

## KINFRA, CUSAT JOIN HANDS TO SET UP NANOTECH FACILITY



CUSAT VICE CHANCELLOR DR. J LATHA AND KINFRA MD DR. G C GOPALA PILLAI AT THE MEETING

**K**erala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) and Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) will join hands to set up the proposed Nanotechnology facility at KINFRA Hi-tech Park at Kalamassery. KINFRA, in association with CUSAT, organised a brainstorming session on infrastructure requirements at the proposed Nanotechnology facility at KINFRA Hi-tech Park, Kalamassery on the CUSAT campus.

The event, presided over by KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai, was inaugurated by CUSAT Vice Chancellor Dr. J Latha. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gopala Pillai said the proposed materials park with special emphasis on Nanotechnology could become a trend-setter in the country. The session arrived at a consensus to set up a basic common facility, which could be utilised by researcher-entrepreneurs.



**“THE PROPOSED MATERIALS PARK WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON NANOTECHNOLOGY COULD BECOME A TREND-SETTER IN THE COUNTRY”**

and CUSAT would collaborate on the project.

Nandakumar Kalarikkal, Director of the International and Inter-University Centre for Nano Science and Nanotechnology at Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, highlighted the need for a policy on Nano Science and Nanotechnology research because of the social, ethical, legal and environmental implications of pursuing such research.

He said what is needed was a consortium of researchers so that duplication of efforts and facilities could be avoided. The consortium must ensure that the facilities are accessible to researchers who need them, he said. The other suggestions that came up during the discussions included a facility for large-scale production of Nano materials.

A ‘Nanotechnology Zone’ has been earmarked inside KINFRA Hi-tech Park for promoting Nano-technology-based industries. As part of this, KINFRA proposed to set

up a common facility with suitable infrastructure to encourage research scholars from universities and other R & D institutions to establish their business ventures. This proposed facility may require arrangements for technology transfer, patenting etc. It is in this context that KINFRA organised such an event with the aim of evolving strategies and ideas for setting up such a facility.

## TUs SHOULD CHANGE ATTITUDE TOWARDS PSU REVAMP: P H KURIAN



**K**erala Industries and IT Department Principal Secretary P H Kurian IAS has said that trade unions should change their attitude that public sector units should not be revamped. He was speaking at the Entrepreneurs-Investors Meet organised by KINFRA in association with Kerala State Small Industries Association (KSSIA) in Kollam recently. “Trade unions should understand that change is constant. Many industries in Kerala are in a pathetic state as they failed to keep pace with the changes happening in the respective sectors,” he said. The Principal Secretary also cited the poor state of affairs of Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation (KSCDC) as an example. “It could have been revived if no fresh appointments were made to the Cor-

poration some years ago. However, this suggestion was strongly opposed by the Unions leading to the present crisis,” he said. According to Kurian, a certain section of society is against the revival of industries in Kerala. “Thirty to forty per cent of people here believe that they have no responsibility to revive industries in the State as their children are employed in the Gulf or European countries. They are hardly thinking about the larger interests of the State,” Kurian said. KINFRA MD Dr. G C Gopala Pillai said that the meet was held as part of an attempt to give a fillip to the industries sector in

Kollam district. “As part of this, KINFRA’s first industrial park (formerly Travancore Plywood Industries) in the district has come up at Piravanthoor. The aim is to set up similar infrastructure facilities in various parts of the district so that aspiring entrepreneurs can start ventures at ease,” Dr. Pillai said.

KSSIA State president K P Ramachandran, Kollam district president A Nizarudeen, KINFRA General Manager K Sudhakaran and Manager (Technical) Sunil G and District Industries Centre General Manager Helan Jerome also spoke on the occasion.

**KINFRA’S FIRST INDUSTRIAL PARK IN KOLLAM IS READY AT PIRAVANTHOOR. THE AIM IS TO SET UP SIMILAR INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DISTRICT**

