in this state are directly benefited by remittances from the middle east. Because you know 1.5 x 4 or 5, six to seven million people; your population is only 31 million. Another 25% are getting the spill over of this in terms of services, shops, consumption, transport etc. So nearly 50% of people are living on remittance which is currently about 15,000 crores of rupees a year; not small, three billion dollars in all. India is the biggest recipient of remittances in the world consistently for the last several years. Even in the latest report of ILO, India is number

one. 12 to 15 billion dollars out of which three to four billion dollars are contributed by Kerala State; very high, equal to 20% of the what we call the state income which is not added to the state income in calculation; but if you add this state income as X what is the amount of money available to the people, it is X plus 1.5X that is 6/5X that is why you have consumption which is higher than the national average here. **Now if this is not due to globalization what is it due to?** Could you have gone to middle east, if there was no global support? suppose Middle East people say no Indian can come, you could not have gone. So we are the greatest beneficiaries in India as a result of the recent face of enhanced globalization; globalization was always there in Kerala.

Now there are a few people here, their numbers may be very small who want not to take note of all these facts. Had it not been for it you cannot, you would have continued to be poor as Kerala was poor thirty years ago. I have been here in the fifties and sixties, no rice, no milk, no cement, nothing, everything was in short supply. For everything you had to come to secretariat to pay something and get a small permit. Now everything is plenty. Now but after the fall of the Soviet Union, the most recent phase of globalization was sought to be taken over by certain companies mainly pharmaceutical companies who dominated the **Uruguay Round** of trade talks and therefore were able to enter into certain agreements on Intellectual Property Rights, trade and so on and so immediately everybody reacted against, not that particular form of globalization, but globalization as such; which is a much wider concept. So very simply stated globalization is only inter-dependence and inter-connection and exchange between countries of goods, services, capital, people and now information. And since

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some capital rich countries wanted to speak about that, about foreign investment and about protection of property rights, only that single aspect was taken. Now in that also things have changed they could not have their way except for this property rights and all that because the discovery that once you free people it is not limited to a few countries. It can be done everywhere and it is happening in big countries like India and China. For example the biggest manufacturing country in the world now is China. It is exporting far more manufactured goods than before.

The biggest upcoming country in Information Technology is India, of which people are now afraid and they are making efforts to stop this business out sourcing and people coming, but they cannot stop. Because that is not the way the world grows and therefore things are coming here and while ten years ago you had not heard of exports in I.T.; this year the export is going to be sixty thousand crores or sixty five thousand crores. So if you are skilled, if you are educated, if you are willing to learn and if you are willing to adjust and if you are willing to innovate and find, then there is nothing that one need be afraid of and a big country like India has nothing to be afraid of, which was once a leader in knowledge in what they now call knowledge society; India need not be. Small countries have certain problems. Not big countries. That is why India can speak of one common rupee for all of South Asia, all manner of things we can now say. We lived through a time when to go outside India; I was given when I went for the first time in early sixties to Harvard three dollars to carry. Now we are, by Christmas are going to have hundred billion dollars of foreign exchange. Not just twenty or thirty but hundred billion dollars of it. India was once food deficit, foreign exchange deficit for thirty

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years and everybody said there will be famine in India and India will collapse because of want of foreign exchange. Both we could take care of and since we have got out of them we can deal with the new challenges also. What is needed is that self confidence and a positive looking approach that as he said O.K, it is there in the world we will beat it. That is what the Chinese leader Deng Siao Ping told the Chinese that we cannot go on in the old way, you cannot continue to grow pig and paddy in the old way in communes. China has to beat the developed countries, the only way to do it is to beat them in their own game and that is what it has done in just as a matter of twenty years. We will also do it in twenty years but we must have the degree of confidence.

The earlier generation of political leaders whose minds are frozen, you should ignore them; the younger people must start thinking that we can do, can do feelings must be there. But when globalization is there, why are some people against it; may be due to earlier fixation doubts. Some others are genuinely afraid of it that is because when you adjust, unless you adjust quickly there will always be some problems. Now even during the last few years, when for example this IT boom was taking place so many people got employment, lacs of them. So many people got high wages and India is exporting ten to twelve billion dollars of software and other things and in kerala state 25% of the people got remittances. It is a fact that since you are tied up to the world if you are not competitive and if world prices go down in anything that will affect that section of the people. That is why three years ago the rubber growers and others were saying it is due to globalisation. I told them it is not due to globalization, it is due to cyclical change and due to your dependence on one crop which in Kerala was wrong

but at that time as he said people were booing me. There was a big meeting here. Five thousand people came and everybody spoke against; when I spoke against this they got up. All the kottayam farmers and all “you can’t say that, we are suffering”; then I said; please sit down.

Three years ago, the price of Rubber was so high that every one of you bought a Mahindra van and everyone of you put marble in your house which did not exist in Kerala state ten years before. You didn’t save for the day when prices will go down; now you are saying it is due to globalization, it is not due to globalization it is due to cyclical change in prices. For which there is a way. In small countries which depend on one crop for example like West African countries on ‘coco’, on sugarcane they have an equalization fund. Now it is starting here also on rubber and all. It was told by us twenty years ago but they would not listen; according to which 50% of the additional prices they earned are kept back not given to farmers and when prices go down it is released so that there is evenness of living. Now you have to adjust like that you have to adjust by diversifying which in Kerala State is much easier than in some other states where you can grow only one particular type of crop. Here in a piece of land you can grow twenty different kinds of things and the more variety there is, the more you earn and now in one acre they are earning ten lakhs of rupees in Central Travancore and all that with Vanila and what is it called ‘Safed Musli’ and things like that, any amount of thing. Now with organic food with the organic tea with orchids with flowers, the possibilities are immense because the world is in need of them and those who are aware of it are already using it in this very state and they are benefitting by globalisation. You go to Kanjirappally, Kottayam

and all the amount of vanilla grown in Wayanad, Calicut you will be amazed at it. You go to the organic farms in Palakkad, Wayanad, Idukki you will be amazed. They are selling tea at three times the world price because the whole thing is organic. It is those who can work who can certainly get the maximum benefit out of it. These are the areas in which we have competitive advantages like Information Technology, like spices like all these new things which grew for which this state was famous. As I said; thousand years ago products from pepper to various kinds of agro industries made us number one in the world.

Now if you then import a few Washing Machines and TV it doesn't really matter because you will have so much money that unless you import them you won't know what to do with it. It is already the case with lakhs of people in Central Travancore. They don't know what to do with their money. They have converted all their houses also into marble. They have bought also the latest Mitsubishi, Lancer and other cars. They now just don't know what to do with their money. So they may now buy as the American rich did, buy paintings of somebody for one lakh, ten lakh rupees in things like that. That is one method; if you do that, it is possible. But there is for this to be done not only in agriculture but in everything, constantly skills must be upgraded. Knowledge must be upgraded.

And it is here our biggest weakness is in education. Our education more than our policies is grown frozen. Our higher education our learned Professors are here I know them very well, is frozen. No new modern courses, no new thinking, no new discovery and our pride 18th, 19th, 20th century this part of Kerala

State; Travancore, Cochin and all had low cost high quality education. Now they are having high cost, low quality education. High cost due to what? due to the interest of academic staff and Management for appointing teachers and lecturers, they can take anything, not for the young student whose future you should be concerned. Now, unless this education system becomes student-centered and opens up their minds to innovate, to think independently as he said. Unless it is of high quality and you are all the time updated you can't live in a globalized world. Then you will only be beating the breast against globalization. Oh, globalisation! It will finish you. But there is no reason, why the intelligent Keralite should be minimized to their condition. It is the education system as it has grown in the last fifty years, which is doing it. It is that system which should be broken. It is that which should be freed. That is one thing which is still not free. Now agriculture people except for some difficulties regarding ownership and this size and that size as I said, many people are doing many things as they like. In industry, there is no need to get permission from Delhi and no license nothing you can do anything you like and if you are clever you will sell to the whole world as people from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Bangalore are now doing. India is the biggest exporter in the last few years for Automobile components from caps of radiators, to this to that it is the biggest exporter. You can manufacture toys as the Chinese do and export to the whole world, it is up to you. No permission is needed but the education system is still with the Govt. and is frozen and is high cost, low quality, stagnant. That should be liberated. Once that is liberated there is nothing that is going to stop these young people who are sitting here from achieving the best in this

country; so liberals liberating the education system from its present shackles making it high quality, constantly changing, liberating people as most have already done so that they can invest in anything they like, a sense of confidence and adjustment from time to time to ups and downs which will be necessary; there will always be ups and downs but how quickly you adjust to that extent you will benefit and total modernization of agriculture because large numbers of people have to be involved in it. Even with all the hype on IT, only a few million people can be employed and hundreds of millions in India, in Kerala also large numbers of people where will they be employed? Now they respond only to applications for the peons in Kerala PSC. Four lakh applicants for peons. But all of them can easily be benefited by a blooming modern agricultural sector here which is not available in the rest of the world. The extent to which you can grow Orchids others can't do, the extent to which you can have organic spices and foods others can't have and as is shown in the last four years extent to which Vanilla can be grown others can't have.

Similarly there are twenty, thirty items in which we can excel if one looks at the internet. There is one gentleman in Trivandrum who also lives in Wayanad. He has down loaded one lakh fifty thousand pages of all modern agriculture relevant to Kerala State in the internet, free and he is willing to give it free. He says only people who are idle will talk about fall in prices. I don't talk about fall in prices. I had coffee, robusta which is a poor coffee, its prices crashed to 25%. I gave up coffee. Now I grow 20 different things in Wayanad and I earn fifteen lakhs an acre untaxed not just one lakh or two lakhs untaxed because agriculture is not taxed in India. If you earned; I earned five thousand rupees pension- I am taxed.

Now that is the opportunity that is available. It has its negative side but negative sides can be minimized depending upon your ability, skills that you achieve and once you do it, I therefore do not understand all these talks that go on here and all these negatives that go on here; if that mental attitude changes and you younger generation get self confidence I am certain that as China proclaims everyday "we have beaten them" we can also do it. There is no difficulty at all. It is not like Bihar, in Kerala State.

India has several pockets, which have problems. But we don't have it, we are not like, let us say Rajasthan or Telungana which is very dry and nothing will grow; here the land is waiting to grow and it is you who are spoiling it. If you put four different things it will grow on its own. But we are not putting even that; we only grow one coconut and sleep and say it should for ever yield as it is what you call it Kamadhenu and Kalpatharu and all that and it will yield that and I will sleep. It is that approach that has resulted in the present plight. If instead of 10 coconuts you had 10 different things you would have to tend to it every day. Minimum in Trivandrum city, my friends are earning 1 ½ lakhs an acre in Poojapura in Ulloor and in other places by growing red banana, this that pepper, coconut, nut meg and all that. One of them is 85 years old; many of you may not know, with that I end. He is called '**Minnal Parameswaran**'. He was a very competent Sub Inspector here in Trivandrum city. He was therefore called Minnal Parameswaran. He is now 85. Ever since his retirement, he is a farmer in Poojapura and he doesn't believe in his three thousand rupee pension. He has got 2 ½ acres. He gets 5 lakhs a year untaxed. That is because he works from 4am. He grows a number of things. You had heard of nutmeg people here, young people know what is

nutmeg? Minnal Parameswaran who told me twenty years ago when I went to see his farm one nut meg tree is equal to one IAS officer, I said, “what you mean by that”. This gives at those times IAS Officers pay is not like Professors now, it was very small. Two thousand five hundred rupees a month, thirty thousand a year. It gives twenty five thousand rupees a year one tree. So if you are clever, if you are willing to work, if you are willing to change constantly and upgrade yourself constantly and above all if you are willing to have a confidence in yourselves that you can meet this kind of challenge and go ahead. Globalization is nothing but people for India who have dealt with problems of thousands of years. It is nothing, in fact **Globalization is not a threat at all but a great opportunity**. That is how I want the younger generation to view it. Go ahead my dear young men.

Thank you.

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