

The Kerala II Advantage

A Decade of Building Global Value



Foreword





Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala

Kerala, with its remarkable human capital and progressive ecosystem, is poised to become a premier destination for Global Capability Centres (GCCs). We recognize that GCCs are the strategic engines of innovation for global companies, and we offer a unique blend of talent, infrastructure, and policy to support your growth.

Our state's greatest asset is its people—a vibrant pool of over 200,000 skilled IT professionals. This, combined with our world-class IT parks and superior digital connectivity, provides a powerful advantage. To ensure your seamless success, we have introduced the Kerala GCC Policy 2025-30, offering a turnkey "GCC Boilerplate" solution and targeted fiscal incentives.

We have set an ambitious goal to grow from 40 to 120 GCCs and expand employment to 200,000 professionals by 2030. These targets reflect our shared potential. We invite you to explore this Playbook and partner with us to build a future that is not only technologically advanced but also sustainable and equitable. We are ready to host your innovation and shape the future, together.

Foreword





Shri. Seeram Sambasiva Rao IAS

Special Secretary Department of Electronics & IT Government of Kerala

Kerala is fast emerging as a strategic hub in India's digital economy. With its robust technology ecosystem, world-class infrastructure, and highly skilled talent pool, the state offers a fertile ground for the growth of Global Capability Centers (GCCs), IT services, and next-generation startups. Its seamless connectivity and progressive policy framework further strengthen Kerala's position as a preferred destination for innovation-driven investments and inclusive job creation.

GCCs in Kerala are not just operational centers—they are strategic partners in shaping the future of technology, sustainability, and digital inclusion. By fostering collaboration between government, industry, and academia, Kerala has cultivated an environment where innovation thrives, and enterprises can achieve both scale and impact.

Our vision is to nurture a future-ready ecosystem that empowers global enterprises while contributing meaningfully to Kerala's socio-economic development. Whether you are a multinational looking to expand or a startup seeking growth, Kerala provides the clarity, capability, and conviction to support your journey.

We invite you to explore the opportunities that Kerala presents and join us in building a resilient, inclusive, and globally competitive digital economy.

Executive Summary

Kerala has witnessed steady growth in the IT and technology services sector over the past decade, positioning itself as an emerging location for Global Capability Centres (GCCs). The state has developed three primary IT hubs - Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, and Kozhikode - supported by dedicated IT parks, connectivity infrastructure, and research ecosystem.

This report outlines Kerala's trajectory as a GCC destination and presents key aspects relevant for global enterprises. It begins with an overview of Kerala's role in the wider GCC landscape and then examines the state's strategic advantages, including infrastructure, availability of skilled talent, quality of life, and a growing innovation ecosystem.

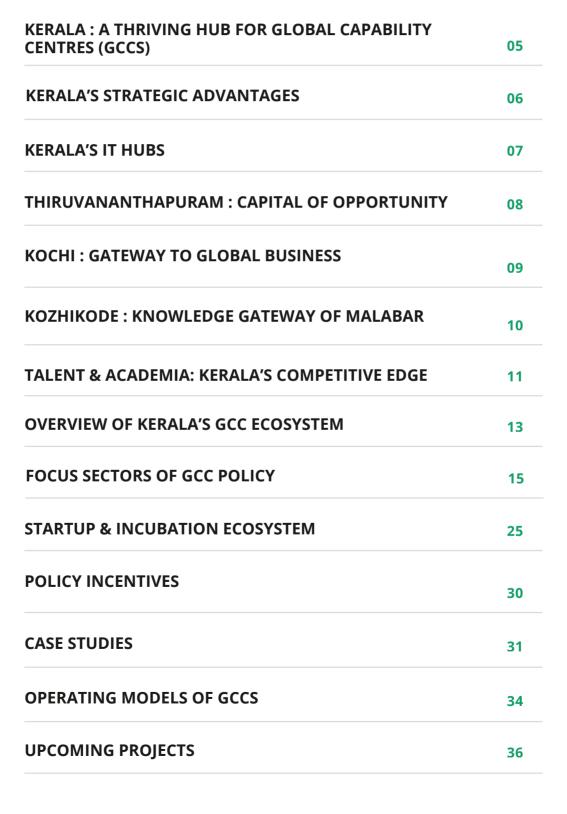
The three IT hubs are presented- Thiruvananthapuram with its established Technopark and institutional strengths; Kochi with advantages of port connectivity, startup vibrancy, and business linkages; and Kozhikode as an emerging hub with a strong academic base and sectoral focus.

Subsequent chapters highlight the state's talent pipeline, academic and research institutions, and its startup and incubation ecosystem. Government policies and incentives that support IT investments are outlined, along with descriptions of different operating models available for setting up GCCs.

The report also features case studies of companies that have established operations in Kerala, showcasing their impact in terms of employment, capability building, and scaling up businesses from Kerala.



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Kerala: A Thriving Hub for Global Capability Centres (GCCs)

Kerala, a state on the southern coast of India, has been celebrated for decades for its long-term investment in its people and its commitment to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens. With a high population density of 862 people per sq. km, Kerala focused on developing a knowledge economy supported by universal education, accessible healthcare, and strong social infrastructure. By the 1990s, the state recognized that its future lay in high-value, knowledge-driven industries and established Technopark in Thiruvananthapuram, one of the oldest and largest IT parks in the country. It signalled to the world that Kerala had both the intent and the capability to host large-scale technology and service operations.

Over time, multinational corporations seeking to diversify their Indian presence began to look beyond the saturated markets of metro cities. In Kerala, they found a highly educated workforce with global exposure, low attrition rates, and a lifestyle environment that encouraged long-term retention. Early entrants expanded quickly, demonstrating that world-class operations could thrive here. IT parks in Kochi and Kozhikode joined later to form a network of hubs, each supported by strong connectivity, enabling global companies to integrate seamlessly with operations of their parent organizations.

Today, Kerala is home to 40+ GCCs, spanning multiple sectors from financial services to advanced analytics, delivering high-quality software products for some of the world's most respected brands. This is a story of consciously established excellence, and it is only the beginning.





Kerala's Strategic Advantages

At the heart of Kerala's success is its talent pool. The state produces over 50,000 engineering and STEM graduates every year, supported by a network of top-tier universities, engineering colleges, and management institutions. In addition to technical qualifications, Kerala's workforce is known for its English proficiency, global exposure, and adaptability to diverse work cultures. The presence of tier-1 academic and research institutions fosters industry-academia collaboration, enabling GCCs to tap into emerging technologies and domain expertise.

Kerala's vibrant startup ecosystem has gained recognition on a global scale. With dedicated incubators, accelerators, and sector-specific innovation hubs, the state has become a fertile ground for tech-led entrepreneurship.

Kerala has four international airports - Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode, and Kannur - offering direct links to the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and major domestic cities. The state is also connected by modern highways and railways, while urban centres are improving intra-city mobility with metro systems, including Kochi Metro and India's first Water Metro.

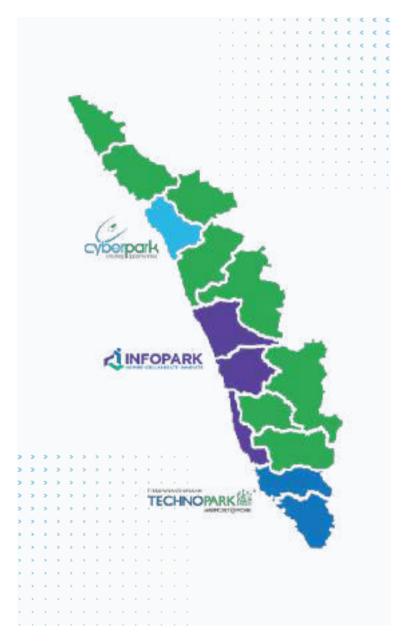
The state's commitment to creating a conducive business environment is evident in its progress in ease of doing business, political stability, and a focus on law enforcement. Kerala got Rank No.1 in 'Ease of Doing Business Reforms 2023'. Air quality in Kerala's cities is consistently better than in most urban centres, contributing to overall well-being and productivity.

Kerala is the first Indian state to declare internet as a basic human right. Through Kerala Fibre Optic Network (K-FON), Kerala also became the first Indian state to have its own Internet service, ensuring high-speed connectivity throughout the state and addressing digital divide.

For organisations looking to build resilient, future-ready operations, Kerala offers an environment where strategic priorities and human potential meet.

Kerala's IT hubs

Kerala's position as a competitive base for Global Capability Centres is anchored in its network of modern, well-planned IT parks, strategically located across three key cities. Together, these hubs are home to more than 2,000 IT and ITeS companies, ranging from global multinationals to high-growth homegrown enterprises,



Thiruvananthapuram

Technopark Phase I: 198.43 acres (5.61 M sq.ft.)
Technopark Phase II: 86 acres (3.72 M sq.ft.)
Technopark Phase III: 90.02 acres (2.56 M sq.ft.)
Technopark Phase IV: 389.74 acres (0.73 M. sq.ft.)
Technopark Phase V (Kollam): 4.44 acres (0.10 M sq.ft.)

Kochi

Infopark Phase I: 100.39 acres (7 M sq.ft.)
Infopark Phase II: 125.72 acres (1.6 M sq.ft.)
Infopark Thrissur (Koratty): 6 acres (0.38 M sq.ft.)

Infopark Cherthala: 9 acres (0.24 M sq.ft.)

Kozhikode

Cyberpark: 42.5 acres (0.3 M sq.ft.)

Presence of 40 +

Global Capability Centres (GCCs)

Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi featured in NASSCOM's list of top emerging GCC hubs

The IT parks operate on a hub-and-spoke model with satellite centres in adjacent districts. All the three parks are wholly owned by the Government of Kerala and operated as autonomous entities, giving them the flexibility to adapt quickly to industry needs while ensuring alignment with the state's long-term development vision. The partnership between government and industry has been central to their growth, showing a proven, collaborative model for success.



Thiruvananthapuram

Capital of opportunity

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala's capital, is a strategic centre where governance, education, tourism, and technology converge. As the state's political and administrative hub, it also leads in high-value industries and advanced research. With an international airport offering direct global connections, India's first deepwater transshipment port, and the proposed metro rail project set to improve urban mobility, the city is well-positioned to support global business operations.

The city claims leadership in defence and aerospace. It hosts three ISRO facilities - the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, and Inertial Systems Unit, along with the upcoming Kerala Space Park, enabling innovation in space technology. Strategic military institutions such as the Southern Air Command, Pangode Military Station, BrahMos Aerospace, and the planned Maritime Theatre Command give the city unmatched significance in national defence.

The city has also built a strong profile in automotive software. Companies like Nissan Digital, Tata Elxsi, Visteon, Blue Binaries, dSPACE, and Acsia deliver engineering and embedded systems solutions globally from Thiruvananthapuram. The presence of Kerala Automobiles Ltd., the state-owned electric three-wheeler manufacturer, adds manufacturing depth and supports green mobility initiatives.

In biotechnology and life sciences, Thiruvananthapuram stands out nationally. The Bio360 Integrated Life Sciences Park is an upcoming cluster for biotech R&D and manufacturing. The Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology and the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology are leaders in biomedical research, diagnostic medicine, and medical devices.

The city's talent ecosystem is anchored by prestigious institutions such as the College of Engineering Trivandrum (CET), Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). National research bodies like ICAR and CSIR contribute to multi-sector expertise. Skill development is boosted by ASAP Kerala, ICT Academy of Kerala, ICFOSS, while Digital University Kerala, IIITMK, and APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University advance technical education and R&D.



Kochi

Gateway to Global Business



scan to learn more

Kochi stands out as Kerala's culturally diverse metropolis that has gracefully blended heritage with modernity. Anchored by a global airport and distinguished as the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy, the city is a sustainability benchmark and a logistical hub of global importance.

Kochi's industrial canvas is rich and varied. The Cochin Shipyard, the nation's premier shipbuilding and repair facility, supports maritime maintenance at scale. Nearby, the Vallarpadam International Container Transshipment Terminal, India's first transshipment terminal, serves as a key node in global cargo movement, with recent upgrades now enabling it to handle over 1.4 million TEUs annually, and counting. Adding to this strategic maritime cluster is the Southern Naval Command, headquartered in Kochi, reinforcing the city's defence prominence.

The city prides itself on a thriving marine and seafood processing industry, it supports research excellence via institutions like the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and the Indian Maritime University, fostering industry-relevant R&D and nurturing domain expertise. Oceanographic research is another focus with institutes like NIO and NPOL.

Kochi houses the BPCL Kochi Refinery, the largest public-sector refinery in the country, processing 15.5 million tonnes per annum as of now. The facility also supports specialty petrochemical production through an on-site complex. Expansion plans, including upcoming petrochemical projects by 2027–28, further reinforce Kochi's industrial depth_

Kerala Technology Innovation Zone (KTIZ) in Kalamassery is emerging as India's largest integrated startup complex. This vibrant ecosystem encompasses BioNest, Maker Village, and the BRINC accelerator, alongside the first super Fab Lab built in collaboration with MIT- the first of its kind outside U.S. These institutions are magnetizing startups in biotech, hardware, robotics, and deep tech, fostering meaningful partnerships with multinational corporates.

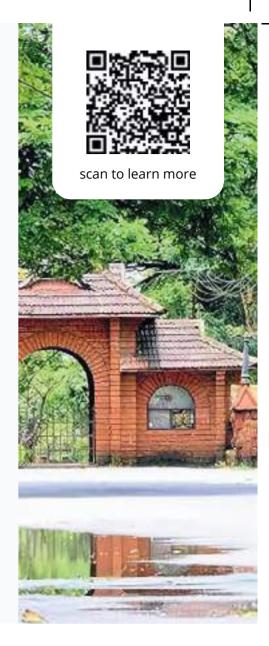
For Global Capability Centres seeking a location that embodies commercial strength and innovation potential, Kochi stands out as a vibrant, purposeful, and future-forward destination.

Kozhikode

Knowledge Gateway of Malabar

Kozhikode, steeped in history and renowned as UNESCO's City of Literature, combines cultural heritage with contemporary promise, as one of Kerala's safest urban spaces and a strategic gateway to Middle East trade. Enriched by its own international airport, the city has become a focal point for academic, healthcare, and innovation ecosystems that support sustained economic engagement.

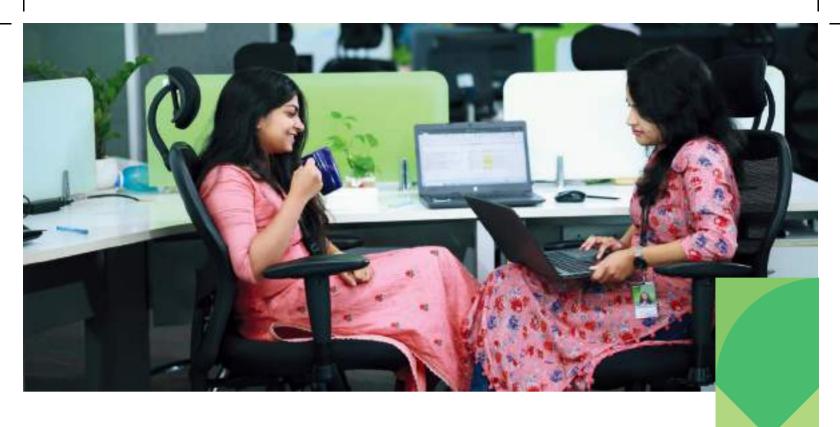
The academic infrastructure of Kozhikode is unmatched in northern Kerala. NIT Calicut, founded as a Regional Engineering College in 1961 and later elevated to NIT status in 2002, now serves over 6,500 students across undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programmes in technical education. The city also hosts IIM Kozhikode, establishing it as a rare academic blend covering premier engineering and management education.



Health and biotechnology sectors in Kozhikode are equally robust. Superspecialty hospitals like Aster MIMS and the sprawling Government Medical College, Kozhikode- India's largest hospital by bed capacity, serve the region with advanced care. The city is also recognized for spice research innovation: the Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) by ICAR ,leads national efforts spice-related in agricultural science, offering deeply relevant synergy with Kerala's thriving spices and food processing industry. Anchored by the University of Calicut, the largest affiliate university in Kerala, the region shapes the state's higher education fabric. Specialized institutions like the Kerala School of Mathematics contribute to research depth.

Kozhikode's startup and incubation landscape is equally vibrant. Through Kerala Startup Mission - Calicut, along with incubation centers at IIMK Live, NIT Calicut TBI, and Malabar Innovation Zone, the city nurtures homegrown tech ventures. These enablers provide entrepreneurs access to mentorship, infrastructure, and early-stage support, building a thriving ecosystem in sectors such as agritech, healthcare, and analytics.

Kozhikode's location both geographically and culturally, positions it as a natural springboard to Gulf markets, especially given the historic spice trade routes that originated here. Businesses and GCCs operating from this location can gain strategic access while tapping into this palette of institutional strength and innovation capability.



Talent & Academia:

Kerala's Competitive Edge

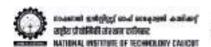
Kerala's position as a leading hub for Global Capability Centres is underpinned by a world-class talent ecosystem- one that combines academic excellence, technology-driven learning, skill development, and a strong culture of innovation.

At the forefront of this transformation is the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Digital University Kerala - DUK), the first of its kind in India. Established in 2020 by upgrading the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management -Kerala (IIITM-K), DUK is reimagining higher education through a digital-first approach. It offers advanced postgraduate and research programs across diverse disciplines, blending classroom and online learning to make quality education accessible to a wider audience. The state's commitment to skilling is further evident through institutions such as the ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK), International Centre for Free and Open Source Software (ICFOSS), and the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP). These bodies focus on emerging technologies, open-source systems, and employability skills, working closely with industry to align training with real-world requirements.





















Kerala's educational network is vast and inclusive, with over 10,000 institutions spanning schools, colleges, professional academies, and vocational training centres. This strong foundation ensures that talent is nurtured from the grassroots, with students gaining access to quality learning opportunities irrespective of geography.

The MuLearn platform adds a unique dimension to this ecosystem by enabling peer-to-peer learning and collaboration between students, educators, and industry professionals. Designed to foster teamwork, self-learning, and mentorship, MuLearn provides a space for learners to engage with cutting-edge projects, share ideas, and build skills that go beyond traditional academics.

The state also benefits from vibrant developer and tech communities, including Google Developer Groups (GDG Kerala), Microsoft Learning Circles, and Android Educators. These communities organize hackathons, meetups, and innovation challenges, giving young professionals and students direct exposure to industry practices and emerging technologies.

Kerala's higher education landscape features some of the country's most respected institutions: These institutes consistently produce highly skilled engineers, scientists, and managers, reinforcing Kerala's position as a talent powerhouse.





Overview of Kerala's GCC Ecosystem

Kerala's GCC landscape operates on a dual-city model, leveraging the distinct yet complementary economic and institutional strengths of Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi.

GCC Distribution across Major IT Hubs

Hub	Major Activities	Key Domain Focus & Specialization	
Thiruvananthapuram	Administrative, R&D, Deep-Tech Focused	Niche Digital Engineering, Complex Engineering (Automotive, Aerospace), Specialized Risk/Insurance Technology, Core R&D and Product Development.	
Kochi	Commercial, Financial, Global Service Delivery Global Service Delivery Consulting. Broad Global Services, Business Shared Services, Financial Techn (FinTech), Large-Scale IT Delivery		
Kozhikode	Emerging Hub	Focus on IT/ITES, potential for specialized rural/Tier-3 support functions.	

Key Sectoral Representation

The state's strategy concentrates on verticals that maximize the value derived from Kerala's strong educational infrastructure, specialized engineering talent, and low attrition rates.

Domain Vertical	Estimated Strategic Weight (%)	Core Functions	Future Growth Driver
BFSI (Banking, Financial Services & Insurance)	35%	Focus on complex risk, compliance, and core insurance platforms.	FinTech Modernization & Regulatory Technology
Engineering R&D (ER&D) & Product Engineering	30%	Focus on embedded systems, IoT, digital manufacturing, and specialized aerospace engineering.	Automotive EV, Defense Technology, and Deep Tech integration.
Core IT Services & Consulting	20%	Foundational operations, global service delivery, and digital transformation consulting.	Cloud Computing Migration and Cybersecurity.
Healthcare & Life Sciences	10%	Focus on clinical trial support, medical analytics, and device software R&D.	Dedicated industrial parks like Bio360, MedSpark initiatives.
Maritime, Oil & Gas, & Emerging Deep Tech	5%	Niche expertise leveraged by strategic port infrastructure and presence of oil terminals and refineries	Logistics Optimization, Al/ML Platforms, and Data Analytics.

Focus sectors of GCC policy

Kerala aims to strategically attract GCCs in industry verticals where the state possesses inherent advantages, a strong talent pool, and significant global exposure.



1. Maritime Logistics & Port Services

- This domain is strategically linked to Kerala's coastal geography and its massive infrastructure investments. GCC mandates here involve maritime technology, logistics optimization software, port management systems, and supply chain analytics.
- Vizhinjam International Seaport Limited (VISL) and Cochin Port drives the transshipment port development.
- Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) is the largest shipbuilding and maintenance facility in India, and it is among one of the few companies in the world that have built an Aircraft carrier and the only facility in India capable of building aircraft carriers.
- Indian Maritime University (Kochi) and Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) provide specialized courses in Supply Chain Management, Port and Shipping Management, and degrees focusing on Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering.
- Adani Ports is building a 70-acre logistics park in Kochi. The facility will feature 1.3 million sq. ft. of integrated logistics infrastructure.
- The emergence of Vizhinjam as a deep-water transshipment hub creates unique, timesensitive demands for logistics and supply chain optimization software, a key GCC function.





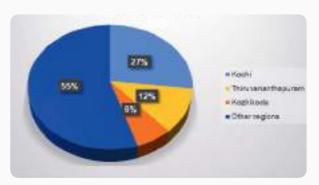
Skill mapping:

Availability of skilled professionals in supply chain & logistics: 18,798

Skill sets:

Supply Chain Management, Supply Chain Optimization, Supply chain Operations, Supply Chain Consulting, SAP Supply Chain, Logistics Management, Integrated Supply chain Management

Talent availability across Kerala





2. Oil & Gas services

Building on the extensive global experience of Keralite professionals in the Middle East and other major oil & gas hubs. This includes GCCs focused on engineering services, digital solutions for energy management, remote monitoring, and back-office operations for the oil and gas sector.

- Kerala's oil & gas ecosystem is anchored around downstream (refining, LPG/LNG imports & terminals), mid-stream (terminals, pipelines, shore-base logistics) and an emerging upstream exploration push in the Kerala-Konkan offshore basin.
- The major operational assets near Kochi- BPCL's Kochi Refinery, Petronet's Kochi LNG terminal and IOCL's LPG import terminal-make Kochi a strategic southern hub for fuel handling and distribution.
- Steady talent supply of B.Tech/M.Tech graduates specializing in Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation, and chemical engineering from premier institutions like NIT-Calicut and College of Engineering Trivandrum, supported by specialized diploma courses.
- The Kinfra Petrochemicals Park, a Rs.1,900-crore project is progressing towards completion at Ambalamugal Kochi (in collaboration with BPCL), creating an ecosystem for value-added chemical and digital solutions.





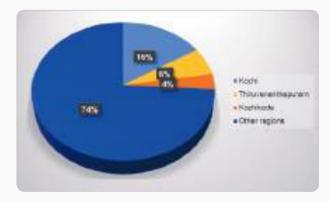
Skill mapping:

Availability of skilled professionals in oil & gas operations: 10,078

Skill sets:

Onshore oil and gas operations, Upstream oil and gas, Oil and gas drilling, Offshore oil and gas operations, Downstream oil and gas, Petroleum refining

Talent availability across Kerala





- Kerala possesses advanced healthcare infrastructure and high human development indices, providing a natural base for Healthcare & Life Sciences GCCs.
- Capitalizing on Kerala's robust healthcare infrastructure, medical education excellence, and a large workforce with global experience in healthcare delivery and medical research, opportunities exist for GCCs in health-tech, medical analytics, clinical research support, and pharmaceutical R&D support.
- Kerala has a mature healthcare delivery system with a strong public health network and a large private hospital network (Aster Medcity, VPS Lakeshore, Amrita AIMS, KIMS), a growing medtech / biotech R&D base and an active health-startup & incubation ecosystem run through Kerala Startup Mission.
- Kerala is positioning itself as a life-sciences manufacturing & innovation hub through Bio 360 Life Sciences Park at Thiruvananthapuram and MedSpark, India's first dedicated medical devices park, while maintaining high healthcare tourism and tertiary care capacity.
- Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute (SCTIMST) and Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB) are leading research institutions for biomedical technology and advanced biology research.
- Medical device manufacturing companies like Terumo Penpol- Asia's largest blood bag manufacturer, Dentcare Dental Lab , Agappe diagnostics and HLL Lifecare have emerged as industry leaders.
- Advanced degrees in Bioinformatics, Clinical Research Management, and Biomedical Engineering, capitalizing on Kerala's strong medical education base.
- Kerala Medical Technology Consortium (KMTC), is a flagship initiative to create an appropriate ecosystem in the state to foster medical innovation, R&D, technology development entrepreneurship and manufacturing over the next decade. KMTC start-up ecosystem is modelled around the competitive cluster environment concept.







4. Hospitality & Tourism Technology

- Kerala is a premier tourist destination, generating a unique GCC opportunity in digitalizing the high-end hospitality and travel industry. GCCs focus on digital platforms, global booking engines, revenue management systems, and customer experience (CX)
- Kerala has the highest number of 5, 4 and 3 star classified hotels in India
- Supported by the Kerala Tourism Policy, which promotes digital transformation and sustainable tourism practices, creating a market for specialized travel technology captives.
- Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC) drives state-level hospitality infrastructure and technology standards.
- Leading institutes specializing in Hotel Management and Tourism Studies, including Institute of Hotel Management and catering technology (IHMCT Kovalam) in Thiruvananthapuram
- Focus on Service Design, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, and Travel Revenue Management systems, integrated with Digital Technology skills (AI/ML for personalized recommendations).
- Deep domain expertise in global hospitality due to the massive local tourism economy, translating into high-quality BPO/KPO talent for customer-facing operations.









5. Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI)

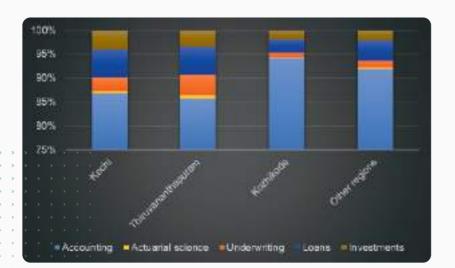
- BFSI is the largest and most mature GCC domain in Kerala, focussing on specialized centers and large-scale shared services across domains like InsureTech, core banking ,Risk Management, Financial Analytics, Risk analytics and high-quality Global Business Services (GBS).
- With a growing financial services sector and an emphasis on digital transformation, Kerala is ideal for GCCs focusing on fintech solutions, risk management, compliance, financial analytics, and back-office operations for global financial institutions.
- Proven capability to manage large-scale, high-compliance financial operations and a low-attrition environment ensuring business continuity.





Skill mapping:

- Availability of skilled professionals -1.1 lakh
- Skillsets Financial accounting, tax accounting, management accounting, cost accounting, loan underwriting, credit underwriting, insurance underwriting, commercial underwriting, loans origination, loan servicing, investment banking, investment strategies, investment research, investment portfolios



Talent availability across Kerala



6. Advanced Engineering & R&D

- Leveraging the strong engineering talent pool and academia-industry connect, GCCs involved in product development, design engineering, advanced materials research, and embedded systems will find a supportive ecosystem.
- Companies focus on product Engineering, Advanced Silicon Design (VLSI), Embedded Systems, core technological research, and specialized industrial automation services, and other IP-intensive work, along with providing specialized, high-reliability engineering and manufacturing services with industrial-grade R&D
- The Trivandrum Engineering Science and Technology Research Park (TrEST), is the first technology research science park in Kerala, established for collaborative research in microprocessor design, electric vehicle research, and other emerging technologies
- With the support of Government of Kerala, Kerala Startup mission (KSUM) associated with Centre for Bits and Atoms, MIT Fab Lab Foundation, USA for setting up two Fabrication labs each at Technopark, Trivandrum and Kerala Technology Innovation Zone (KTIZ), Kochi. The Super Fab lab in Kochi is the first-of-its-kind outside the US and also hosts the 'Fab Academy' programme





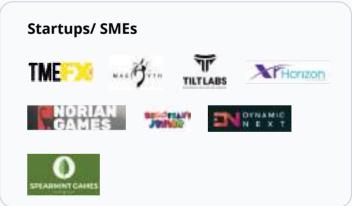




7. Digital Media & Entertainment (AVGC-XR)

- Capitalizing on Kerala's creative talent pool and its emerging animation, visual effects, gaming, and comics (AVGC) ecosystem, GCCs can focus on content creation, game development, animation studios, visual effects, and related digital media services, aligning with the state's AVGC policy initiatives.
- Kerala is renowned for its cultural richness and artistic legacy, which provides immense
 potential for content creation and Intellectual Property (IP) development. This heritage
 includes classical art forms like Kathakali and Koodiyattam (a UNESCO Masterpiece), a
 profound tradition in painting including mural art and the work of Raja Ravi Varma, and
 a distinguished cinematic history (Mollywood).
- The state has a skilled workforce in cutting-edge technologies, setting the stage for the growth of the AVGC-XR sector. This coupled with comparatively lower operational costs, makes Kerala an attractive location for gaming and VFX studios.
- The Kerala AVGC-XR Policy 2024 outlines several key initiatives to foster the sector's growth:
 - A specialized center of excellence (CoE) to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure, including digital post-production labs, motion capture, 2D and 3D animation, and high-speed rendering, and will drive talent development, R&D, and establish standards for AVGC-XR education.
 - Financial Support in the form of AVGC-XR Catalyst Fund and dedicated R&D Funds to promote research and development activities.
 - A dedicated GPU cluster for AVGC-XR companies









8. Aerospace & Defence (A&D)

- Kerala is the cradle of India's space program, historically rooted in Thiruvananthapuram. This foundational base provides a unique ecosystem for A&D GCCs specializing in high-security, mission-critical systems, R&D for launch vehicle technology, embedded systems, and defence electronics.
- Kerala Spacepark (KSPACE) is a dedicated industrial park offering incentives like capital subsidy, SGST reimbursement, low-interest loans, and streamlined clearance to attract private sector space technology firms.
- Proximity to VSSC, LPSC, and IISU (ISRO's lead centers) creates an unparalleled talent pool and R&D synergy for high-security, missioncritical systems.
- Indian Institute of Space Science & Technology (IIST), a premier institution hosts specialized engineering courses focusing on structural analysis, avionics, and embedded systems.
- Trivandrum hosts the Southern Air Command, BrahMos Aerospace, and the upcoming Joint Maritime Theatre Command HQ. The Southern Naval Command in Kochi reinforces Kerala's strategic importance, housing key facilities of all three branches of India's defence forces.
- To capitalize on this defence sector presence, Kerala launched the Kerala Defence Innovation Zone (K-DIZ) in 2024, fostering a collaborative ecosystem for innovators to develop advanced solutions tailored to India's defence needs.

GCCs/ MNCs

SAFRAN



Startups/ SMEs





















9. Automotive & Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology

This vertical capitalizes on the global shift toward mobility software and the transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs). GCCs in this domain focus on EV component design, embedded software development, autonomous driving systems, battery technology R&D, and digital manufacturing.

- Kerala EV Policy incentivizes the R&D and manufacturing of EV components, crucial for attracting GCCs focused on next-generation automotive technology.
- State support through the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) provides investment facilitation and industrial land.
- Kerala Automobiles Limited (KAL) is a public sector automobile manufacturing company that deals with the manufacturing and marketing of various models of Three Wheelers, has now switched to range of EV products in the brand name of Kerala
- Strong engineering curricula across major state universities (CUSAT, Kerala University) focus on Embedded Systems and IoT, essential for vehicle software.









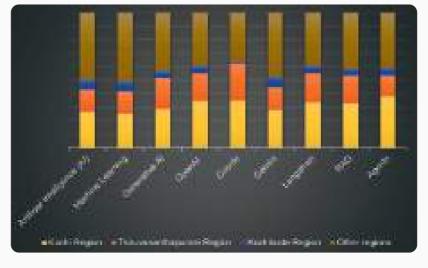
10. Digital Technologies (AI/ML, Cybersecurity, Data Analytics, IoT)

- Digital Technologies are the horizontal capabilities that cut across all anchor GCC verticals, driving efficiency and innovation. Kerala is positioning itself as a hub for advanced digital infrastructure, attracting GCCs specializing in cutting-edge areas like cloud-native engineering, advanced data analytics, and robust cybersecurity frameworks.
- State-level support for Deep Tech Clusters and GPU Clustering initiatives aimed at reducing the capital expenditure barrier for computationally intensive AI/ML companies
- Digital University Kerala (DUK) and IIITM-K are dedicated to advanced digital sciences (AI, Blockchain, Cyber Security).
- Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA) is a Centre of Excellence in Blockchain set-up by the Government of Kerala under Digital University Kerala
- Highly focused master's programs in Al/ML/Data Science and accredited certification programs in Cybersecurity delivered through DUK.
- Kerala has prioritized emerging technologies such as AI, robotics, and 5G-enabled infrastructure, fostering innovation through institutions like IIITM-K and initiatives such as the Kerala Fiber Optic Network (K-FON), which ensures high-speed connectivity across the state.
- High academic emphasis ensures a steady supply of fresh, specialized talent, supported by strategic government investment in high-speed connectivity and GPU resources.
- Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA) is a Centre of Excellence in Blockchain set-up by the Government of Kerala under Digital University, which promotes blockchain innovation across key sectors including healthcare, banking, finance, and supply chain management.





Top emerging tech skills across Kerala



Startup & Incubation Ecosystem

Kerala's journey as a leader in technology-driven entrepreneurship began in 2006 with the creation of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM). Established long before India's wider startup boom, KSUM was designed to promote technology-based ventures, develop infrastructure, and create a support system where innovation could thrive.





In 2014, Kerala became the first state in India to introduce a Technology Startup Policy, embedding entrepreneurship into its growth strategy. The policy provided not only financial and infrastructure support but also connected startups with academia, industry, and government- ensuring a complete ecosystem for scaling ideas into impactful businesses.

Today, the state is home to a dynamic network of incubators, accelerators, and co-working spaces. LEAP Coworks offers startups modern work environments with high-speed internet, meeting rooms, and event spaces, enabling young companies to focus on growth without worrying about operational overheads.

Recognizing the value of its global diaspora, Kerala launched the Startup Infinity Programmes to connect Non-Resident Keralites (NRKs) with the local innovation ecosystem. These programmes encourage NRKs to establish or invest in startups within the state, fostering global partnerships and access to international markets.

Collaboration lies at the heart of Kerala's innovation culture. Research Innovation Network Kerala (RINK) and the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs) create structured platforms for students, researchers, and industry professionals to collaborate. This bridges the academic between research commercial application, giving innovators real-world market exposure. Specialised initiatives like WE Start, WE Grow, and WE Scale are designed for women entrepreneurs, offering mentorship, funding access, and training tailored to their needs. Over the years, Kerala has also built sectorspecific incubation facilities and supported initiatives like fab labs, makerspaces, and bootcamps. These resources, combined with the Kerala Startup Mission's outreach and capacity-building programmes, have created one of the most comprehensive startup ecosystems in India, and is a benchmark for inclusive, sustainable, and innovation-led growth.

Kerala Startup Ecosystem Geography









Netrasemi – Powering India's Edge Al Revolution

Founded in 2020, Netrasemi has emerged as Kerala's deep-tech trailblazer in Edge Al semiconductors. With a team of 83, the company is developing a family of high-performance SoCs: Netra-R1000, Netra-A2000 and Netra-A4000, featuring a patented graph-stream acceleration architecture. These chips deliver 2 to 100 TOPS performance with unmatched power efficiency, enabling next-generation applications in surveillance, smart infrastructure, robotics, drones and autonomous systems

Netrasemi's innovation addresses six critical edge-computing needs: efficiency, performance, form factor, scalability, affordability and low latency. This makes Al accessible for global markets while strengthening India's semiconductor self-reliance. Supported by Kerala Startup Mission, TrEST Research Park and academic collaborations with CET, Netrasemi is shaping an indigenous semiconductor ecosystem.

Rewards & Recognition -

- Future Design Startup Award 2023, MeitY, Govt of India.
- Selected for Taiwan's prestigious TTA (Taiwan Technology arena) acceleration program 2023
- Outstanding Startup Award 2024, IEEE Kerala
- Winner NASSCOM EMERGE 50 Award in Semiconductor Sector 2025
- Raised 2.2 M USD in Series Seed Round and 12.4 M USD in Series A Round (Total of 14.6 M USD)





Innovation for Social Impact:

The Transformative Journey of Genrobotics

Genrobotics, founded in 2015 in Kerala, is a pioneering robotics company transforming hazardous manual sanitation work through advanced robotic solutions. It developed the world's first robotic scavenger, "Bandicoot", eliminating the need for human entry into dangerous environments like manholes. The company offers a portfolio of specialized robotic solutions including inspection, monitoring, and rehabilitation devices, addressing diverse sanitation and healthcare needs. Genrobotics runs a social rehabilitation program that has trained over 6,000 former manual scavengers as safe robotic operators, creating dignified and sustainable employment.

Genrobotics stands out for having multiple patented technologies, including international patents, and operates a Centre of Excellence in Special Purpose Robotics. Its products have been deployed extensively across India, with growing international presence in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Kerala's enabling environment, through robust academic ties with local universities, incubation support from Kerala Startup Mission has been instrumental in Genrobotics' growth and impact. By cultivating inclusive innovation and integration, the company is leading the way toward safer, more humane work environments and scalable social upliftment.

Rewards & Recognition:

- National Startup Award, the Asia Inspiration Award
- Founders named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2023 list for their transformative work with Bandicoot in redefining sanitation practices across India.
- Kerala's highest startup recognition—the 'Pride of Kerala' award at Huddle Global 2022, presented by the Honorable Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan.





Navalt: Leading the Future of

Marine Mobility through Solar-Electric Innovation

Navalt, founded in 2009 in Kochi, Kerala, is a pioneering leader in solar-electric marine mobility, renowned for developing innovative, zero-emission vessels. Its flagship accomplishments include the "Aditya" ferry, the world's first commercially viable solar-electric ferry, and "Srav," the world's first solar-electric sea-going fishing vessel. Navalt holds the Limca Book of Records for "Sunrider," India's fastest solar-powered boat, and continues to advance large-scale designs such as 60-ton electric tugs and 1200-ton bulk carriers.

With over 130 experts bringing 99 vessel-years of solar-electric experience, Navalt serves a global clientele, exporting vessels to diverse markets including Israel, Maldives, Canada, and Seychelles. Its broad product portfolio addresses passenger transport, tourism, fishing, and Defence, providing economically viable and environmentally sustainable solutions worldwide. The state's collaborative innovation ecosystem and strategic location foster R&D, facilitate funding, and enable seamless integration of indigenous engineering and manufacturing.

Key Awards:

- 2023 SET Awards (Berlin): World's Best Start-up in Mobility & Transportation
- 2022 Samudra Manthan Award: Technology Provider of the Year
- 2022 Gustave Trouvé Award: Srav crowned Best Electric Work Boat
- 2020 Gustave Trouvé Award: Aditya named World's Best Electric Ferry
- 2019 Solar Impulse Foundation: Efficient Solutions Award

Navalt's 2023 fleet (Marsel, Dialga, Zayle, Vanora) was also shortlisted across multiple categories at the Gussies, cementing its position as a consistent innovator.





Infrastructure Support & Ecosystem Development

- Single window clearances
- High bandwidth connectivity through K-FON(Kerala Fibre Optic Network)
- Special subsidies for green campus initiatives
- Power tariffs



Fiscal Support & Incentives

- Reimbursement of State Goods and Services Tax (SGST)
- Stamp duty &Registration fee Exemption
- Reduction of land conversion charges
- Property tax incentives
- Capital Subsidy (Investment & Employment Linked)
- Quality certification Incentives
- Investment beyond major cities
- Training & skill development subsidies
- Special Financial Aid for Diversity & Inclusion

Talent support

- Academia-industry collaboration to align curriculum, offer internships and joint research
- Government-supported skill development programs for emerging technologies
- © Comprehensive talent support to meet the new generation talent needs through tailored programs and recruitment drives.
- Open- Source Community Support for insourcing talent and developing solutions.

Innovation support

- Dedicated incubation & acceleration centres within universities, colleges and IT parks
- Corporate innovation program (CIP) of Kerala Startup Mission for business problem solving
- Research grants for R&D activities in cutting edge technologies.
- Robust legal framework and support for Intellectual Property registration and protection.

Zafin: Powering Global Banking Transformation



Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, Zafin is a leading SaaS banking technology provider specializing in relationship-based pricing and product lifecycle solutions. With 800+ employees worldwide and majority-owned by Nordic Capital, Zafin has been recognized by CNBC Global in 2025 as one of the world's top fintech players, enabling banks to transform product innovation, pricing, and customer personalization through its Al-powered platform.

Zafin in India

Zafin established its India operations in 2006 at Technopark, Trivandrum. What began as an offshore development centre has evolved into two strategic Global Capability Centres (GCC), one in Trivandrum and the other in Chennai. The Trivandrum GCC delivers end-to-end product engineering, innovation, and global leadership roles, including the Chief Sustainability Officer who drives global, enterprisewide ESG strategy from Kerala. Products like Zafin Deal Manager, which streamline and automate complex banking deals, are built here. In 2025, Zafin reinforced its commitment by opening a state-of-the-art facility in Technopark Phase 3.

Talent and Employment

- 300 employees in Trivandrum; 430 in India, representing 56% of global workforce
- 35% women representation in India workforce
- Great Place to Work certified six times
- Ecosystem and academic partnerships drive indirect employment
- Key roles in Kerala include software engineers, full-stack developers, functional consultants, cloud and data specialists, QA professionals, and product managers.

Innovation and Impact

- 25% of annual revenue reinvested in R&D
- Trivandrum hub builds and delivers Al-driven SaaS solutions
- Al + Human principle ensures trusted, compliant insights
- Zafin powers five of the top seven U.S. banks and processes 500M+ accounts daily

From its beginnings more than two decades ago to becoming one of Zafin's fastest-growing centres, Trivandrum, Kerala has emerged as a strategic hub for global banking transformation delivering talent, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Allianz: Enabling delivery excellence and innovation



Established in Trivandrum, Kerala, Allianz Services India and Allianz Technology India are part of the Allianz Group, one of the world's leading insurers and asset managers, serving private and corporate customers in nearly 70 countries. In India these Global Capability Centers (GCCs) of Allianz has a significant presence in Trivandrum, alongside operations in Pune and Mumbai.

Allianz India in Trivandrum operates from state-of-the-art facilities within Technopark. The center employs close to 6,700 professionals. The GCC offers a wide range of business services such as insurance operations, business consulting, data analytics, actuarial services, automation, project management, and financial business services, and technology services such as application development, IT security, network and data center services, and emerging technologies. The company also employs industry professionals and domain experts such as doctors, lawyers, captains, insurance experts, pilots etc. for the various industry operations.

Sustainability is a core value of Allianz India's operations in Kerala. The company has built sustainable infrastructure with energy-efficient buildings holding relevant certifications. It has also engaged in impactful community initiatives, around 800 tonnes of plastic from Trivandrum's river bodies in collaboration with Plastic Fischer, developing educational parks, vocational training centers, etc.

Allianz India fosters a culture of empowerment, innovation, and inclusivity, providing an open environment where exceptional talent is attracted, nurtured, and celebrated. The company's efforts contribute significantly to Kerala's business ecosystem while advancing sustainability and social welfare in the region.

The company is recognized as a Great Place to Work for six consecutive years and has won various national and international recognitions, such as -

- Grand Stevie Award for Excellence in Customer Service in 2022 & 2024
- World's Best Global Business Services (GBS) Award for 2024 from SSON Research & Analytics
- Top 20 Most Admired SSO/GBS 2019 & 2024 by SSON Research & Analytics
- Top GBS Employer 2024 & 2025 by Everest Group
- Featured among India's top BFSI GCCs 2025 by AIM Research



EY GDS: Harnessing Kerala's Potential as a Strategic Hub for GCC Transformation



EY Global Delivery Services (GDS) is the hub of innovation, a technology powerhouse, a global talent center, and a driver of operational excellence within EY, propelling EY's purpose of building a better working world. With a robust network spread across 8 countries and 20 cities, GDS' dynamic network of highly talented professionals leverage data, AI, and cutting-edge technology to enhance EY's wide array of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy, and transactions.

By seamlessly integrating with EY member firm teams globally, GDS contributes significantly to EY's purposeful and sustainable growth, delivering insights and solutions that foster trust in capital markets and create value for EY clients, society, and the planet.

- Kerala as a growth engine: EY GDS currently employs 10,000+ professionals in Kerala; plans to double number in coming years.
- Strategic Value & Innovation Focus: Kerala regarded as a core location for EY GDS, hosting its largest blockchain and analytics teams and the second-largest cybersecurity team. Also pivotal for emerging technologies (Al and cloud).
- Inclusive Talent Strategy: Kerala leads in inclusive hiring (through initiatives like NextGen Employability Program, Career Reinstate Program and hiring of returning professionals and neurodiverse talent).
- Trivandrum hosts Wavespace- a global network of innovation and collaboration centres

Collaboration with Government agencies

- ICT Academy of Kerala Career Rewrite program for women with Career Break, Curriculum development and technology workshops.
- Additional Skill Acquisition Program Curriculum development and Train Hire Deploy models
 - Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission: for upskilling youth and fostering digital employment through faculty development programs and mentorship for students and women
 - Kerala Academy for Skills Excellence (KASE): collaboration with Edunet Foundation to train 500 students across four districts.
 - Digital University of Kerala: to conduct tech workshops and mentorship programs to promote digital innovation and skill-building
- Kerala Academy for Skill Excellence: CSR interventions for upskilling students
- Kerala Start Up Mission and Digital University of Kerala: Technology boot camps, master class sessions and hackathons

The flexibility to accommodate multiple operating models enables new companies to choose an entry strategy that matches their investment appetite, desired control, and speed-to-market goals. Given below are the various entry strategies adopted by MNCs to establish their operations in the state.

Build-operate-Transfer (BOT) Model

The BOT model offers companies a low-risk pathway. A local partner establishes and runs the centre, handling infrastructure, hiring, and operations, while the parent company focuses on core objectives. Once operations stabilise and performance benchmarks are met, ownership is transferred. This approach is ideal for organisations seeking quick market entry with an eventual shift to full control.





Bootstrapped Model

Under the bootstrapped approach, companies set up GCCs independently using internal resources, managing all aspects from infrastructure to recruitment. While requiring higher upfront investment, this model ensures complete control over culture, standards, and growth strategies.



Acquistion Model

For companies looking to expand rapidly, acquiring an existing local business provides instant access to talent, infrastructure, and market relationships. The acquired entity is then integrated into the global network and benefits from established expertise and operational readiness. This model works well for organizations targeting niche capabilities or quick scaling.



Campus / Industrial Centre Model

Companies looking for specific attractions like workforce trained in specific skillsets or niche R&D facilities can test the waters by setting up innovation labs or centres of excellence in collaboration with local academic or research institutions. This model offers opportunities to build customised talent pipelines.



Readily available office space



Lulu IT Twin Towers The tallest IT Twin Towers in south India, this 'LEED' platinum rated pre-certified building feature 30 floors in each tower and offers world-class amenities, including a food court, auditorium, the world's largest robotic parking, and an onsite helipad.

Location: Smart City Kochi

Available space: 2.25 million sq.ft.



Carnival

Plug and play Non-SEZ Grade-A office space

Location: Technopark Phase 1

Available area: 105,000 sq.ft (Plug and play) (Non-SEZ)



SunTec Campus SEZ office space available for sub-lease in an exclusive 10

acre campus

Location: Technopark Phase 4

Available area: 120,000 sq.ft. (Warm shell, plug & play)



Chaithanya

A SEZ where innovation thrives in serene backwaters of

Alappuzha

Location: Infopark Cherthala **Available space**: 16,399 sq.ft.



Indeevaram

Innovation meets heritage in a green campus with seamless

connectivity

Location: Infopark Thrissur **Available area**:12,054 sq.ft.

135 acres of land readily available for leasing in Technopark

Upcoming projects



Emerging Technology Hub

An innovation hub to support deep tech start-ups

Location: Technopark Phase 4

Proposed built-up area: 500,000 sq.ft



Quad Project

An integrated township offering a live-work-play campus

Location: Technopark Phase 4

Proposed built-up area: 4 million sq.ft.



Digital Science Park

3rd generation science park for R&D in digital sciences

Location: Technopark Phase 4

Proposed built-up area: 150,000 sq.ft.



Space Park

Space technology industrial park to foster innovation and manufacturing in aerospace technologies.

Location: Technopark Phase 4

Proposed built up area: 200,000 sq.ft.



Taurus DownTown

Mixed use office, retail, residential and hotel development -

- Embassy Taurus Techzone- 2 million square feet of SEZ workspaces
- Taurus Zentrum 700,000 sq.ft of Retail space
- Taurus Yosemite 485,000 sq.ft. of Non-SEZ office space
- Asset Taurus Identity Residential project with 298 units

Location: Technopark Phase 3, Trivandrum

Upcoming projects



i by Infopark

A premium coworking space designed for accessibility, connectivity and inclusivity.

Location: Ernakulam South Metro Station Building **Built-up area**: 48,000 sq.ft.



World Trade Centre Tower - 3

A 16-storey tower (Non SEZ) by Brigade Group for IT/ITES companies

Location: Infopark Kochi Phase 1
Proposed built-up area: 251,000 sq.ft.



Caspian Tower B

A 11-storey tower (Non SEZ) by Caspian Techparks beside its premium "Inspire" Tower A

Location: Infopark Kochi Phase 2 **Proposed built-up area**: 77,000 sq.ft.



UST (own campus)

A state-of-the-art brand new campus by UST to widen footprint in Kochi

Location: Infopark Kochi Phase 2

Proposed built-up area: 470,000 sq.ft.



Geojit Tower

A landmark IT/ITES facility by Geojit Financial Services Ltd for digital innovation

Location: Infopark Kochi Phase 2 **Proposed built-up area**: 360,000 sq.ft.

Upcoming projects



GCC Anchor Hub

A pre-fab IT building with dedicated ready-to-move-in space for GCCs to establish their operations in the state

Location : Technopark Phase 1

Proposed built-up area : 50,000 sq.ft



Kallayi IT building

IT /commercial building with warm shell space

Location: Technopark Phase 1

Proposed built-up area: 50,000 sq.ft.



Brigade Square

State-of-the-art commercial office development with 2B+G+12 structure

Location: Technopark Phase 1

Proposed built-up area: 185,613 sq.ft.



TCS IT & ITeS campus

Digital hub focussed on IoT, Blockchain, Data analytics and Al

Location: Technopark Phase 4

Proposed built-up area: 2 million sq.ft.

Brigade World Trade Centre

Landmark mixed use project with Grade A office spaces and business hotel

Location: Technopark Phase 1, Trivandrum Proposed built up area: 1.5 million sq.ft.

Caspian Techparks

Modern IT building with managed office spaces and co-working spaces

Location: Technopark Phase 1, Trivandrum

Proposed built up area: 100,000 sq.ft.





















Governance

Industry



Kerala IT Institutions



Infrastructure











