

# KERALA BUSINESS DELEGATION TO MALDIVES

**India Expo & Business Conclave Maldives  
15 to 17 October, 2019, Dharubaaruge, Maldives**



## REPORT

Kerala Business Delegation to Maldives arrived Maldives on 15 October to participate in the India Expo and Business Maldives 2019, International Exhibition being organised by the SME & Entrepreneurs Federation of Maldives (SEFM) in association with Indian Embassy at Maldives and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) as the Industrial Partner from 15 to 17 October, 2019, Dharubaaruge, Maldives.



**India Expo Maldives 2019- Main Entrance at Dharubaaruge, Male, Maldives**

Mr. Biju K IAS, Director of Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Kerala led the Kerala State Business Delegation comprising of 15 organisational heads along with senior Govt. officials from Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP), Govt. of Kerala and FICCI Kerala State Council officials to Maldives to participate in the Expo as the Partner State for the event.

The detailed list of Business Delegation from Kerala is as follows:

### **Head of Delegation from Kerala to Maldives**

Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala

### **Government of Kerala Officials**

Mr. S. Santhosh, CEO, Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP), Govt. of Kerala  
Mr. Suraj S., Manager, Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP), Govt. of Kerala

## **FICCI Officials**

Mr. Savio Mathew, Head, FICCI Kerala State Council

Ms. Preethy Menon, Sr. Asst. Director, FICCI Kerala State Council

## **Kerala State Business Delegation**

- Dr. Jacob Vadakancherry
- Mr. K K Pillai
- Ms. Preethy Paulson
- Mr. Mani Devassy
- Dr. Jijo Paul
- Mr. Bibu Ponooran
- Dr. Thomas K Paulose Nechupadam
- Mr. Rajesh Nair
- Mr. Satheesh T
- Mr. Nizaruddin Kunju .M
- Mr. Shihabudheen M M
- Mr. Soni John
- Mr. Abishek Shaji
- Dr. Seby Varghese

Kerala Pavilion at Maldives had the representation of organisations from various sectors as follows:

- Nature Life International
- Nikasu Frozen Foods International
- Organovedics
- Ivorywud essentials LLP
- Mazhuvenchery Specialty Dental Clinic
- Medivision Scan and Diagnostic Research Center
- Sevents Consultants Pvt. Ltd
- Smitten Holidays & Travels
- Kaveri Traders
- S & S Industries
- Royal Malabar Pvt. Ltd
- Team Dental Private Limited

India Expo Maldives 2019 assumed great significance especially with improved political bilateral trade between India and Maldives; as the Expo was organized to strengthen the economic relationship between India and Maldives. In this exhibition, business entities from India were able to showcase and market their products and services to Maldivian business community. “India Expo” the one country exhibition along with “India - Maldives Business Conclave” was held to provide a platform to the Indian based companies to showcase their range of products and services to the Maldivian public and business community.

India Expo Maldives Exhibition mainly focused on Agro Products, Cosmetics & Herbal Products, Hospitals & Health Care, Textile & Clothing, Handicraft & Traditional Textiles, Software & IT Solutions (App & Website developers), Manufactures of Engineering Products, Education Services, Building Products, Electronics, Home Appliances, Travel & Tourism, Transport & Logistics etc.

The Key Exhibitors of India Expo were as follows:

- Shubham Aqualink
- MM Exports
- SBI
- Island Group
- Inforcom Technologies
- Marwa Impex
- Kerala Pavilion
- Cyber Security
- Voltas
- Havels
- Events Solution
- Rhine Solar
- M Square Solution
- ADEX India - Mumbai Dive Show
- SEFM Lounge
- India Maldives Friendship

**15 October 2019**



**Kerala Business Delegation along with H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to Maldives and Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director of Industries, & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala & Head of Delegation to Maldives at India Expo & Business Conclave Maldives, Dharubaaruge, Maldives**



**Kerala Business Delegation along with H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to Maldives and Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director of Industries, & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala & Head of Kerala Delegation to Maldives in front of Kerala Pavilion**

## **INDIA - MALDIVES BUSINESS CONCLAVE & INDIA EXPO 2019**

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The first – One Nation Event, India - Maldives Business Conclave followed with India Expo was held at Dharubaaruge on 15, 16 and 17 October 2019, as three days event; where the corporates and public visited and explored the Indian businesses opportunities with the key stakeholders.



**Address by Mr. Ali Waheed, Hon. Minister of Tourism, Maldives  
at the Inaugural Session of India Expo Maldives 2019**

The Hon. Minister of Tourism, Maldives Mr. Ali Waheed addressed at the opening ceremony where he mentioned, that India-Maldives relationship will never fade, while an approximate of extra 20,000 Indian Tourists have visited Maldives during August 2019 compared to the count last year. He said medical tourism and processing food are possibilities which they would like to look beyond the horizon.

The Hon. Minister said that the close cooperation between Maldives President Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and India's Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has led to a very good development between both countries within the past 11 or so months. He said that both leaders have a special bond that has been instrumental in creating

this atmosphere, besides the cultural and traditional relationship shared between India and Maldives. The Minister added the people of both countries must explore the possibilities and learn the each other's mindset.

The Expo mainly focused on exploring business opportunities between Maldives and Kerala. It is being attended by several Indian companies in collaboration with FICCI.



**Address at the Inaugural Session of India Expo Maldives by  
H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to Maldives,**

The Ambassador of India to Maldives, H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir in his speech highlighted the renewed bilateral co-operation between the two countries and the high potential of international trade especially with the enhanced credit line extended to Maldives by Hon Prime Minister of India. H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir also highlighted the potential areas of co-operation between Maldives and India especially in sectors such as Tourism, Health, Education, Skilling Renewable Energy etc.

Kerala being very close to Maldives and already there is substantial trade and business happening between Kerala and Maldives and with the arrival of Business

Delegation from Kerala, there is further possibility of increasing the trade & business between Maldives and Kerala and the expected direct ferry/ship service between Maldives and Kochi which is expected to begin service in few months.



**Head of Kerala Business Delegation to Maldives Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala addresses the gathering at the Opening Ceremony**

Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director, Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala addressed the gathering at the Opening Ceremony. Kerala State being the Partner State to the India Maldives Expo 2019, Video on 'Business Opportunities in Kerala' was also shown.

During his speech Mr. Biju K. IAS spoke about the investments opportunities in Kerala and highlighted the important steps taken by Govt. of Kerala to promote investments, K-swift, Single window clearance etc. He also spoke about the closer cooperation Maldives and Kerala in the Health sector and Skilling and the scope for further possibility of enhancing the same to the next level.

The Secretary General of SME Entrepreneurs Federation of Maldives (SEFM), Mr. Mohamed Abdul Sattar rendered the Welcome Address at the inaugural session.

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The inaugural session was followed by two Panel Discussions as follows:

### **Panel Discussion – I**

#### **TOPIC: TOURISM SECTORS & NEW DEVELOPMENT**



**Panelists of the Panel Discussion on “Tourism Sectors & New Development”**

#### **Panelists:**

1. Mr. Ahmed Naseem, Minister at the Office of the President and Former Foreign Minister of Maldives
2. Dr. Ahmed Solih, Minister of State for Tourism, Ministry of Tourism
3. Ms. Ibthishama Saeed, Director of Business Development at Tree Top Hospital and Former General Manager of Addu International Airport
4. Mr. Bipu Ponnaran, Medivision, Honorary Secretary of KERALA Management Association, Expert in Health & Hospitality Sector
5. Mr. Aman Bhatia, Director, Island Holidays (Island Group), Mumbai
6. Mr. Abdul Latheef, President, SME and Entrepreneurship Federation of Maldives (SEFM)

## Panel Discussion - II

### TOPIC: INDIAN OCEAN TRADE OPPORTUNITIES AND DETERRENTS



**Panelists of the Panel Discussion on “Indian Ocean Trade Opportunities and Deterrents”**

#### PANELISTS:

1. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Secretary Multilateral, Foreign Affairs.
2. Mr. Mohamed Firzul Hussain Firaz, Deputy Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance.
3. Ms. Mariyam Visam, Registrar of Companies, Ministry of Economic Development.
4. Mr. Ramesh Kumar Mutha, Managing Director, Mohan Mutha Exports (MM Exports)
5. Mr. Ibrahim Ali Jaleel, Vice President, SME Entrepreneurs Federation of Maldives (SEFM).
6. Mr. KK Pillai, Nikasu Group, President, Cochin Special Economic Zone Industries Association, Expert in Exim Trade
7. Mr. Savio Mathew, Head, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council.

The Members from the Cabinet, State Ministers, Indian Businesses and Officials participated in the sessions. FICCI Kerala State Business Delegate Viz. Mr. Bipu Ponnaran, Medivision, Expert in Health & Hospitality Sector, Mr. KK Pillai, Nikasu Group, President, Cochin Special Economic Zone Industries Association, Expert in Exim Trade and Mr. Savio Mathew, Head, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council participated in the Panel Discussions.

The Panel discussions were really beneficial to the delegates from India and to the Maldivian Counterparts to understand the Govt. formalities, business opportunities, potential for growth, expansion, investments, joint ventures between the countries.



#### **Friendship Association of India- Maldives Stall at the India Maldives Expo 2019 at Maldives**

The students from the Indian Cultural Centre performed at the SEFM India Maldives Business Conclave, India Expo 2019 at Dharubaaruge Auditorium, Male', 15 October 2019.

Kerala State Pavilion at the India Maldives Expo led by Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala attracted many business houses in Male.

**16 October 2019**

**Conference on Exploring Business Opportunities between Maldives and Kerala  
at Hotel Jen Male, Maldives**

The Conference on exploring business opportunities between Maldives and Kerala was held on 16 October 2019 at Hotel Jen Male organised by Indian Embassy in Maldives in association with Department of Industries, Govt. of Kerala and FICCI.

The Hon. Minister of Economic Development Mr. Uz. Fayyaz Ismail and Ambassador of India H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir co-chaired the conference. Kerala Business Delegation was led by Mr. Biju K. IAS Director, Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala led the discussion.

The Conference was attended by members of FICCI Business Delegation, officials from Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotion (K-BIP), Govt. of Kerala, officials of Maldives Govt., Officials of Indian Embassy at Maldives namely Dy. Ambassador of India to Maldives Mr. Rohit Ratish, Counsellor (Pol.) Maldives, Second Secretary (Commerce & Projects), Mr. Shitanshu Chaurasiya and other officials from Indian Embassy, besides, selected Business organizations from Maldives.



**Conference on Exploring Business Opportunities between Maldives and Kerala**

The Hon'ble Minister said Medical Tourism and food processing offer numerous possibilities. The minister elaborated that the close cooperation between Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi led to a very good progress in the relations between the two countries in the last year. "Both the leaders share a special bond that has been instrumental in creating this atmosphere, besides the cultural and traditional relationship", added Minister of Economic Development.



**Hon'ble Minister of Economic Development Mr. Uz. Fayyaz Ismail; H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir, Ambassador of India to Maldives and Mr. Biju K. IAS, Director of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala at the Conference hosted by Indian Embassy in Maldives**

The Ambassador of India to Maldives, H.E. Sunjay Sudhir in his brief address assured all support of his office to foster bilateral relations between Maldives and Kerala. Senior officials from Invest Maldives made Presentation on Investment Opportunities in Maldives.



**Address by Hon Minister of Economic Development, Maldives Uz. Fayyaz Ismail**

A video on Business Opportunities in Kerala State was also shown; followed by very active Question & Answer Session between FICCI delegation and Maldivian counterparts which really helped in understanding the formalities of Maldivian Govt. to start business / Joint Ventures by Indian Companies with Maldivian Counterparts to make serious efforts to exploit trade and investment synergies between Maldives & Kerala.

The Meeting hosted by the Embassy of India at Maldives ended with the Networking Lunch.



**Interactive Session during the Conference**



**Participants of the Conference on Exploring Business Opportunities between Maldives and Kerala along with Ambassador of India to Maldives, H.E. Mr. Sunjay Sudhir; officials from Govt. of Kerala and Indian Embassy Officials**

### **Business to Business Meet between FICCI Kerala State Business Delegation and Maldivian Companies at Dharubaaruge, Male, Maldives**

On 16 October 2019 evening exclusive Business to Business Meet was organized by FICCI in association with SEFM to foster business relations between Maldives and Kerala, which is geographically placed very close to Maldives.



**Business to Business Meet between Kerala State Business Delegation and Maldivian counterparts**

The B2B Meet was organised at Dharubaaruge' Male', Maldives on 16 October 2019. Many Maldivian organisations from various parts of the country participated in the B2B MEET.

A Business directory brought out by FICCI with the details of FICCI Kerala delegation was forwarded to SEFM in advance and the hard copies of the Directory was distributed to potential business during the event days.



**B2B Meet between Kerala State Business Delegates and Maldivian counterparts**



**17 October 2019**



**Hon'ble President of Maldives Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih  
visit Kerala Pavilion at India Maldives Business Expo**

The Hon. President Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih visited the 'India Expo 2019' exhibition held at Dharubaaruge. The President visited the stalls during his visit to the exhibition and spoke with the representatives about their products. He spent much time at the Kerala Pavilion interacting with the Business Delegates from Kerala.



**Former President of Maldives at the Kerala Pavilion**