POINTS FOR PANEL DISCUSSION

\* Kerala is a news-maker again

\* The present context is the fight against pandemic Covid -19

\*. Unique experience of Kerala - low numbers of infection rate.

\* Least number of death and also of local spread

\* .Let us compare the experience of Kerala and USA patients and deaths per million

KERALA USA

\*. Population – millions 35 320.

\* Patients per million 800 9,000

\*. Deaths per million pop. 0.8 400

\*. More than half of the patients in Kerala contracted it outside Kerala.

\*. For Kerala it is an all out war to save the lives of the people .

\*. The State is run by a Left Democratic Front which values people

above profits .

\*.The State health care system reaches only less than half of the

population. The other half is serviced by profit seeking private sector

Even they joined the State in this war against spread of the disease

\* Every patient is given maximum care. In the process the State

health care system developed a highly effective treatment protocol

. \* Experience in handling of the Great Floods of 2018 and 2019 and of earlier

mass campaigns for literacy and people’s plan and the social capital so generated

helped the people to wake up quickly and join the battle.

; \*.Above all the pro-active leadership of the Chief Minister and Health Minister

and the entire government machinery is unmatched.

\*. Being infective even before the appearance of symptoms,

makes eradication very difficult. We wll have to restrict travel

of people and transport of commodities between affected areas and

disease free areas.

\*. The present restrictions will have to become the normal life style

\*. New life styles and economic systems requiring much lesser travel

of humans and transport of goods will have to be developed..

* The existing culture of ever increasing global production and

consumption of goods and services a new slogan of “ produce

locally and consume locally” will have to be accepted.

* Technologies to make small not only beautiful but also

powerful enough to produce all the essential goods and sevices

will have to be developed.

* A new culture which values leisure and freedom (from alieanation)

more than production and consumption will have to be developed.

* A new world picture of a horizontally inter-connected system of

of tens of thousands of self reliant and increasingly self sufficient

Rurban Republics freed from the straight jacket of nationalism has

to be conceived and promoted.

* The cultural life in such a world will become increasingly diverse as well as global with increased use of cyber space
* A hard wired global economic system can develop to dictatorship

in politics and instability in economy

* The present success of Kerala in restricting the threat of Covid-19

is at a very high costs . The smallest relaxation on restrictions showed

a dramatic increase in infection. Kerala economy is very tightly liked to the situations in other states

* The only way to restrict a flaring up is to increase in the local production of

all essential goods like food. We have to understand the importance of

agriculture .

* Global eradication of Covid is much more difficult than that of smallpox,

plague or polio even after successful development of vaccines.