### INVESTOR Konnect

Monthly Newsletter

**EDITION 14 | DECEMBER 2021** 



## From the **EDITOR's** Desk

he state has made major strides during the last five year's through implementation of various initiatives to digitise business to government interactions via ease of doing business reforms, extending financial assistance to MSMEs, investment promotion activities, industrial infrastructure development, capacity building, MSME facilitation programs etc. The K-SWIFT Online Single Window Clearance system has been a game changer in the Industrial landscape of the State. Today,\ I am happy to share that more than 30000 entrepreneurs have registered on the portal and more than 15000 MSME Acknowledgement Certificates are issued.

As per Directorate Industries & Commerce, there are approximately 1.5 Lakh working MSME units in the organised sector. Also, 47 % of the MSME working units in the State was formed in the last 5 years which clearly demonstrates the State's unprecedented growth in fuelling MSMEs which are the backbone of manufacturing and industrial development in the State. K-SWIFT has been a key enabler for this growth.

Presently, 79 services including renewals of 21 Departments / Agencies are being made available in KSWIFT, which includes

Renewal services. The portal offers various features including, online tracking of applications and approvals within fixed timelines, Real-time notification and alert via SMS, e-mail and through Dashboard, Integration with Esevanam portal, integrated Payment mechanism through e-Treasury and Bank gateway, and many more. We are currently working on a mobile platform for K-SWIFT, which would provide Latest News, Events Acts/Rules/GOs/ Announcements, Notifications & Circulars, entire services available in KSWIFT web portal and dynamic dashboard to track application; Dedicated Grievance Redressal Mechanism & Feedback; User Guide; chat bot etc.

Department of Industries has always strived to provide maximum support to the investors and would put concerted efforts to further help the industry and Government to bridge gaps and to work together in true spirit of collaboration and partnership to chart a new growth story for Industries sector.

#### Dr K. Ellangovan IAS

Principal Secretary, Industries & NORKA, Government of Kerala



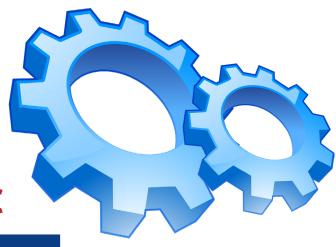






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#### STATE LEVEL TECHNOLOGY CLINIC





Kerala Government organized Technology Clinics – a two days programme by accommodating the entrepreneurs of the existing units. This clinic was conducted by utilizing the faculties of reputed institutions and Technocrats to equip the entrepreneurs to modernize/upgrade the technology of existing units and to discuss their technical problems. The technology clinic was offered in respective thrust sectors. The clinic was organized for Innovations and New Technologies in Packaging on 2nd November, 2021, and for Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Construction and infrastructure Sector with Emerging New Technologies.

### KERALA FOSTERS INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE TIES WITH VIETNAM

Kerala Government plans to strengthen industrial and trade ties with Vietnam to explore opportunities in agriculture and fisheries sector. The state share a lot of similarities with the South East Asian nation in the field of agriculture and fisheries. Vietnam has developed excellent practices and productivity in the areas of paddy, pepper, coffee, rubber and cashew nuts. Kerala plans to learn from Vietnam to replicate its achievements and future development of these sectors. A 6-member delegation from Vietnam led by Pham Sanh Chau, Vietnamese Ambassador to India, had arrived in Kerala on a three day visit. The group visited various areas in

Thiruvananthapuram district.

Vietnam intends to replicate the State to improve in areas such as higher education, professional training and information technology. Collaboration opportunities in the area of digital education and online learning was discussed. The relationship between the two sides will be strengthened through expert visits and webinars and the formation of joint working groups in the fields of agriculture and fisheries would pave the way for cooperation between the two regions.



# RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENTS

Kerala's singular environmental fragility and its social sensitivities and land availability concerns requires a new industry development focus. Developed countries around the globe have prioritized ESG investments. ESG stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance. Investors are increasingly applying these non-financial factors as part of their analysis process to identify material risks and growth opportunities. Increased focus on ESG investments globally and ESG is also gaining traction as a strategy for creating value for businesses in the long term. The State has devised a newapproach for Resilient and Sustainable Industrial Development in the State by emulating the renowned 5Rs framework for Sustainability (Zero Waste) as follows:

Responsible Industries
& Investments

Reducing Regulatory
Compliance Burden

Robust Industrial Infrastructure

Renewed Logistics ecosystem

Resilient Thrust
Sector focus

Kerala is preparing to come out with a first-of-its-kind policy to promote environmental, social and governance (ESG) investments as the State has a dual focus on its agenda – Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business. The State is analysing the policy reforms wherein the government plans to provide incentives for ESG investments. The focus area for ESG investments would be Agro-based industries, Food Processing, Financial Institutions, IT and Electronics etc.



State is well positioned to become the hub of sustainable investments on the back of the following factors:

- a. Leader in SDG
- b. Strategic geographical location
- c. Export-specific Infra strength
- d. Digital State
- e. Green Infrastructure focus
- f. High quality of life
- g. High quality talent pool
- h. Renowned Startup Ecosystem

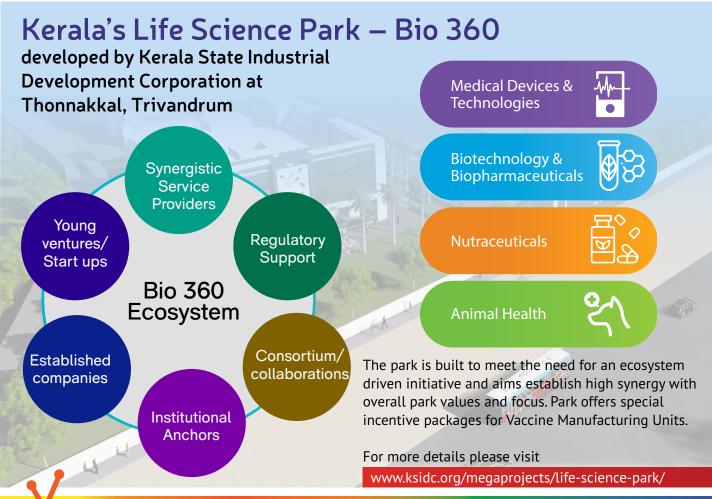
Besides industrial investments, the government feels that the good infrastructure for education and healthcare in addition to ease of living good quality of air and water will attract offices to the State as one-fifth of the jobs are now turning into remote jobs. People prefer to work where ease of living standards are high thereby bringing in such industries and MSMEs to the State.



#### K-SWIFT Portal achieves 30K milestone -

#### Crosses 30K entrepreneur registrations







Kerala's focus on building the Logistics Ecosystem makes it the first State to complete preparation of State Logistics Action Plan

