



Ref:

Date.....17/07/2025

Dear MADAM/SIR,

I thank you for this opportunity to express sincere commitment to transform Shoranur into a town where citizens can age with dignity. To this end, as the Chairperson* of the Shoranur Municipality, I, along with my colleagues, will work towards advancing each of the eight dimensions of the Age Friendly Cities and Communities (AFCC) approach.

Shoranur is one of the 87 municipalities in the province of Kerala, in Southern India. Every sphere of policy making in Kerala is influenced by two intertwined phenomena: on the one hand, it is the most urbanized province in India, and on the other, has the highest percentage of older persons in the country. Shoranur, like the rest of Kerala, is urbanizing and its population is aging at a rapid pace – 14 % of its population is already above 60 Years.

The municipal administration that I lead is committed to preparing Shoranur for these imminent spatial and demographic transformations. We expect the age-friendly initiatives in Shoranur to offer a model to inform policies being formulated for the entire state – for eg. The Urban Commission 2025, Elderly Commission 2025 – to deal with this urbanization and ageing. The age-friendly initiatives of Shoranur will be integrated into these into these larger policy processes.

For sure, there are challenges with varying levels of difficulty. Being an old railway town formed in colonial times, Shoranur has infrastructure built over many decades which also houses key public services like government offices and transport hubs. Modifications to infrastructure and old buildings to make them accessible for older persons will require more time and resources. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) 2025 being developed has adopted age-friendliness as one of its key design principles. Steps to transform the attitudinal dimensions of age-friendliness such as – sensitizing the public to be more caring and inclusive to older citizens are have already been initiated.



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Our acceptance into the global AFCC network will give us fresh perspectives and workable ideas to overcome these and similar challenges. I request you to kindly consider this request for inclusion in the network.

I will be pleased to answer any additional queries you may need to decide.

Looking forward to your decision.

Best regards,


M.K. Jayaprakash
Chairperson,
Shoranur Municipality,
Kerala, India



* Urban governance in Kerala is managed through 6 Municipal Corporations (for large urban areas) and 87 Municipalities (for smaller Urban areas) Municipal Corporations are headed by Mayors, and Municipalities by Chairpersons. Shoranur is a Municipality.