

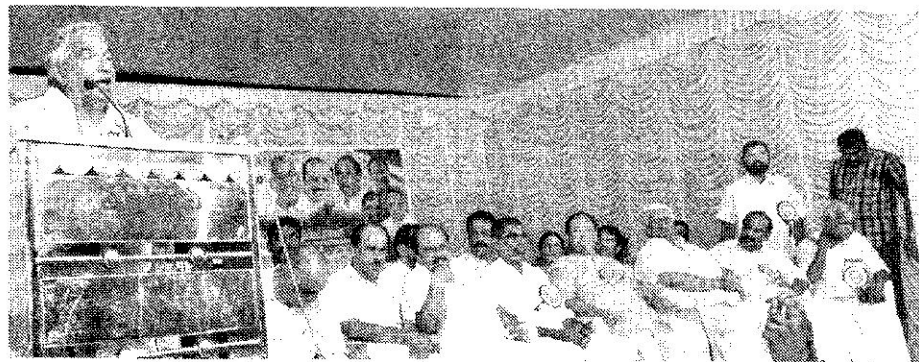
# Malayattoor-Kodanad Bridge Open for Traffic

The bridge was completed under the 100 bridges in 400 days plan under Mission 676 project of the state government

## Express News Service

**Kochi:** The Malayattoor-Kodanad bridge, which links the pilgrimage and tourist destinations of the district, was dedicated to the public. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy officially inaugurated the bridge the other day. The new bridge, which will help in easing out the traffic congestion along MC Road and Kalady to a great extent was completed under the 100 bridges in 400 days plan under Mission 676 project of the state government.

The bridge with a length of 253-metre and width of 11 metre was constructed at an estimated cost of ₹14 crore. The construction work was launched in December 2010 during the tenure of LDF government, which gave im-



Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurating the Malayattoor-Kodanad bridge at a function held in Kochi the other day

mediate sanction for the project proposal. This is also the second major bridge to be constructed across the Periyar in the last 50 years.

In his inaugural address, the CM said that the government will soon begin the construction of the new bridge, parallel to the exist-

ing Kalady Bridge soon. "The work of the new bridge, which will play a major role in the infrastructure development of Nedumbassery International Airport was delayed due to the arguments over the alignment," he said.

However, the new align-

ment has been finalised that will connect the bridge with the Mattoor Bypass Road. The cost of the project has undergone a steep escalation and is now estimated at ₹70 crore.

The fund allocated for the Public Works Department (PWD) in the present budget

is ₹300 to ₹400 crore. "But the projects that are already under execution altogether has an estimated cost of ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 crore. We are confident of overcoming the shortage of funds by following Annuity scheme, BOT (build-operate-transfer) and PPP (public-private-partnership) modes," he added.

Other major projects that have been already launched in the area include modernisation of Kalady-Malayattoor, Vallam-Kurichilakodu, and Kuruppampady-Kurichilakodu Roads which will have links to the newly opened bridge. After ensuring proper connectivity, the government is planning to implement the Kalady-Malayattoor-Athirappilly tourism circuit proposed by the Department of Tourism.