



# KLIBF

4<sup>th</sup> Edition / 2026 Jan 07-13



KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
MEDIA & PARLIAMENTARY STUDY CENTRE  
(PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES)

unicef 

for every child

# KERALA LEGISLATURE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

7th to 13th January 2026

**Report**

**Students Corner**  
UNICEF - KLAMPS  
Programmes

## Introduction

The Kerala Legislature International Book Festival (KLIBF) – 4<sup>th</sup> edition was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026, at the Legislature Complex in Thiruvananthapuram. The theme of this edition was titled "Knowledge Flow for Progress" aimed at promoting reading, cultural exchange, and social responsibility. The festival featured a wide range of activities, including debates, quiz competitions and dialogues providing opportunities for students and youth to participate.

“You can cut all the flowers, but you cannot keep spring from coming”. These are the words of Pablo Neruda — a poet who never fades, and a revolutionary forever. Neruda showed how literature can drive social emancipation, how poetry can be both romantic and revolutionary at once, and how words can become the most powerful yet harmless weapons. Inspired by such great figures and by the humanitarian strength of literature, we began an International Book Festival that now enters its fourth edition – mentioned Hon’ble speaker of the legislative assembly Shri A N Shamseer.

The Book Fest was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, on 7th January 2026 at 11:00 AM at the R. Sankaranarayanan Thampi Members’ Lounge. The Chief Minister highlighted the significance of libraries and reading in strengthening democracy. The Chief Guest for the inaugural function was the 2025 International Booker Prize winner, Ms. Banu Mushtaq. The function was presided over by the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri A.N. Shamseer. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Christopher K. Kalila (Zambia), Chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. During the event, the Legislative Assembly Award for contributions to literature was presented to renowned writer Shri N.S. Madhavan. Other dignitaries were also present in the dais.



Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurating the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of KLIBF on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026, while other dignitaries look on



Mickey mouse mascot was engaged to educate the children on various topics, including preparing of emergency kit

The festival featured over 300 book stalls with participation from national and international publishers. Over 2 lakhs of people thronged the stalls over the seven days of festival. This was the only occasion where the public was allowed to access the premises of the legislative assembly. Every day evening, mega shows were also held in the lounge organized by prominent media houses in the State.

## 2. The Students' Corner

As a vital part of the festival, the Students' Corner was designed as a dedicated creative space to bring children closer to books, ideas, and scientific awareness. The corner was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Shri Chittayam Gopakumar, on 7th January 2026 in the presence of other dignitaries.

Within this creative space, a specialized series of programmes was curated and conducted under the auspices of KLAMPS - UNICEF. These sessions were designed to educate children on critical global issues—specifically climate change, disaster risk reduction, and child rights—while providing a platform for creative expression through art and performance. UNICEF facilitated such session on all the editions of KLIBF. Few key departments like Kerala



State Disaster Management Authority, Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission etc were part of the sessions on disasters and climate change respectively.

All the sessions were designed in a friendly and informal way to attract children and to create lasting impact in them, by way of games, activities, puppet shows, quiz etc. The sessions held under the UNICEF programmes in Students Corner are given in detail as follows:-

### 3. Technical Sessions and Activities

#### a) Puppet Show on weather extreme events & preparedness

Kerala Legislative Assembly Media & Parliamentary Study Centre and UNICEF prepared a puppet drama titled 'RED ALERT', which was released by Hon'ble Speaker Shri A N Shamseer in the year 2023. The drama is of 35 minutes duration which is very attractive to children. It covers important area like climate change, waste management, disaster preparedness, resilience building etc. This drama was performed by expert puppeteers from Kollam district, known as Team Hagios. The puppet drama sessions followed by a short quiz and discussion to ensure that children understood the concepts and practical suggestions to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change in the society, especially considering the Kerala scenario. The participants were also given a handbook published by KLAMPS & UNICEF,



Puppet drama on climate change was one of the main attractions in the students corner. The drama was titled 'red alert', this was jointly prepared by KLAMPS & UNICEF in 2023 and performed by expert puppeteers from team Hagios

titled 'Butterfly Effect'. It is understood by the informal feedback that the session was highly informative and educative. Key takeaways of the session are

- Impact of climate change in Kerala
- Importance of learning Survival Skills like knowing the emergency numbers, preparing emergency kit, learning do's and don'ts
- Engaging youth through NSS, NCC and other initiatives of the government, will eventually bring fruit and empower the youth to be change agents in their own society.

## **b) Be safe, Be prepared**

Session by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA),  
Government of Kerala.

The session titled 'be safe, be prepared' aimed at disaster survival skills for children. The session was facilitated by Dr Midhila Mallika, State Project Officer, KSDMA & Dr Pratheesh Mammen, Project Coordinator, KSDMA. The session was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> January at Students Corner pavilion.

This session provided a comprehensive and realistic outlook at the field of disaster management. Dr. Mallika and Dr. Mammen moved beyond theoretical discussions to address the practical realities of living in a disaster-prone state. They cited specific, recent examples of natural disasters that have struck Kerala, using these events to explain the "Cycle of Disaster" and to illustrate the devastating impact of being unprepared. The experts emphasized a crucial lesson: while natural disasters cannot always be prevented, human resilience and preparedness are the best defence against them.

The session then transitioned into a practical training workshop. Students were guided on how to identify potential hazards in their immediate surroundings, both at school and at home. The session covered vital safety protocols, including evacuation routes and emergency communication. The engagement level was high, with students asking insightful questions

about safety measures. The session concluded with a lively interactive quiz, where students won prizes for accurately recalling safety tips. Key takeaways are as follows:-

- Importance of being prepared towards various hazards
- Safety at school and elsewhere is of utmost importance (lessons from past events in schools)
- Initiatives by Government departments like KSDMA to ensure safety of children.



Dr Midhila Mallika & Dr Pratheesh Mammen from KSDMA interacting with the children

### c) ‘Climate Action – Ideas for Change’

by Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission, Government of Kerala

This session was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the Students Corner. The session was facilitated by the officials from Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission, viz. Mr Tom J. Varghese (Carbon Auditing Officer), Dr. Ninu Jose M (Scientific Content Writer), Ms Sreelekshmi (Intern) and Sruthi (Multi-Tasking Officer). The session was designed to empower students to become agents of change in their communities with respect to climate change. The team from the Climate Adaptation Mission broke down the intimidating concept of Global Warming into the relatable metric of "Carbon Footprints." Mr. Tom J. Varghese explained how daily individual actions—such as electricity usage, transportation choices, and waste

disposal—contribute directly to the global crisis. Drawing parallels to the previous days' sessions, the speakers highlighted how climate change acts as a "threat multiplier," intensifying the natural disasters that Kerala faces.

The session was not just about identifying problems but about finding solutions. Dr Ninu provided actionable "Ideas for Change," encouraging students to adopt sustainable habits and to influence their families to do the same. The presentation concluded with a stirring call to action, inviting every student to become a "Green Ambassador." The event wrapped up with the customary interactive quiz and prize distribution, celebrating the students' attentive listening and learning. Key takeaways of the session are as follows:-

- Conceptual clarity on climate change, global warming and other terminologies.
- Introduced ideas for change, for children in addressing climate change
- Translating the carbon footprints to handprints



Dr Ninu Jose of Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission facilitating a session on the topic – climate action – ideas for change

#### **d) 'Safety Begins with ME'**

Session by UNICEF

The session was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026. 'Safety begins with me' session was on ensuring safety by oneself. Each of them was exhorted to have the responsibility in ensuring safety by themselves. The session was facilitated by Mr Joe John George, Consultant, UNICEF.

Children were encouraged to follow 7 steps to help them to be safe in their houses / schools / vehicles / roads. Viz.

- Knowing emergency numbers
- Preparing emergency kit
- Follow early warning messages & appropriate action
- Learning do's and don'ts during various hazards
- Knowing about probable hazards around them
- Learning first aid skills
- Being safe on roads, vehicles and waterbodies

A quiz session followed to ascertain their learnings and all the questions were answered by the students who attended the sessions. Teachers and parents were also present during the session.



Mr Joe John George, Consultant UNICEF facilitating a session on 'safety begins with me', and demonstrating emergency kit by volunteers Vipin and Anoop

### e) 'For every child, Every right' by Young Change Makers

A significant portion of the UNICEF programmes was dedicated to showcasing student talent. These "Young Change Makers" from various schools of Thiruvananthapuram not only performed but also acted as peer educators, spreading messages of social responsibility. The

theme of the programme was ‘for every child, every right’. Uma S was the leader of this team who is also the content creator for Unicef. She is studying in 10<sup>th</sup> grade in Cotton Hill Girls Highschool, Thiruvananthapuram.

Student Performers:

Nanma S (Holy Angels CBSE School)  
Nandith S, (Shantinikethan School)  
Namasvi (Shantinikethan School)  
Minna Renjith (Christ Nagar Central School)  
Milosz Renjith (Christ Nagar Central School)  
Devaki D S (Carmel HSS)  
Durga D S (Carmel HSS)  
Martha Mary Chacko (Carmel HSS)  
Rebekah Mariam Chacko (Carmel HSS)  
Parvenendhu P S (SSD Shishuvihar UPS)  
Sreelekshmi C (Holy Angels)  
Uma S (Govt Girls HSS Cotton Hill)

These students conducted various cultural programmes, including speech, dance, and interactive skits, all centering around the core values of UNICEF.

### **f) Sharing of experiences by climate warriors of the climate platform**

In the year 2023, Kerala Legislative Assembly and UNICEF jointly established a state level platform on climate action for children and youth, chaired by Hon’ble Speaker. Youth representatives from all the districts are members of this platform. Ms Anagha S Kumar & Ms Sreelakshmi AP of Thrissur and Kollam districts respectively attended the programme and spoke their experiences of being in the platform for the last three years. While Ms Anagha spoke about the pioneering efforts in establishing the platform and Ms Sreelakshmi shared about her experiences of implementing activities in her district. Other members could not come due to various reasons.



Student members of the State Platform on Climate Action for Children and youth - Ms Sreelakshmi A P from Kollam district (left) and Ms Anagha S Kumar from Thrissur district (right) sharing their experiences with the students



A special session on climate change with the help of puppetry was held for children with intellectual disabilities from State Institute of Mentally Challenged, Pangapara.



**‘Every child, every right’ – programmes done by the students**

Nanma S (Holy Angels CBSE School), Nandith S, (Shantinikethan School), Namasvi (Shantinikethan School), Minna Renjith (Christ Nagar Central School), Milosz Renjith (Christ Nagar Central School) Devaki D S (Carmel HSS), Durga D S (Carmel HSS), Martha Mary Chacko (Carmel HSS) Rebekah Mariam Chacko (Carmel HSS), Parvenendhu P S (SSD Shishuvihar UPS) Sreelekshmi C (Holy Angels), Uma S (Govt Girls HSS Cotton Hill)

## Valedictory Session

Valedictory session was held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 3 pm at Members Lounge. Chief guest was Hon. Governor of Kerala Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar. He appreciated Kerala Legislative Assembly for successfully conducting the book festival and lauded the efforts of the Hon. Speaker and the legislative secretariat for flawlessly conducting the events. He also further added that Kerala assembly is the only assembly which is conducting book festival which is beyond their usual business. He also said that books should be a friend of everyone and one should improve their reading habits. The session was presided over by Hon. Speaker Shri A N Shamseer. He mentioned that many other states have come forward to learn from Kerala like Telengana, Karnataka and replicate this practice in their state. He thanked his team for putting up a great event. He also specifically mentioned about students corner where children were given opportunity to present their views and perform their talents. He also said that the book festival was inclusive this year as a dedicated stall was allotted to the visually impaired people viz. federation of the blind. Along with that many persons/children with disabilities were given entry to various sessions/book stalls and dialogues. He also announced that the KLIBF has gained much attention globally and will continue its journey in the coming year 2027.



National Anthem during the Valedictory Session – From left Dr Krishna Kumar, Secretary Legislative Assembly; Shri VV Rajesh, Hon. Mayor Thiruvananthapuram; Shri Chittayam Gopakumar, Hon Deputy Speaker; Shri A N Shamseer, Hon Speaker; Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon Governor of Kerala; Dr Ameena Fakim, Former President of Mauritius; Shri Kadannappally Ramachandran, Hon. Minister for Ports & Museums

## Programme – KLIBF 4<sup>TH</sup> Edition

### Students Corner | KLAMPS – KSDMA - UNICEF Sessions

Topics – Disaster Preparedness, Climate Action

Date	Time	Session	Organization
7 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	01:30 to 02:00 pm	Safety begins with me	UNICEF
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	04:00 to 04:30 pm	Climate action initiatives for children	UNICEF
11 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	10:00 to 12:30 pm	Young Change Makers	Students from different schools of Thiruvananthapuram
		Puppet Drama – Red Alert	Team Hagios
12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	01:15 to 02:00 pm	Be safe, be prepared	Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of Kerala
		Puppet Drama – Red Alert	Team Hagios
13 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	12:15 to 01:30 pm	Climate action - ideas for change	Kerala State Climate Change Adaptation Mission, Govt. of Kerala
		Puppet Drama – Red Alert	Team Hagios

## Annexure - 2

### Participants

Date	Male	Female	Total
8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026	43	29	72
11 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026	21	51	72
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026	77	51	128
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2026	50	58	108
	<b>191</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>380</b>

Note – The above number is an approximation, as there were floating participants across the sessions. On 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, no specific session for children was held.

