Kerala, the state that lies on India’s south-western tip, is home to one of the world’s best-known biodiversity hotspots. The state's unique climatic conditions and topography support a wide range of flora and fauna, while the new initiatives make the state more investor-friendly.

The people of Kerala are known for their ability to acquire new skills quickly to meet the changing requirements. This talent has helped them make their mark across the world.

Kerala is known the world over as a tourist’s paradise. The state has made a name for itself as a health and wellness destination. The salubrious weather, clean and green surroundings and peaceful atmosphere make Kerala a good place to live in too. Not surprisingly most Keralites prefer living and working in their home state, if they get the right opportunities.

Kerala offers businesses unmatched social and economic advantages that are hard to replicate. The state beckons innovations and investors in the Life Science sector.

KSIDC - Driving industrialisation in Kerala

The Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) is the primary arm of the Kerala state government for industrial and investment promotion. The Corporation offers a wide range of services such as developing business ideas, feasibility studies, financial assistance in the form of term loans, working capital and seed funding, promotion of innovation, incubators and start-ups and facilitating clearances and approvals. KSIDC has set up industrial infrastructure in the state in the form of Industrial Growth Centres and Industry specific parks.

Kerala's strengths

Human Resources

- Highest Human Development Index in India (0.79), at par with developed nations
- Highest Physical quality of life index among major states in India
- Highest literacy rate in the country
- Higher Educational institutions that ensure a good pool of skilled manpower
- A good skillable workforce that can adapt to changes and pick up industry-specific skills

Digital Infrastructure

- India’s first digital state with high-speed broadband connectivity in all villages through the National Optical Fibre Network
- Teledensity is 119.08 as against 91.9 for India as a whole
- E-governance initiatives for better service delivery
- A well-developed IT industry supported by world-class IT Parks
Physical Infrastructure

- Physical connectivity through four international airports, a major seaport and well-developed rail and road networks
- Well developed social infrastructure in the form of schools, colleges, hospitals, cultural centres etc.

Government Policies

- Online single window clearance system - K-SWIFT - for industries
- The Life Science Industrial Policy promotes private as well as public-private partnership mode of development. The policy envisages accelerated commercial production and services in Life Sciences
- Supportive government policies - Industrial & Commercial Policy, Kerala Technology Start-up Policy, Agricultural Development Policy and Kerala State Information Technology Policy
- Fixed Capital Investment subsidy up to Rs. 3 million under the Entrepreneur Support Scheme. Bio-Technology based industries are eligible for an additional assistance of 10% of the fixed capital investment subject to a ceiling of Rs.1 million, given to priority industries
- Grants to MSME units set up after acquiring new technology from approved research institutions
- Incentives for enterprises coming up in recognized industrial park/zones
  - 100% stamp duty / registration fee exemption
  - Environmental Protection Infrastructure Subsidy
- KSIDC offers interest rebate for its clients who service the loan promptly. At present the rebate offered is 0.75% every quarter

Life Sciences in Kerala

Life Sciences are in Kerala’s DNA. The state hosts the Western Ghats, one of the 39 biodiversity hotspots in the world. It is home to many endemic species of plants and animals. Its coastal areas are dotted with lagoons and backwaters that teem with aquatic life.

Life Science related industrial units in diverse fields such as medical devices, diagnostics, agricultural biotechnology, bio-pharma, nutraceuticals, environmental biotechnology, contract research and bio-informatics thrive in the state.

The blood bags developed by SreeChitraTirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) are today being exported to 80 countries across the world while the Sree Chitra heart valve, has crossed over a lakh implantations.

Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute has developed nutraceutical products for diabetes, arthritis and cholesterol from marine organisms such as seaweeds and green mussel. Its nutraceutical product for thyroid dysfunction is in the final stage of clinical trial.

From selling raw spices, the state has grown to isolating the molecules in spices that give them their qualities. These active ingredients are then used to design and create therapeutic, nutritional and flavouring solutions.

The state’s biodiversity powers Ayurveda, the renowned Indian system of traditional medicine. Huge opportunities exist for bioprospecting in the state. Its herbs are a source of medicines that can cure many ailments that afflict humans around the world. “Jeevanai” a restorative, immuno-enhancing, anti-stress and anti-fatigue drug developed by scientists at the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (TBGRI), from a medicinal plant – Arogyapacha - used by the Kani tribals is only one example.
Drivers of Life Sciences in Kerala

- Home to the Western Ghats, one of the 39 biodiversity hotspots in the world
- About 300 Life science-related institutions including
  - 15 National level R&D institutions
  - 12 Universities
  - 30 Medical Colleges
  - 20 Dental Colleges
  - 7 Ayurveda Medical Colleges
- Nearly 1000 research scholars working on frontier technology areas in Life Sciences / Biotechnology
- About 200 PhDs produced every year in the sector
- A broad spectrum of Life science related Industrial units
- Traditional industries such as Ayurveda & bio-pharma
- Cost-effectiveness in instrumentation & software in Life science industry
- Technology Park with CMMI level 4 quality certification and world-class IT campus at Trivandrum and Kochi
- A well developed IT industry that makes it an ideal place for emerging fields such as Bio-Informatics
- Bio-clusters to facilitate focused development through academia, industry and government linkages
  - Biomedical Technology at Trivandrum Bio-cluster
  - Aquatic Biotechnology at the Kochi Bio-cluster
  - Agro-Veterinary and Forest Biotechnology at the Malabar Bio-cluster
- Infrastructure for the Life Science sector in the form of Life Sciences Park, Thiruvananthapuram

Life Sciences Park

The Life Sciences Park, set up by KSIDC provides a functioning ecosystem for entrepreneurs in the sector. The Park, a part of Trivandrum Life Science cluster, is spread over 215 acres of land at Thonnakkal. It is located near Centres of Excellence in Life Sciences such as the Regional Cancer Centre, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology and Technopark Trivandrum. The region also has established industries in the bio-medical sector. Several start-ups too have been thriving in the vicinity. The Park aims to grow into a cluster of research institutions, sci-tech academia and companies, working in the field of Biotechnology, Nano-technology and Life sciences.

Facilities at the Park

- Developed plots
- Ready-to-occupy built-up modules
- Biotech Incubation Centre promoted by KSIDC and the Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute
- R & D Laboratories for medical equipment, disease diagnosis, drug discovery, development of novel biologics for antibody treatment of cancer, dengue and snake venom
- Multi-tenant lab facilities for common use
- Business Incubation Centre
- Infrastructure facilities such as roads, electricity, water supply, internet connectivity, waste management facilities
- Flexible occupation plans with an option for leasing, licensing for long or short terms
- Food courts and recreation facilities

Units at the Park

- Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University’s Bioscience Research and Training Centre has started operations at the Park.
- Virology Institute, being set up by the state government
- A unit of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology
- An advanced referral lab, animal house and translational centre is also coming up at the Park

Space is available in the Life Sciences Park for large and integrated Bio-IT companies. The land in the park will be offered on lease or as government’s equity. Ready to occupy built-up modules are being set up. Several well-known multinational companies are at different stages of moving into the Park. Presently, KSIDC offers a reduction of 50% in land price as part of its Early bird scheme for land allotment. Businesses desirous of setting up units in the park may contact: