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Kerala Forms India's First Dedicated AI Ministry

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Kerala has become the first Indian state to establish a dedicated Artificial Intelligence (AI) Ministry at the cabinet level. The newly created AI portfolio has been assigned to senior Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader P. K. Kunhalikutty in the newly formed United Democratic Front (UDF) government. The initiative reflects Kerala's growing focus on emerging technologies, digital governance, innovation, and startup-driven economic growth.

AI Portfolio Assigned to P. K. Kunhalikutty:

According to the official Gazette notification issued on May 20, 2026, P. K. Kunhalikutty has been given charge of several departments, including Industries and Commerce, Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Start-ups, Mining and Geology, and Handlooms and Textiles. The Artificial Intelligence portfolio has been placed under the Industries and Commerce Department along with Information Technology and startup-related activities.

Significance of the AI Ministry:

The creation of a separate AI Ministry is considered a major development in India's technology governance framework. The ministry is expected to promote AI-based governance systems, encourage innovation and startup ecosystems, attract investments in advanced technologies, and strengthen digital infrastructure in the state. The initiative will also support skill development in Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, and data science. Kerala's government aims to use AI technologies to improve public service delivery and industrial growth.

Kerala's Digital and Technology Initiatives:

Kerala has been one of the leading Indian states in digital governance and technology adoption. The state is known for initiatives such as the Akshaya Project for digital literacy, Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON), Kerala Startup Mission, and e-governance programmes. The establishment of a dedicated AI Ministry is expected to further strengthen Kerala's position as a technology and innovation hub in India.

About Artificial Intelligence (AI):

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Artificial Intelligence refers to the capability of machines and computer systems to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. AI technologies include machine learning, robotics, natural language processing, computer vision, and generative AI systems. AI is increasingly being used in sectors such as healthcare, education, agriculture, finance, cybersecurity, governance, and manufacturing.

About Kerala:

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Chief Minister: V. D. Satheesan

Kerala is known for high literacy rates and strong human development indicators.