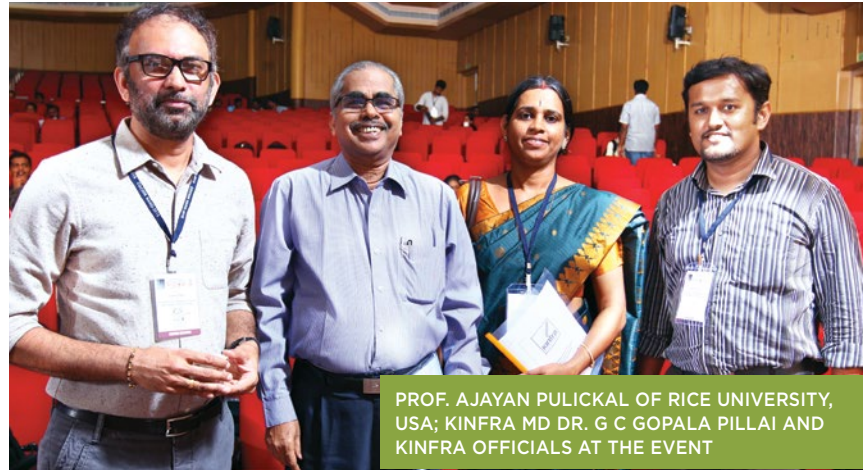


## INTERNATIONAL MEET ON NANO TECHNOLOGY HELD



PROF. AJAYAN PULICKAL OF RICE UNIVERSITY, USA; KINFRA MD DR. G C GOPALA PILLAI AND KINFRA OFFICIALS AT THE EVENT

in Nano Science and Technology. KINFRA Managing Director Dr. G C Gopala Pillai chaired a session on 'Low Dimensional Materials Science and Engineering' led by Professor Ajayan Pulickal of Rice University, USA. Delegates from more than 10 countries participated in the event, which provided an excellent platform for scientists, academicians, industrialists and students to share their ideas.

The infrastructure requirements and facilities needed for KINFRA's proposed Nano Technology Zone at Hi-Tech Park, Kalamasserry was fine-tuned during the conference in consultation with leading delegates. The Zone is being set up in association with CUSAT in a bid to promote Nano Technology-based industries. As part of this, KINFRA proposes to set up a common facility with suitable infrastructure for encouraging research scholars from universities and other R & D institutions to establish their business ventures.

The fourth international conference on Frontiers in Nano Science and Technology (Cochin Nano 2016) was held at the Department of Physics and Inter University Centre for Nanomaterials and Devices, Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) recently. It was aimed at bringing eminent researchers from both academic community and industry under one roof to discuss latest developments



## SAHRIDAYA VEDI AWARD FOR KINFRA MD



DR. G C GOPALA PILLAI RECEIVING THE AWARD FROM T P SREENIVASAN IFS

KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai received the Management Excellence Award instituted by Kerala Sahridaya Vedi. Former Indian diplomat and Vice Chairman of Kerala State Higher Education Council T P Sreenivasan IFS presented the award at a function in Thiruvananthapuram. Dr. Pillai was selected by a judging panel comprising former Minister Kutty Ahmed Kutty, INKEL Managing Director T Balakrishnan IAS, ATE Group Chairman E M Najeeb, Kerala Sahridaya Vedi President Channankara M P Kunju and T P Sreenivasan.

## THE MAGIC OF PRESERVING FRESHNESS OF FLOWERS, PLANTS

*Eternal Blooms, a flower company at KINFRA Industrial Park at Kalpetta in Wayanad, specialises in producing preserved plants, fruits and flowers*



A spring that would last at least for two years in your home! Eternal Blooms, a flower company at KINFRA Industrial Park at Kalpetta in Wayanad district, specialises in producing preserved plants and flowers. Using frontier technology, the company preserves the natural freshness of otherwise perishable flowers without subjecting them to high temperatures or freezing, thus retaining maximum quality.

"The idea is to enhance the life of plants without damaging their natural traits and appeal," says Binimol, the proprietor of the company. Her husband Suresh James is the driving force behind her unique venture. Eternal Blooms bagged the top honours at the India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi in 2014 and '15. Conceived three years ago, the couple started with the conventional way of preserving flowers. "But we found that the colours faded. We experimented, researched and, after a series of setbacks, hit upon the right formula. Preserved flowers and foliage were gifted to my friends and based on their feedback, appropriate changes were made," adds Binimol, who later started a showroom at Kalpetta.

Flowers and plants are harvested at their prime and their natural look

is retained using harmless biodegradable materials and food colours. According to Suresh, preservation takes about 40 days. "A freshly cut flower has to be preserved within 24 hours. However, all plants and flowers cannot be preserved. Cypress, bamboo, most ferns and flowers such as roses, tube roses, lilies, carnations and wild flowers are ideal," says Binimol. The

couple sources the flowers from Bengaluru, Ooty and Yercaud.

Suresh has been doing research in plant and flower preservation for the past three years. His next dream is to preserve palms. "It is a very popular trend abroad. Since they live longer and are not at all difficult to maintain, they are preferred to real palms," he says. These would be perfect for hospitality industry and IT sector, too, he says. The company makes bridal bouquets and garlands using preserved flowers.

Besides preserved and dry flower arrangements, the company also makes processed fruits such as mango, papaya, jackfruit, pineapple and pomegranate as well as spices. "We are following a unique technology wherein the products are dried at ambient temperature at which a particular fruit is grown. Other advantage is that all these are dried without adding sugar or preservatives," Suresh informed.

While processed fruits are marketed under the brand name Tropical Dry Fruits, preserved spices go to the market as Red Peppercorns. Products from Eternal Blooms can be ordered online at [www.eternalblooms.net](http://www.eternalblooms.net). Suresh and Binimol can be reached at: +91 4936 203633/203233.

