

ISED bats for social enterprise model for state

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The Kochi-based Institute of Small Enterprises Development (ISED) has called for Social Enterprise Development strategy integrating private capital and government development projects for the next phase of economic growth of Kerala. In a pre-budget memorandum submitted to finance minister T.M. Thomas Isaac, ISED director P.M. Mathew listed a 13-point approach for the adoption social enterprise strategy.

The ISED identified Kerala's opportunities broadly into problem and potential areas. According to the ISED the problem areas are mainly solid waste management, pollution and other issues. These issues can be addressed by formulating appropriate "entrepreneurial solutions by the private sector", says the ISED memorandum.

The memorandum also called for the convergence of several existing government schemes, including Haritha Keralam, second phase of People's Planning, Suchithva Mission and Rurban Clusters. These programmes can be converged under Social Enterprise Development and leveraged with the achievements of the Kerala Model of Development.

"Such a large agenda would necessitate a Social Enterprise Policy," the memorandum said. According to ISED, unlike popular perceptions Kerala has several world-class business opportunities that still remain untapped. "Manufacturing in Kerala is not possible" is a myth that needed to be broken, it said. The memorandum has also contained suggestions for innovative models in coir sector, green budget and changes in the administrative system.