

# FREE SOFTWARE MOVEMENT OF INDIA

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## Press Statement

The Free Software Movement of India (FSMI) deeply mourns the passing of the V.S. Achuthananda, the former Chief Minister of Kerala and a towering figure in India's Public life. His unwavering commitment to social justice and public good are always matched by his visionary support for the free software, and accessibility of the Technology to the public.

As both an Opposition leader and as a Chief Minister, he was a steadfast advocate for the cause of technological freedom and access to it. During his tenure as the opposition leader he consistently argued in the Kerala Legislative Assembly for technological sovereignty with digital empowerment and adoption of the Free Software in government and education, as the only means. Later as a CM of Kerala, he led the state in a historic decision that made the Free Software adoption as a fundamental state policy, and ensured the adaptation and use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in education and digital transformation, which benefits the lakhs of students who learn computers using free software.

In addition, he led the establishment of the International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS) in Kerala—a first-of-its-kind institution in India dedicated to the promotion, coordination, and development of FOSS initiatives. ICFOSS today stands as a living testimony to his vision and commitment.

The contributions that he made to the Free Software community and service to the Indian public is unwavering. FSMI once again extends heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, and his admirers. His work will continue to energize the Free Software community and all progressive causes in India.

**With Regards,  
Kiran Chandra  
General Secretary  
Free Software Movement of India.**