

KERALA GOVT. LAUNCHES K-SWIFT ON A PILOT BASIS

With an aim of substantially improving the position of Kerala in terms of ease of doing business, the State Government has taken a major initiative with the launch of Kerala Single Window Interface for Fast and Transparent Clearance (K-SWIFT) on a pilot basis. E P Jayarajan, Minister for Industries and Commerce, launched the system at an event held in Thiruvananthapuram recently.

Delivering the inaugural address at the function, the Minister said that the launch of K-SWIFT on a pilot basis will help understand the loopholes and shortfalls in the system before its full launch by Pinarayi Vijayan, State Chief Minister, in February.

K-SWIFT will help create an environment which is investor-friendly and conducive to improve ease of doing business in the State, by making procedures to obtain industrial licences easier. The new system mandates all concerned government departments to take action on applications for industrial licences within 30 days. "K-SWIFT will increase the efficiency of government bodies, thereby aiding the industries," he added.

We have not been doing great in terms of performance of industries and commerce lately. However, K-SWIFT is a significant step forward and it will help boost our current position to a great extent. K-SWIFT will eliminate all unnecessary delays in obtaining and renewing industrial licences," said



the Minister. He observed that it is important to attract international and domestic investments to the State by increasing the industry performance rating.

At the outset, the new single-window system will coordinate the activities of 14 government departments in according or renewing the licences for 29 industrial operations. One of the major highlights of the system is that it will generate a deemed licence in favour of the applicant in the event of a delay of more than 30 days in taking action since the filing of the application.

"Kerala is a State which enjoys a high level of decentralisation of government bodies. Therefore, reforms should percolate down to all the three levels of it and that itself is a huge challenge. All participant departments have come a long way in taking up this challenge," said Dr. K Ellangovan IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries.

K-SWIFT has been shaped by amending a number of key Acts, rules and procedures which were hitherto governing the clearance

protocols. Elias George IAS (Retd.), Chairman, Infrastructure, Government & Healthcare Practice (IGH), KPMG; K Biju IAS, Director, Department of Industries; Shailendra Singh, Additional Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP); Prasad Unnikrishnan, Director, KPMG Advisory Service; E K Unnikrishnan, Technical Director, National Informatics Centre; Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph, MD, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC); P Ganesh, Past Chairman, CII Kerala & MD, Glass & Glazing Systems Pvt. Ltd. and Deepak L Aswani, Chairperson, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) Kerala State Council were also present at the function.

K-SWIFT will be formally launched at ASCEND - 2019, a high-octane event being organised by the State Government to position Kerala as an ideal investment destination and showcase a raft of administrative and policy reforms initiated to draw more investments to the State from India and abroad.

KINFRA DEFENCE PARK WILL HELP DRAW LARGE-SCALE INVESTMENTS: MINISTER

The upcoming KINFRA Defence Park in Palakkad together with the proposed aviation hub in Kan-nur has been hailed as one of the major initiatives of the State Government towards boosting defence manufacturing. "The commencement of operations at the Park and hub would attract large-scale investments to the State and make Kerala a hub of defence manufacturing," said E P Jayarajan, State Industries Minister. He was speaking at the inaugural function of the Kerala Defence and Aerospace Conclave in Kochi, organised by the Department of Industries and Commerce, Kerala Bureau of Industrial Promotions (K-BIP) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

He also explained how Kerala has come forward as an industry-friendly destination with various initiatives and by developing defence startups as well as micro, small and



medium enterprises (MSMEs). The Minister urged the MSMEs to take advantage of the opportunities that the State is offering.

"The defence sector has huge opportunities for investment and is the 'sunrise industry' of the country," said K Ellangovan IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, in his keynote address.

Wg. Cdr. K A Santhosh Kumar, MD, KINFRA made a brief presentation on India's defence ecosystem at the event. India is said to spend Rs. 25,000 crore for defence manufacturing in 7-8 years. "The main advantages of KINFRA Defence Park

is excellent connectivity to the national highway, airport, sea-port and railways. Cost competitiveness and availability of highly literate English-speaking workforce are the other advantages. The Park also has plug and play infrastructure," KINFRA MD said. The Park has proximity to other defence hubs and establishments like the Cochin Shipyard; Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Kasargod; Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Kochi and the proposed industrial corridor connecting Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Coimbatore and Chennai. It will support the MSME sector manufacturers to connect to the defence sector.

AVOKI RESORT INAUGURATED AT KINFRA FILM AND VIDEO PARK



The KINFRA Film and Video Park has got a new facelift with the inauguration of Avoki Resorts, a perfect destination for business and leisure holidays having 25 rooms, including five suites. It also has two restaurants, fitness centre and a game zone. The resort was inaugurated by Kadakampally Surendran, State Tourism Minister, on December 26. Applauding the venture, the Minister said it will attract customers due to its proximity to Technopark and its location

in the middle of the bamboo grove. He also proposed raising the standard of other existing guest houses in KINFRA Parks to match that of Avoki's.

"Earlier, the land here remained unutilised, but with the setting up of KINFRA Film & Video Park and resorts like this, the area has undergone a sea change for the better," said Wg. Cdr. Santhosh Kumar, MD, KINFRA. "In Thiruvananthapuram, one needs to go to suburbs of the city like Kovalam, Varkala or Poovar, to experience a resort life. But Avoki, with its private space in the KINFRA Park at Kazhakkottam, well within the city limits, presents the same ambience of a premium resort. Also, we will consider the development of the KINFRA Film & Video Park as a whole while considering the expansion of the resort in future," said Sajeed, Project Manager, Avoki Resorts.

The resort will soon have a conference hall, spa and entertainment area.