

# EDITORS DESK



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**“The usefulness of knowledge is only realised when it is converted into a product.”**

The name Kerala brings to mind many images. Temples, churches, mosques: no wonder it's God's Own Country. Art and culture: kathakali, theyyam, chakyarkoothu, kalarippayattu, kathaprasangam, poetry, dance, music. Literature: home of great novelists and poets like Kunchan Nambiar, Vallathol, Kumaran Asan, Basheer, O V Vijayan and M T Vasudevan Nair. Beaches, mountains and backwaters that make the state one of the 50 destinations in the world on one's bucket list. Food: some of the best seafood and meat preparations in the world with the added spice of the world's spice capital.

You will notice that Kerala brings to mind many images in the public imagination; however, industry is not one that is common. That is strange considering that Kerala has some very successful industries which have been doing business for long periods of time with great success. Companies in the seafood industry, plantations, spice extracts, nutraceuticals, medical devices and biotechnology have not only excelled in the Indian market, they also do very good business in the global market. There are a few key drivers for the success of these industries. One, a strong research infrastructure built in the 1970's and strengthened over the past 50 years. Two, the highly educated populace boasts of the highest

proportion of STEM graduates in India. Three, the focus of many of the industries on the global market has helped them achieve international standards of quality.

The Government of Kerala has been focusing on a few thrust sectors with the emphasis on knowledge-based industries as part of its drive to transform the state into a knowledge economy. Life sciences and medical devices are among the 21 thrust sectors identified by the Kerala government. The presence of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), an Institute of National Importance created by an Act of Parliament in 1980, is a huge force multiplier for the Kerala MedTech ecosystem. Trivandrum is the closest to an ideal medical device cluster in the country with its research institutions, teaching hospitals, universities, medical device companies, startups and scientific, medical and engineering talent available in abundance. The time is right for industry and research across the country and the world to take advantage of the solid foundation that exists in Kerala.

KMTC welcomes entrepreneurs, industrialists, research organizations, funding organizations, consultants and startups to come to Kerala and see firsthand what the state has to offer.

