

## SAND PURIFICATION PLANT LAUNCHED AT KINFRA PARK



In a major development that could save the construction sector, which is reeling under acute shortage of sand, a new method for sand collection from ports has been launched in Kerala.

The idea is to mine sand from ports and provide it to customers after purifying it scientifically at a nearby plant. A first-of-its-kind plant set up at KINFRA Industrial Park at Kuttippuram was launched by Kadannappally Ramachandran, Minister for Ports recently. Wg. Cdr. K A Santhosh Kumar, MD, KINFRA was also present.

In a public-private partnership, the State Government and the Malappuram-based Rajadhani Minerals have joined hands to collect river sand that has washed away into the estuary at Ponnani. The processed sand will have the same quality as that of river sand. While the Department of Ports will undertake sand mining and sale, the private agency has been entrusted with task of cleaning the same.

The sand that is collected from the estuary is processed at the Rajadhani Minerals unit at the KINFRA Industrial Park and then made

available to the public. At the unit, the sand is washed to rid it of salt content, and made ready for construction purposes. Hydro-cyclone technology is used in the washing process and a reverse osmosis plant has been set up to reduce water utilisation. The unit also has a thickener plant for making bricks utilising the slurry from the washing.

“It is a win-win for everyone,” says P A Latheef, one of the partners of Rajadhani Minerals. “More than 2,000 people will be employed for collecting sand from the estuary. The Government will fix the price of sand and take 35 per cent of the sale proceeds, the local municipality will

### APPLY ONLINE FOR GETTING SAND

Those who require sand may apply online through the website [www.portinfo.cdit.org](http://www.portinfo.cdit.org). The base price for one tonne purified sand is Rs. 1900. Customers have to pay five per cent sales tax and an amount of Rs. 220 as vehicle pass. The money should be remitted in the account of the Department of Ports. Sand will be allotted to those who submit the receipt along with token of booking and documents related to construction. Customers can arrange vehicles by themselves for transporting sand.

get taxes, and the once-busy Ponnani port could be revived as a result of the dredging (sand removal),” he says.

P Sreeramakrishnan, Speaker, Kerala Assembly, inaugurated the public meeting held in connection with the launch of the plant. K T Jaleel, Minister for Local Self-Governments, presided over the function.

The ambitious project is expected to reduce the indiscriminate mining of sand, thereby giving a fresh lease of life to Kerala’s rivers. The idea offers manifold benefits, including job creation and a reduction in river sand mining.

The project will create 5000 job opportunities directly and indirectly. Sand mining workers, who have been registered with local self-governing bodies, will get employment. The use of conveyor belt to collect sand has drastically reduced the work load of labourers, who will be given Rs. 565 per tonne of sand. The Government also has plans to implement the project across the State. Preliminary works to set up a similar plant at Azhikode have already commenced.

## A UNIT WHICH UTILISES JACKFRUIT’S FULL POTENTIAL



Kerala has an abundance of jackfruit, using which more than 500 types of dishes can be prepared. However, owing to the dearth of processing units in the State, over 60 per cent of the produce is wasted. To curb this wastage and utilise the fruit’s potential, Artocarpus Foods Pvt. Ltd. has set up a jackfruit processing unit at KINFRA Industrial Zone in Kannur district.

Spread over an area of 9,000 sq. ft., the unit is currently focusing on supplying jackfruit as a raw material to other food industries. The major products include jackfruit pulp, paste, jackfruit bits, retort pouched unripe jackfruit and retort pouched tender jackfruit, and different kinds of recipe with tender jackfruit.

Subhash Koroth, MD, Artocarpus Foods, said the company has been set up with an initial investment of

Rs. 1 crore and is a beneficiary of the Kerala Government’s industrial development scheme. “Some of our products will soon be available on Amazon under the brand name Hebbon,” he said.

Every part of jackfruit can be used as food at different maturity stages. But the taste, colour and nutritional value of the fruit may vary from one tree to another. Jackfruit trees require minimal care for growing and are generally free of diseases.

“Jackfruit could be considered a safe vegetable as it is free from pesticides and insecticides. Our daily production ranges between 800 kg to one tonne depending on the variety of the fruit. ‘Varikka’ (hard flesh) is more difficult to process than ‘Kuzha’ (soft flesh). As of now, no machines are available for the cutting and separation of the flesh and hence, 50 per cent of the process is done manually,” he said.



SUBHASH KOROTH MD, ARTOCARPUS FOODS



### KINFRA TAKES PART IN LAGHU UDYOG EXPO

KINFRA participated in the recently-held Laghu Udyog Expo-2017, a two-day national-level vendor development programme-cum-industrial exhibition and B2B meeting, organised by the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. with the support of Department of Industries & Commerce. Wg. Cdr. K A Santhosh Kumar, MD, KINFRA made a presentation on upcoming KINFRA Defence Park, Palakkad and Electronic Manufacturing Cluster (EMC), Kakkannad. V R Balu, Manager, KINFRA was also present. The event was aimed at offering a meaningful platform for MSMEs for showcasing their products and services, and interacting with prospective clients.