

## CENTRE APPROVES THE FIRST 'DEFENCE PARK' IN INDIA

The Central Government has given the green signal to set up the country's first 'defence park' at Ottappalam in Palakkad district in Kerala as part of the 'Make in India-Make in Kerala' project. The project report submitted by Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) in this regard has received an 'in-principle nod' from the Dept. of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Union Commerce Ministry.

The Centre's approval is a recognition for government's efforts to promote the manufacturing sector in Kerala," said P H Kurien, Principal Secretary Industries who was instrumental in clinching the deal. The park project, which is under the Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIUS), would make components required for defence establishments across the country.

KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai said the park could start ventures in one year and reach maximum production in two years. It would manufacture night vision equipment, parachutes, flying suits, diving suits and so



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INDUSTRIES MINISTER



on. The products manufactured here can be exported through the Nedumbassery, Coimbatore and Karipur airports and Vallarpadom container terminal. The park is to come up in 60 acres of land at Ottappalam. The cost of the project, including the cost of the land, is about Rs. 231 crore. Out of this, Rs. 50 crore is to be offered by the Centre, while the remaining Rs. 181 crore is to be spent by KINFRA. As of now, there are 6000 units manufacturing goods for the defence services in the country. However, they meet only 25 per cent of the requirements. Defence sector imports are taking

up a large chunk of nation's foreign reserves. If this can be reduced by 25 per cent, about 8 per cent growth can be achieved creating about 1.2 lakh jobs. This project has been approved because of the continuous efforts

made by Industries Minister P K Kunhalikutty, Planning Board Vice Chairman K M Chandrasekhar, Kerala Chief Secretary Jiji Thomson IAS, Defence Secretary G Mohan Kumar, Union Industrial Promotion & Policy Secretary Amitabh Kant IAS, State Industries and IT

Principal Secretary P H Kurian IAS and KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai.



**P H KURIEN IAS**

### IL&FS TO PREPARE DPR FOR MEGA FOOD PARK

KINFRA has selected IL&FS as the project management consultant for preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) to set up the Mega Food Processing Park (MFPP) at Palakkad. It would be provided with basic infrastructure facilities like roads, electricity and water supply. These apart, common facilities such as water treatment plant, efflu-

ent treatment plant, quality control laboratories, cold storages, warehouses and process centres would be set up. The primary processing centres would also be equipped with weighing lines, packhouses, chill rooms/cold storages, etc.

The Rs. 121.92-crore project was earlier approved by the Union Ministry of Food Processing Indus-

tries (MoFPI) as part of setting up 17 new projects in different parts of the country. The raw material base for the MFPP would include districts of Wayanad, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur and Ernakulam. The major raw materials identified for the park are coconut, ginger, pepper, cardamom and turmeric among others.

## FOOTWEAR PARK PLANNED



**KINFRA MANAGING DIRECTOR DR. G C GOPALA PILLAI SPEAKING AT THE BUSINESS TO BUSINESS MEET WITH THE STAKEHOLDERS IN KOZHIKODE**

If plans pan out as envisaged, Ramanattukara, the emerging town on the outskirts of Kozhikode, will become Kerala's 'footwear capital'. KINFRA has devised an ambitious plan to set up a footwear park on a 30-acre plot at Ramanattukara in association with the footwear cluster community under the mega leather cluster scheme of the Centre. It is expected to be completed at a cost of Rs. 107.01 crore in two years.

Kerala's footwear market is worth

Rs. 600 crore a year, but the State is not producing even half of it. Though there were more than 200 manufacturing units in Malabar, footwears of international standards were not being produced there. Besides, the footwear industry is scattered and unorganised.

KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai said that the park would have facilities for manufacturing footwear and raw materials needed for the industry and allied leather-based units. "The park would feature all the necessary

infrastructure for the development of modern, technology-based footwear industry. Giving a big support to the 200 footwear manufacturing units in north Kerala, it would provide direct employment to 2,000 people and indirect employment to over 3,500."

KINFRA, which will implement the project, proposes to develop common infrastructure facilities in the park which include dedicated power, water supply, communication facilities and plug and play arrangement for easy start up of industrial units at minimum cost and time. KINFRA also proposes to develop a 'footwear institute' in an area of five acres adjacent to the footwear park. It will hold centres for training, design and innovation. The skilled manpower to the proposed cluster can be generated from the proposed footwear institute. As a part of this, KINFRA organised a business to business meet with the stakeholders in Kozhikode on July 25.

## 'NO CARROT AND STICK POLICY'



Niti Aayog would be a think-tank producing working papers on what the vision of the government and governance should be, Aayog member Bibek Debroy said. He was speaking on 'Reform of Governance and the Role of Niti Aayog' at the lecture organised by KINFRA and Kerala State Planning Board on July 14.

The Niti Aayog does not wield either carrots or sticks but would be a storehouse of data and a depository

of best practices for states to exchange. "The Niti Aayog would not be a building where Chief Ministers queue up to get Plan funds released. It would not be a body that conjures up totally irrelevant poverty lines," Debroy said. "The Aayog would monitor Central and State schemes and suggest ways to tweak to ensure that they deliver desired outcomes," he added. KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai, Planning Board Vice Chairman K M Chandrasekhar,

Centre for Development Studies (CDS) Director Prof. Amit Shovan Ray, Planning Board Member G Vijayaraghavan and Plan Coordination Division Chief P V Kamalasanan Nair attended.



**UNION RAILWAY MINISTER SURESH PRABHU WITH KINFRA MD DR. G C GOPALA PILLAI**