

KAPCT begins commercial operation to revolutionise inland navigation in Kerala

EXIM facility inaugurated in Kottayam Port

Kottayam: The EXIM facility in the Kottayam Port & Container Terminal (KPACT), a Public-Private initiative with KINFRA as a major promoter, was inaugurated by Ms. Rama Mathew, Commissioner-Customs here on October 24, 2011.

Along with KINFRA, the South Indian Chamber of Commerce is also a major participant in the effort. Commercial operations in the Kottayam Port & Container Terminal began on October 18.



The EXIM inaugural function was attended by Sri. Suresh Joseph IRTS, Sri S. Ramnath, MD-KINFRA and several other prominent figures associated with ports and container terminals.

"The launch of a facility such as the Kottayam Port will tap the immense potential of inland navigation in Kerala", Sri. S. Ramnath observed. "This is a first-of-its-kind in India with both road and railway access to the facility."

Kottayam Port & Container Terminal Services Pvt. Ltd (KPACT) has appointed a consortium comprising Aries Logistics Ventures and AGIL Freight Logistics for the handling and opera-

tional side of the ICD and container terminal.

The first phase of the ICD and minor port have been set up with the overall objective of providing infrastructure facilities for movement of Customs-cleared stuffed export containers originating from the central districts of Kerala such as Kottayam, Idukki and Pathanamthitta. There are about 1,500 exporters in these districts and nearly 24,500 TEUs are being transported to the port by road. An ICD at Kottayam will help

increase export activities from these three districts.

The aim of the project is to facilitate and induce exports from the central parts of the state and promote cargo consolidation and inland navigation. It will be the first multimodal ICD in India utilizing inland navigation. Total logistics cost can be reduced by using road as the mode of transport to Vallarpadam from Kottayam. The Directorate General of Systems-Customs and Central Excise has allotted ICD, Kottayam the location code "INKYM6". And KPACT has obtained trans-shipment permit from Cochin Customs as the transporter.

In KINFRA Hi-Tech Park, Cochin

Chief Minister lays Stone for XIME Business School

The foundation stone for the XIME Business School, Cochin was laid in KINFRA Hi-Tech Park, Kalamasserry on November 12, 2011 by Sri. Oommen Chandy, Hon. Chief Minister-Kerala. Hon. Union Minister of State for Food &



Consumer Affairs Sri. K.V. Thomas presided. Sri. K. Babu, Hon. Minister-Excise & Ports, Sri. V.K. Ebrahim Kunju, Hon. Minister-Public Works and Sri. K.P. Dhanapalan, MP, along with officials from KINFRA and XIME attended the function. The institute is being set up by Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship, Bangalore.

T. Balakrishnan retires as Addl. Chief Secretary-Industries

Sri. T. Balakrishnan IAS, Addl. Chief Secretary & Member, Board of Directors, KINFRA, called it a day and retired from a long innings with the governments, both Central and State, on October 31, 2011. It marked the successful culmination of an illustrious career that covered from tourism management to industrial entrepreneurship, and infrastructure development to cultural enhancement, all that mattered to ensure that the forward march of Kerala at a crucial period in history when the permit-license-Quota Raj was replaced by Public Private Participation in nation building was heralded.



"In fact, the first two decades of my work as a member of the Indian Administrative Service-Kerala Cadre was totally devoted to Tourism, the forerunner to the development of various sunshine industries in our State", he once told an interviewer. "It took me all the way to New York as India's tourism emissary in the US. But on my return, my services were diverted to the impending need to modernise and update the industrial infrastructure scenario. It has been a challenge worth taking and I have enjoyed it."

That was the time when Sri. T. Balakrishnan got involved with KINFRA. His sharp intellect and futuristic imagination recognised the crucial role KINFRA could play, and became a part of our core team as a board member. Rather than rest on his laurels, Sri. Balakrishnan took it upon himself to guide us, to correct our course when needed, and to dream big dreams which he helped us realise.

As Principal Secretary, and later, as Addl. Chief Secretary-Industries, Sri. T. Balakrishnan was one of the moving forces behind every revolutionary step on our developmental scenario. He had the courage of conviction to speak his mind out, which often clashed with traditional, conservative and time-worn ideas. He questioned the old-fashioned practitioners of development, while keeping warm relations with even those who opposed him.

His retirement would have been a huge loss to Kerala in general and the industrial infrastructure development scenario in particular, but for the fact that he will continue to be available to guide us all in his present assignment as Managing Director-INKEL.

Team KINFRA places on record its high appreciation and deep gratitude for all that Sri. T. Balakrishnan meant to us as a friend, guide and administrator, and wishes him an equally grand innings in his current assignment as well. Thank you, Sir!

Pioneers in Progress

Magic wand of Muthukad creates MRC in KFVP

When Gopinath Muthukad burst upon Kerala's infotainment stage as a performing magician, little did his admirers imagine that some day he would partner with KINFRA to set up India's first Magic Academy Research Centre (MARC) in the KINFRA Film & Video Park Kazhakkootam.



"We were pleasantly surprised when Mr. Muthukad came out with the proposal for this project", says Sri. S. Ramnath, MD-KINFRA. "Never in our wildest of imaginations had we assigned a slot for magic in the KFVP scenario when the Park was set up. But as we all know, nothing is impossible in the world of magic and so we have this Research Centre!!!"

One of the major objectives of the MARC is to provide local magicians the economic wherewithal for improving their performance. The centre would have a multi-media facility where magicians could watch and learn how to present tricks using the latest methods. MARC produces video CDs of various magic tricks. The academy also develops kits for children who have an interest in learning about and performing magic tricks. Directors of movies and serials can avail themselves of the services of MARC. A special team at the MARC offers support to jobless street magicians. There are also plans to set up a home for rehabilitating aged and sick magicians. A magic theatre also is being created on the premises of the park.

