

“Trivandrum visit”



Weekly Learnings 07 / 2025

I was in Trivandrum to speak at the Vizhingam Port conclave 2025 as a guest of the Kerala government. I have been to Trivandrum a number of times but never really explored two things

- a. The Port and
- b. The Padmanabha Swamy temple

The Vizhingam deep sea port is the first deep sea water container transshipment port.

India gets its transshipment done in Singapore or Sri Lanka, this will save us a lot of dollars.

This port is strategically located , about 10 nautical miles off the big sea route connecting Europe, the Persian gulf and the Far East. This location is the equivalent of Dubai for Aviation.

In my fireside chat with Manoj Venunath, the ET infra editor i emphasized the need for an eco system thinking, the port can generate dollar revenue witha rupee cost structure, the port will win if it has the ability to get the best global customers, I mentioned that good eco systems are those where winners partner with winners,building facilities imagining an expat population tomorrow (Bengaluru has 40 of the 200 IB schools in India) and finally thinking of growing India's share of the global trade shipment rather than fight with Mumbai or Chennai or Ennore ports. India has 13 major and 217 smaller ports but does very little of global trade.

The organisers arranged a visit to the Padmanabha Swamy temple early morning. I never write about religion, but the folk lore on this temple fascinated me to visit the temple and hence these lines.

This is regarded as the richest temple in the world

Its from the 8 th century.

It is spread over 7 acres and no electronics are allowed inside the temple, i could take a picture from outside after taking permission from the temple cops.

There are between 10,000 to 25,000 visitors to this temple daily. There are 300 policemen in the traditional waishti and using walkie talkies inside the temple to coordinate crowd movement.

You have to wear a waishti to the temple, i learnt to wear one this morning before the visit !!

The main structures in the temple are covered with gold and there is a beautiful silver flag staff.

Folklore has it that there are 6 vaults inside the temple premises that house gold, diamonds ,precious stones. However, anyone who has tried in any manner to get near this has met with some mishap or the other. So, prudence is the better part of valor.

The ceiling of the temple has an amazing rendition of the 9 planets. This temple is an architectural combination of Kerala+ Vijayanagar + Tamil style.

in 1937 the Travancore royal family offered Albert Einstein the job of Vice chancellor of the university for a salary of Rs 6000 per month. Talk of thinking big !!

A day well spent learning something new !! The Port conclave had Shashi Tharoor speaking, he is the local MP plus the local ministers and IAS officers.

Shiv

www.shivshivakumar.com

29 January 2025





VIZHINJAM CONCLAVE 2025

GLOBAL INVESTMENT SUMMIT

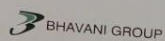


28 & 29 January 2025 Hyatt Regency, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

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Kochi-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

Accelerating Growth and Innovation in the Kochi-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor



Government Initiatives



- KINFRA appointed as the nodal agency for land acquisition.
- SPV KICDCL formed at 50: 50 (GoI: GoK) Contribution
- KIIFB financial aid for land acquisition amounting: **1790Cr**

Current Status



- 85% land acquisition completed for IMC Palakkad Node
- EC obtained, Final Master Plan & DPR approved
- Central cabinet approval obtained for IMC Project amounting **Rs 3806Cr.**

Way forward



- Implementation of Smart Industrial Park through the SPV.

Impact & Advantages



Investment

Public and Private sectors.



Employment

55,000+ jobs.



Proximity Advantages

Access to GAIL Pipeline,
IIT Palakkad



Main Sectors

Food Processing, Textile, Rubber,
Plastic, Non-Metallic Minerals,
Logistics Equipment,
Electronics, Machinery, and Hi-
Tech Industries





