

## KINFRA POISED TO ALTER KERALA'S INDUSTRIAL PROFILE

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MEGA FOOD PARK IN PALAKKAD

**K**erala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) headed by Wg. Cdr. K A Santhosh Kumar has drawn up elaborate plans for implementing developmental activities for the current financial year and upcoming years.

With impetus powered by the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), it is gearing up for more land acquisitions for further development of industrial infrastructure in Kerala.

Commissioning of the Mega Food Park project in Palakkad will be one of the major initiatives of KINFRA. Similarly, close to 85 per cent of work of the KINFRA Defence Park at Ottapalam has already been completed.

KINFRA is looking forward to operationalise the Park by August or September this year. Although

the work on Electronic Manufacturing Cluster at Kalamaserry has started, the major portion of the work will happen only in 2020. A standard design factory will be coming up there. Basic infrastructure development works have already been completed in about 20 acres of land there.

**WITH FUNDING FROM KIIFB KINFRA IS GEARING UP TO COMPLETE MORE LAND ACQUISITIONS IN KERALA WITH A FOCUS TO CREATE LAND BANK FOR DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

### DEFENCE PARK

KINFRA will soon start the marketing activities for the Defence Park. "As part of its marketing, events will be held within and outside Kerala. We plan to go to places like Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad where defence industry is doing well and showcase the facilities and features offered at the Park at Ottapalam," said the MD, speaking to *Destination Kerala*.

Ministry of Defence (MoD) is planning to set up six testing facilities in the defence corridors across the country. Department of Defence Production has referred KINFRA to the MoD authorities for the establishment of a testing facility. "KINFRA Defence Park at Ottapalam is next to the defence production corridor which starts from Coimbatore. We have requested to extend the corridor to Ottapalam so that the

facility also becomes part of the corridor," informed Santhosh Kumar.

Following the referral from Department of Defence Production, KINFRA held talks with the Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) Ministry of Defence. "Defence officials were very happy with the basic infrastructure at the Park which includes a testing facility also," he recalled the conversations during the meeting. Department of Defence Production will come up with an Expression of Interest (EoI) for bidding.

"We expect to become one of the six centres. That is a challenge we are taking up as being a testing facility is an added advantage for the defence park. Companies which come can utilise the common facilities at very nominal rates," he added.

"Major industrial players in the Kochi-Coimbatore belt will also be able to use this facility," Santhosh Kumar opined.

### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTRE

KINFRA is also planning to step into MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions & Exhibitions) and hospitality sectors in the current financial year. Wg. Cdr. Santhosh is hopeful that KINFRA will sign an agreement with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) to set up an International Exhibition and Convention Centre (IECC) at Kakkanad in Kochi. A Special Purpose Vehicle will be formed to implement the Rs. 160-crore project.

"We are looking at a two year timeline to complete the project. KINFRA has earmarked five acres for five star hotel and 15 acres for the convention centre," he said. While KINFRA and ITPO will be the promoters of the convention centre, the hotel construction and operation will be leased out to players in the hospitality business by seeking EoI.



WG. CDR. K A SANTHOSH KUMAR

### SPICE PARK

KINFRA has already submitted Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the setting up of Spice Park in Idukki. "We expect to receive the final approval for the project soon," he said. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 22 crore.

### PETROCHEMICAL PARK

KINFRA is expecting to receive the final approval from the Union Government to acquire 481 acres of land from the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) to set up a Petrochemical Park in Kochi. "Our DPR for the Park is ready and we have already completed framing the basic terms of reference for securing environment clearance. The required data have been submitted to the Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB). We hope to get the clearance after the completion of the social impact assessment at the site," he informed. According to KINFRA MD, the work of the project could be completed in a period of two years once it acquires the land.

### RICE TECHNOLOGY PARK, PALAKKAD

In an attempt to address the shortage of rice availability in Kerala, KINFRA is planning to set up a Rice Technology Park in Palakkad. At present, the demand for rice is met by sourcing it from neighbouring States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. "For

the benefit of farmers of the State, KINFRA will directly procure paddy from them and perform the processing here with the establishment of Rice Technology Park," the MD said. The rice thus processed at the Park will be branded and sold in the State. The Rice Technology Park to be established on a five-acre land will manufacture other value-added products like rice bran oil and ready-to-eat items.

### CARBON NEUTRAL COFFEE PROJECT

In Wayanad district KINFRA is planning to acquire 100 acres of land to set up a Mega Food Park out of which 10 acres will be utilised to establish a carbon neutral coffee production plant.

The project is envisioned to bring the largely unorganised coffee producers under KINFRA. Through the project, KINFRA hopes to make coffee production more 'process-defined' and thereby help the farmers to receive fair price for their produce. "We have drawn inspiration from the initiative to streamline coffee production at Araku valley in Vizag by introducing coffee producers to carbon neutral coffee production," said the MD. Carbon neutral production mechanism imparts value addition to the final product, thereby helping farmers earn higher prices.

### LAND ACQUISITIONS

KINFRA is undertaking large-scale land acquisitions across Kerala to establish a land bank for projects. Acquisition of almost 6000 acres of land is underway at locations all over the State.

"Acquisition processes are in different stages like identification, social impact assessment, survey and expert committee review. However, the first phase of most of these acquisitions will be completed this year," promised the MD.