GRIHA Regional Conclave Thiruvananthapuram

INNOVATE TO ACT FOR A CLIMATE RESILIENT WORLD

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA

20th FEBRUARY 2026

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Introduction

The built environment, which accounts for a significant share of global emissions and resource consumption, plays an instrumental role in either exacerbating the climate crisis or mitigating impacts and enabling adaptation. Cities and Built Infrastructure will continue to be exposed to higher climate stresses and frequent climate shocks, thereby disrupting lives, damaging property and harming the natural environment. Therefore, it is imperative to build climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptive cities that continue to protect, provide and thrive sustainably in harmony with nature. Nations around the world are united by a shared goal of building a sustainable and climate-resilient future. While each country faces distinct challenges owing to its development stage and resource availability, collective action remains fundamental.

Now is the time to embark on transformative efforts and revolutionize our design processes, construction practices and operation and management of built spaces. As the urgency for climate action intensifies, traditional approaches, while foundational, are not sufficient considering the pace and complexities of the challenges ahead. Innovation must be the driving force in shaping a resilient future across sectors and scales. It must steer the next phase of global, national & regional efforts, making climate action inclusive, resilient and sustainable. Innovation propels the development of novel technologies and approaches; however, it alone is not sufficient. It must be coupled with resilience- the ability to respond, adapt, recover and thrive in the face of shocks. Together, innovation and resilience form the bedrock for building a sustainable future.

As part of its continued commitment to advancing inclusive and climate-resilient infrastructure, GRIHA Council is hosting its **10th Regional Conclave** centred around the theme **"Innovate to Act for a Climate Resilient World".** The conclave was held on **20th February 2026, Friday at Hyatt Regency, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.**

The regional conclave intends to serve as a platform to deliberate innovative and actionable strategies that can transform our climate ambitions into tangible outcomes. Recognizing the pivotal role of regional insights in shaping a resilient and sustainable future, the conclave seeks to bring together a diverse group of stakeholders- innovators, policymakers, industry leaders, architects, engineers, product manufacturers, researchers and urban practitioners to convene for a day to '*discuss, innovate, adapt*' and '*collaborate & act*' on strategies that have the potential to build a climate-resilient world.

Let's forge meaningful and impactful collaborations to advance innovation in creating a sustainable, resilient and inclusive built environment.

ABOUT GRIHA COUNCIL:
GRIHA Council, recognized as the **'National Rating System for Green Buildings in India',** was developed by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** in support with the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India**. GRIHA Council issues 'GRIHA Rating Certification' for new buildings as well as retrofits and carries out all activities related to the issuance of 'GRIHA Certification'. The Government of India (GoI) has also recognized **GRIHA** as a tool to evaluate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction from habitats under its obligations to mitigate climate change as contained in the NDCs documentation submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Please find more information about GRIHA Council at **https://www.grihaindia.org**

Background

Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala, represents a unique confluence of ecological richness, cultural heritage, and rapidly evolving urban development. Located along India's southwestern coast, the city is characterized by a tropical climate, high rainfall intensity, and proximity to the Arabian Sea, making it particularly sensitive to climate-induced risks. With increasing urbanization and infrastructure growth, Thiruvananthapuram provides a compelling context for advancing dialogue on sustainable and climate-responsive development in the built environment.

Despite its strong tradition of climate-responsive architecture and resource-conscious living, the region faces emerging environmental challenges driven by climate variability and developmental pressures. Frequent intense rainfall events, urban flooding, coastal vulnerability, and rising temperatures underscore the need for integrated planning approaches that enhance resilience while maintaining ecological balance. Additionally, increasing demand for land, water, and energy resources necessitates a shift towards low-impact, resource-efficient development practices.

In response, Kerala has been at the forefront of adopting sustainable and people-centric development strategies. Thiruvananthapuram reflects this approach through initiatives that emphasize decentralized planning, green infrastructure, and context-sensitive architectural practices. The city's development trajectory is supported by a strong institutional ecosystem and a growing emphasis on incorporating passive design strategies, sustainable materials, and efficient resource management systems into the built environment.

A distinctive feature of the region is its legacy of sustainable construction practices, strongly influenced by the philosophy of Laurie Baker, whose work continues to inspire low-cost, climate-responsive building design. Institutions such as the Laurie Baker Centre further this legacy by promoting the use of local materials, cost-effective technologies, and environmentally responsible construction techniques, making Thiruvananthapuram an ideal setting for knowledge exchange and capacity building in sustainable habitat development.

Within this context, the GRIHA Regional Conclave in Thiruvananthapuram served as a strategic platform to deliberate on advancing sustainability in the built environment through region-specific solutions. The conclave brought together policymakers, architects, planners, industry representatives, and technical experts to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and explore pathways for integrating climate resilience into building design and urban development.

Through panel discussions, roundtables, and hands-on technical sessions, the event emphasized the importance of bridging traditional knowledge systems with modern sustainability frameworks such as GRIHA. By fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration and promoting practical, implementable solutions, the conclave reinforced the need for a holistic and context-driven approach to sustainable development in Kerala.

The GRIHA Conclave at Thiruvananthapuram thus positioned itself as a critical step towards strengthening climate-responsive practices in the region, while contributing to the larger national agenda of building resilient, resource-efficient, and sustainable habitats.

Acknowledgements

At the outset, the GRIHA Council extends its sincere gratitude to the Government of Kerala for its valuable support and collaboration in the successful organization of the GRIHA Regional Conclave Thiruvananthapuram 2026.

We express our heartfelt appreciation to the eminent dignitaries who graced the conclave with their esteemed presence and insightful addresses, including **Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd)**, Hon'ble Deputy Additional Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) and **Dr. R. Harikumar**, Director, Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala. We also extend our sincere thanks to **Shri. Suneel Pamidi I.F.S**, Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC).

GRIHA Council gratefully acknowledges the active participation and support of key state government departments and institutions, including the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), Energy Management Centre – Kerala, National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC), Kochi Water Metro, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL), Country and Town Planning Department – Local Self Government Department (LSGD), Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC), Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) Limited, and other allied departments of the Government of Kerala, whose contributions significantly enriched the technical deliberations and policy discussions during the conclave.

Our sincere gratitude is also extended to **Padma Shri Dr. Ar. G. Shankar**, Founder and Chairman, Habitat Technology Group, for emphasizing that building a resilient Kerala requires respecting its fragile ecology, learning from vernacular architecture, adopting sustainable materials and decentralized energy systems, strengthening disaster resilience, and prioritizing people-centric, participatory development over profit-driven practices.

GRIHA Council gratefully acknowledges the invaluable contributions of all moderators, speakers, and Panelists, whose expert insights across technical sessions fostered meaningful dialogue on sustainability, innovation, and resilient infrastructure development.

We extend our sincere thanks to our Knowledge Partners, **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) and Energy Management Centre – Kerala**, for their technical support, thought leadership, and commitment towards strengthening sustainability discourse at the regional level. We also acknowledge our Event Partner, **ASAI**, for their pivotal role in ensuring the seamless planning and execution of the conclave.

Lastly, we convey our profound gratitude to the leadership **of Dr Vibha Dhawan, President, GRIHA Council and Director General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**, whose visionary guidance continues to steer the GRIHA movement towards building a sustainable, resilient, and climate-responsive India.

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Venue: Hyatt Regency, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

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1000-1030 hrs.	**Fireside Chat** From Home to Horizon: Women Empowering Kerala's Climate Resilience Journey
1030 – 1130 hrs.	**Inaugural Session** • Lighting the lamp • Welcome Address • Special Remarks • Signing of Memorandum of Understanding • Release of GRIHA Publication • Inaugural Address • Vote of Thanks
1130 – 1300 hrs.	**Plenary Session:** Future in Motion: Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Multi-Modal Mobility for Kerala
1300 – 1400 hrs.	**Networking Lunch**
1400 – 1600 hrs.	**Roundtable Session:** Bridging Partnerships, Policy, and Practice for a Resilient Kerala
1630 hrs. onwards	**High Tea**
Closing of GRIHA Regional Conclave	

Detailed Agenda

'Innovate to Act for a Climate Resilient World'

Date: 20th February 2026
Venue: Hyatt Regency, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

0900 – 1000 hrs.	**Registration**
1000-1030 hrs.	**Fireside Chat** **From Home to Horizon: Women Empowering Kerala's Climate Resilience Journey** *Moderator:* **Smt. Shabnam Bassi,** Deputy Chief Executive Officer & Secretary, GRIHA Council & Director, Sustainable Buildings Division, TERI *Panelists:* • **Dr. Deepa Rani R.,** Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram (C.E.T.) • **Smt. Ashiqua Sulthana,** Zonal Chair- Women, ISHRAE Thiruvananthapuram Chapter
1030 – 1130 hrs.	**Inaugural Session** ***Lighting the lamp*** *Welcome Address* **Shri. Sanjay Seth,** Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council & Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI *Special Remarks* **Dr. R. Harikumar,** Director, Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala ***Signing of Memorandum of Understanding*** ***Release of GRIHA Publication*** *Inaugural Address* **Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.),** Additional Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) *Vote of Thanks* **Smt. Shabnam Bassi**, Deputy CEO & Secretary, GRIHA Council & Director, Sustainable Buildings Division, TERI
	Plenary Session: **Future in Motion: Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Multi-Modal Mobility for Kerala**

1130 – 1300 hrs.	Kerala's future depends on building infrastructure that is both climate-resilient and seamlessly connected. Strengthening key gateways—such as ports, airports, and logistics hubs—will be essential for sustaining trade, tourism, and economic stability in an era of rising climate risks. Modernizing these assets with greener technologies, smarter operations, and resilient design can significantly reduce disruptions and emissions. Equally vital is a robust public transport backbone that integrates buses, metros, water transport, and last-mile systems into a unified, efficient network. Enhancing multi-modal connectivity will ease congestion, lower carbon footprints, and improve accessibility across urban and rural areas. This discussion explores how Kerala can align infrastructure upgrades and mobility planning to create a safer, cleaner, and future-ready State.
	Moderator: **Shri. Sanjay Seth,** Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council & Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI *Panelists:* • **Dr. Ashalatha R,** Director, National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) • **Shri. Sajan John,** Chief Operating Officer, Kochi Water Metro • **Shri. Sanjay Kumar,** Director System, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL) • **Shri. Ajit S,** General Manager (Environmental Social & Governance), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) • **Shri. Sunil Kumar Ayyappan,** General Manager – Projects Adani Ports and SEZ • **Shri. Sujith Sudhakaran,** Manager, Environment & Sustainability at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport
1300 – 1400 hrs.	Lunch Break
1400-1600 hrs.	**Roundtable Session:** **Bridging Partnerships, Policy, and Practice for a Resilient Kerala**
	Kerala is facing growing climate related challenges, including flooding, heat stress, coastal vulnerability, and increasing pressure on urban and natural systems. While forward looking policies and programmes exist, achieving measurable impact on the ground requires stronger coordination between policy intent, institutional partnerships, and implementation mechanisms. This session brings together policymakers, planners, urban designers, and practitioners to engage in a focused dialogue on translating climate ambitions into actionable outcomes. The discussion will examine how policy alignment, cross sector partnerships, and capacity building can support effective implementation at state and local levels. Attention will be given to strengthening awareness, institutional readiness, and collaborative approaches that enable integrated planning and resilient infrastructure delivery. By identifying actionable pathways and shared responsibilities, the session aims to contribute to climate resilient development strategies that are practical, inclusive, and responsive to Kerala's evolving environmental and urban context.
	Setting the Context: **Shri Sanjay Seth,** Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council & Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI ***Special Address:***

	Shri. Suneel Pamidi I.F.S, Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC) ***Special Remarks:*** **Dr. Ar. G. Shankar (Padma Shri Awardee),** Founder and Chairman, Habitat Technology Group ***Chair:*** **Shri. Sanjay Seth,** Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council & Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI ***Co-chair:*** **Smt. Shabnam Bassi**, Deputy CEO & Secretary, GRIHA Council and Director, Sustainable Buildings Division, TERI ***Experts:*** • **Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose,** Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (ex-officio) • **Shri. Dinesh Kumar A.N,** Joint Director, Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala • **Smt. Aswini SS,** Deputy General Manager (Civil), HITES • **Smt. Oormila Raj.U,** Town Planner, Country and Town Planning Department, LSGD • **Shri. Varghese Malakaran,** General Manager, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) Limited • **Dr. Kalaiarasan P,** Environmental Scientist, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC) • **Smt. Salini P N,** Senior Scientist, National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC) • **Shri. Kiran Surya K T,** Sr. Sustainability Lead-Environment, ESG Wing KIIFB • **Shri. P B Sajan,** Chief Architect and Joint Director, COSTFORD (Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development) • **Shri. Shreeganesh V Nair,** Founder, CEO and Chief Consultant, Ganesh Technical Consultancy Services • **Ar. Kochuthommen Mathew,** Principal Architect, Kochuthommen & Associates • **Shri. Sajith GR,** Senior Manager ELV, Energy Management, ULCCS Ltd. • **Dr. Aysha S,** Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture and Planning, College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram • **Shri. Jithin Sudhakrishnan,** State Secretary - Licensed Engineers and Supervisors Federation (LENSFED) • **Shri. Ashok KMP,** Secretary, Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM), Kerala Chapter • **Smt. Shyny Sam,** Senior Program Associate - Energy, WRI India • **Ar. Ashiqua Sulthana,** Lead Consultant, Tropical Greenovation Cluster TGC • **Ms. Divya Davis,** Senior Analyst – Climate, Environment and Sustainability, CSTEP
1600 hrs. onwards	**High Tea**
Closing of GRIHA Regional Conclave	

Fireside Chat

"From Awareness to Action: Embracing Sustainable Lifestyle"

Moderator

Smt. Shabnam Bassi, Deputy CEO & Secretary, GRIHA Council and Director, Sustainable Buildings Division, TERI

She initiated the fireside chat by reflecting that in Kerala, the once-resilient relationship between people, nature, and the built environment is now under stress, requiring actionable innovation and stronger women's leadership. She emphasized, "Women are shaping climate resilience every day - as architects, engineers, educators, policymakers, researchers and practitioners". Highlighting the importance of early warning systems, community preparedness, and coordinated stakeholder efforts, she underscored "Rebuilding has gone beyond simply returning to normal; it has prompted deeper questions about where we build, how we build, and for whom we build."

Panelist

Dr. Deepa Rani R., Associate Professor, Department of Architecture College of Engineering Thiruvananthapuram (C.E.T.)

She highlighted, "We cannot afford to ignore the performance of materials. Respecting the microclimate during the design process is very essential." She stressed, "We need region-specific climate manuals to guide architects, and institutions like GRIHA can lead this effort. At the same time, we must revisit Kerala's traditional systems, which were deeply climate-responsive." She emphasized that user behaviour drives energy use, stressing the need for passive design, climate-responsive strategies, cool roofs, and region-specific guidelines informed by microclimates and traditional knowledge for sustainable buildings.

Panelist

Smt. Ashiqua Sulthana, South Zonal Chair- Women, ISHRAE Thiruvananthapuram Chapter.

She highlighted a persistent gap between design intent and actual building performance. She noted that "what we conceive at the concept stage is not always what is delivered," pointing to challenges during construction and execution." She further emphasized that "building performance does not end with construction," but depends on user behaviour, operation, and maintenance. While energy codes and green guidelines exist, their implementation remains limited in practice. The need for continuous course correction, stronger alignment, and capacity building was stressed. She underscored the disconnect between policy, design intent, and on-ground practice in achieving sustainable outcomes.

Speaker Panel of Fire Side Chat: Smt. Shabnam Bassi, Dr. Deepa Rani R., Smt. Ashiqua Sulthana (from L toR)

Inaugural Session

Welcome Address

Shri Sanjay Seth, Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council and Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI

Extending a warm welcome to Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Additional Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB), and Dr. R. Harikumar, Director, Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala and the distinguished gathering he expressed, "Kerala's development pathway reflects a recognition that resilience must be embedded within planning, not appended later. Integrating land-use planning with climate risk, advancing passive architecture, safeguarding watersheds, and strengthening resource efficiency are all part of this evolving model. We strongly insist that Urban local bodies must embed ECBC and GRIHA metrics into planning processes." He emphasized that real progress requires capacity building and effective on-ground implementation beyond policies.

Special Remarks

Dr. R. Harikumar, Director, Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala

He shared insights into the evolution of ECBC implementation in Kerala, highlighting the lengthy process involved in mainstreaming building energy codes. As he noted, "the implementation of ECBC began in 2007," but it took several years for recommendation, notification, and eventual integration into the state framework, spanning nearly twelve years. He pointed out that although "the market is mature in many sectors and Kerala leads in EV proliferation," building energy efficiency has yet to transform at a similar pace, indicating significant scope for improvement.

He further emphasized Kerala's recent progress, stating that ECSBC was notified in 2024 and integrated into KMBR and KPBR by 2025, making Kerala the first state in India to incorporate it into building rules within such a short timeframe, reflecting a strong commitment toward advancing energy-efficient building practices.

Inaugural Address

Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Additional Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)

""The built environment is the meeting point of our risks and our remedies. If we get buildings and infrastructure right, we reduce exposure, cut emissions, save water, and make daily life safer and more dignified," emphasized Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Additional Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) during her address, highlighting the critical role of sustainable infrastructure. She noted that "GRIHA gives planners, designers, and owners a common yardstick rooted in Indian codes and conditions," adding that Kerala particularly needs such a framework given its limited margin for error. She further shared that KIIFB has approved projects worth over ₹1,10,000 crore across key sectors, with nearly 50 building projects now registered with GRIHA, reflecting a growing commitment to credible green building standards. Emphasizing a shift in approach, she stated that decisions on "where we build, how we build, and how we operate" must move beyond technical considerations, focusing on outcomes that strengthen resilience and sustainability.

Vote of Thanks

Smt. Shabnam Bassi, Deputy CEO & Secretary, GRIHA Council and Director, Sustainable Buildings Division, TERI

She expressed her sincere appreciation to the Government of Kerala, senior officials, and all dignitaries for their continued support and guidance. She noted that hosting the event in Thiruvananthapuram — "the Evergreen City of India"—was not merely a choice of venue, but a tribute to a region that has consistently demonstrated harmony between the built environment and nature. She also acknowledged the state's leadership in embedding sustainability into public consciousness and setting benchmarks for others to follow. Highlighting a key milestone, she shared that "with the launch of the Net Zero Carbon & Resilient Buildings (NZCRB) roadmap, Thiruvananthapuram has become a pioneer in India," supported by a comprehensive 20-point action plan covering lifecycle carbon assessments, green procurement, and resilient design strategies.

In conclusion, she reaffirmed the importance of continued collaboration and collective action in advancing climate-resilient and low-carbon development pathways.

Auspicious lighting of lamp ceremony by our eminent dignitaries Shri Sanjay Seth, Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Dr. R. Harikumar, Smt. Shabnam Bassi (from L to R)

Inaugural Session: Shri Sanjay Seth, Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Dr. R. Harikumar, Smt. Shabnam Bassi (from L to R)

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

The session witnessed two signing of Memorandum of Understanding between GRIHA Council and the Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala and Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) aimed at strengthening collaboration for promoting sustainable design practices, professional capacity building, and wider adoption of green building principles across the state.

Signing and exchange of MoU between GRIHA Council and Energy Management Centre – Kerala, Government of Kerala
(Right side pic: Shri. Sanjay Seth, Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Dr. R. Harikumar and Smt. Shabnam Bassi from left to right)

Signing and exchange of MoU between GRIHA Council and Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)
(Right side pic: Shri. Sanjay Seth, Smt. Mini Antony (IAS Retd.), Smt. Shabnam Bassi and Dr. R. Harikumar from left to right)

Release of GRIHA Publications

During the conclave the following set of guidelines were officially launched in the regional language Malayalam.

- **Sustainable Guidelines for Design Implementation**
- **Sustainable Guidelines for Construction Management**
- **Sustainable Guidelines for Operation and Maintenance**

These manuals provide comprehensive strategies for designing, constructing, and maintaining green buildings, thereby covering the entire building lifecycle.

A GRIHA Council Publication – Set of Manuals on Sustainable Guidelines for Design Implementation, Construction Management and Operation and Maintenance was released during the inaugural session of GRIHA Regional Conclave

Acknowledging the importance of accessibility and regional inclusivity, the manuals are being translated into various local languages. The Malayalam edition was launched during the Conclave, representing a major stride in promoting sustainability at the grassroots level. Additional language versions are in the pipeline, aiming to extend sustainable practices to diverse communities across India.

Additionally, there was the soft launch of GRIHA Infrastructure Rating for Logistics Parks and Warehouses presented by Smt. Shabnam Bassi. The rapid expansion of India's warehousing sector brings significant environmental and operational risks, making it essential to establish a standardized framework that ensures resource efficiency, climate resilience, and measurable performance.
Launching this rating enables the sector to align growth with sustainability goals, reduce long-term costs and risks, and meet increasing ESG expectations from global investors and occupiers.

Soft launch of GRIHA Infrastructure Rating for Logistics Parks and Warehouses presented by Smt. Shabnam Bassi

Plenary Session

"Future in Motion: Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Multi-Modal Mobility for Kerala"

The plenary session deliberated the need for climate-resilient, well-connected infrastructure in Kerala, focusing on strengthening gateways like ports and airports with sustainable technologies. It emphasized integrated multi-modal transport systems to reduce congestion and emissions, alongside the importance of coordinated planning, financing, and policy support to enable a cleaner, efficient, and future-ready mobility network.

Moderator

Shri. Sanjay Seth, Vice President & Chief Executive Officer, GRIHA Council & Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI, New Delhi

He highlighted, "mobility projects are no longer viewed merely as transport assets but as social and economic enablers, prompting reflections on how equity, inclusivity, and accessibility are defined and measured in infrastructure development." He also emphasized on Kerala's success story in integrating intermodal transport facilities and recommended suggestions for implantation in other states.

Panelist

Dr. Ashalatha R, Director, National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC)

She highlighted the critical link between population density, road safety, and sustainable planning in Kerala, stating: "Kerala is densely populated, which makes road safety and sustainability deeply intertwined and every design decision counts." She further emphasized the proactive approach of Vision Zero, noting: "Vision Zero is not just a target — reducing accidents by 20% by 2030 begins right at the planning and design stage."

Panelist

Shri. Sajan John, Chief Operating Officer, Kochi Water Metro

He highlighted the innovative features of the Water Metro, stating: "The Water Metro functions just like a conventional metro system, but the real innovation lies in seamless integration with other transport modes." He further noted the convenience for passengers: "Passengers use the same ticketing system across water and metro networks, making travel easier and more efficient." He also emphasized the importance of infrastructure at transfer points, adding: "Physical integration at hubs like Vytilla allows smooth transfers between buses, metro, and water transport."

Panelist

Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Director System, Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL)

He highlighted the sustainability and inclusiveness measures of the project, stating: "Sustainability is built into both design and operation — from solar energy generation to regenerative motors achieving 35–36% savings." He further emphasized the focus on low-carbon and accessible transport: "First and last mile connectivity, including electric buses and over 100 electric autos, ensures inclusive and low-carbon mobility." He also noted the commitment to social inclusiveness, adding: "Social inclusiveness is central — from equal male/female ratios to transgender representation across our workforce."

Panelist

Shri. Ajit S, General Manager (Environmental Social & Governance), Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)

He highlighted Kerala's unique transport opportunities and sustainability measures, stating: "Kerala's linear geography, with high-density population, presents unique opportunities for waterways and public transport." He emphasized proactive planning for resilience, noting: "Design-stage climate checks and sustainability compliance checklists can ensure that new projects are resilient to extreme events." On reducing emissions, he added: "Funding for electric buses and rejuvenation of coastal waterways is critical to reducing emissions in public transport."

Panelist

Shri. Sunil Kumar Ayyappan, General Manager – Projects Adani Ports and SEZ

He highlighted the role of multimodal connectivity and climate resilience in port operations, stating: "Vizhinjam Port's efficiency depends on multimodal connectivity — rail, road, and air-sea integration are the future of sustainable cargo operations." He further noted the importance of site planning, adding: "Port location selection itself embeds climate resilience — monitoring ensures operations remain safe despite environmental risks." On optimizing operations, he stated: "Automation maximizes limited land use while maintaining a capacity of 1.5 million TEUs." He also emphasized the broader benefits of port planning, saying: "Cruise terminals add tourism dimensions, showing that multimodal planning is about both cargo and community benefits."

Panelist

Shri. Sujith Sudhakaran, Manager, Environment & Sustainability at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport

He highlighted the integrated sustainability and climate-resilience measures at the terminals, stating: "Sustainability is embedded from design to operations — fossil fuels are avoided, and electric ground fleets are now standard." He further emphasized the focus on resilience, noting: "We face high climate risks due to proximity to the sea, so stormwater drainage and operational resilience are top priorities." On long-term environmental performance, he added: "Carbon accreditation, water positivity, and future-proofing are integral to both terminals — sustainability is not an afterthought."

Panelist of Plenary Session: Shri. Sanjay Seth, Dr. Ashalatha R, Shri. Sajan John, Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Shri. Ajit S, Shri. Sunil Kumar Ayyappan and Shri. Sujith Sudhakaran (from L to R)

Shri. Sanjay Seth, Dr. Ashalatha R, Shri. Sajan John, Shri. Sanjay Kumar, Shri. Ajit S, Shri. Sunil Kumar Ayyappan and Shri. Sujith Sudhakaran (from L to R)

Roundtable Session

"Bridging Partnerships, Policy, and Practice for a Resilient Kerala"

Setting the Context

Shri Sanjay Seth, Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council & Senior Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Programme, TERI

Mr Seth stressed that, "resilience is not merely about post-disaster recovery" but proactive transformation. Emphasizing that "what gets measured gets managed," he highlighted science-based targets and the need to align policy, finance, and implementation to achieve measurable climate action. He further added, "Policies and plans ultimately come alive at the construction sites. Unless procurement norms and incentives promote resilient and low-carbon practices, policy goals will remain aspirational."

Special Address

Shri. Suneel Pamidi I.F.S, Director, Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC)

He emphasized that "this kind of discussion is very much needed" considering Kerala's emission profile, highlighting that "almost 20 percent of the emissions within the power sector come from the residential sector. When we draw the pathways for a carbon-neutral Kerala, the residential sector plays a very crucial role." He highlighted that although electrification in transport has potential, "the present power source does not give us much scope to improve emissions as of now." He further added that while GRIHA rating is voluntary, "awareness sessions and conclaves like this will go a long way in strengthening outreach and encouraging adoption in the residential sector."

Special Remarks

Dr. Ar. G. Shankar (Padma Shri Awardee), Founder and Chairman, Habitat Technology Group

He highlighted that this roundtable seeks to "initiate discussions" on strategic and policy interventions to build a resilient Kerala. He urged stakeholders to "respect the land" and recognize that "buildings should belong to the land," criticizing unsustainable construction practices exposed by recent floods. Highlighting the value of vernacular architecture, he emphasized that "local is the mantra," integrating local materials and knowledge with modern science. He also stressed that "safety is not negotiable" and called to "put people at the center," advocating a shift from profit-driven development to a people-centric, climate-resilient approach for Kerala and beyond.

Eminent dignitaries of round table discussion at stage: Shri. Sanjay Seth, Shri. Suneel Pamidi I.F.S, Dr. Ar. G. Shankar and Smt. Shabnam Bassi (from L to R)

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE ROUNDTABLE SESSION

S.NO.	DISCUSSION POINTS	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOME
1	**Bridging the Gap Between Policy and On-Ground Implementation**	• Develop practical tools and systems to help designers and engineers translate climate data into actionable design interventions. • Streamline inter-departmental coordination, specifically between local self-governments (permits) and the revenue department (tax incentives). • Integrate scientific, hazard-based planning directly into building regulations (KMBR/KPBR) to move beyond "checklist" compliance.	• Reduction in construction errors in high-risk zones. • Increased efficiency in the delivery of green building incentives to homeowners and developers. • Transition from theoretical policy to practical, site-specific climate action.
2	**Shift to People-Centric and Context-Specific Resilience**	• Prioritize livability, equity, and human well-being over "luxury green" marketing. • Adopt a "retreat strategy" for high-risk areas, providing financial incentives (e.g., ₹10 lakh) for families to relocate from hazard-prone zones. • Focus design efforts on emerging, frequent climate risks such as extreme heat, lightning, and high winds (localized tornadoes).	• Greater public acceptance and "demand" for sustainable practices as they become accessible and relevant to the common citizen. • Lower casualty rates and economic loss during climate events due to smarter settlement clustering.
3	**Mainstreaming Sustainable Materials and Lifecycle Thinking**	• Reform Government Rate Schedules: Include green materials (e.g., bamboo, lime, Mangalore tiles) in the Delhi Schedule of Rates (DSR) to make them financially viable for public projects. • Address Embodied Carbon: Use Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) tools to measure carbon "locked" in materials, not just operational energy. • Aggregated Procurement: Replicate the "UJALA" model for low-carbon building materials to drive down costs through bulk demand.	• Reduced environmental degradation of the Western Ghats. • Lowered upfront costs for sustainable materials, moving them from a niche market to the mainstream.

S.NO.	DISCUSSION POINTS	KEY RECOMMENDATIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOME
4	**Operational Monitoring and Third-Party Verification**	• Implement mandatory annual third-party inspections for energy performance and operational excellence, similar to existing electrical safety audits. • Adopt international and national reporting standards (GRI/BRSR) for industrial and infrastructure clearances. • Utilize independent verification to strengthen transparency and accountability for ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) claims.	• Sustained energy savings and carbon reduction throughout the building's lifecycle. • Increased investor and public confidence in "green" certified projects.
5	**Integrating Research, Transport, and Land Use Planning**	• Academia-Industry Portal: Create a common platform to share student dissertations and region-specific research with practitioners and government bodies. • Multi-modal Integration: Prioritize moving people over vehicles by integrating inland navigation, mass transit, and non-motorized transport (cycle tracks). • Social Auditing: Conduct audits at the planning stage and post-commissioning to assess long-term social and environmental implications.	• Reduction in "reinventing the wheel" by utilizing existing academic data for live projects. • Achieving regional carbon neutrality through integrated transport and land-use strategies.

Glimpses of Roundtable Session

Workshop on Sustainable Construction Practices

GRIHA Council organized a one-day hands-on workshop on sustainable construction practices at Laurie Baker Centre (LBC) for Habitat Studies Campus, Vilappilsala

As a prelude to the 10th GRIHA Regional Conclave, GRIHA Council organized a One-Day Hands-On Workshop on Sustainable Construction Practices at the Laurie Baker Centre for Habitat Studies Campus, Vilappilsala on 19 February 2026. The workshop provided participants with practical exposure to sustainable and climate-responsive construction techniques through live demonstrations on bamboo wattle-and-daub walls, bamboo beam fabrication, and bamboo slab preparation with mud screeding. The programme served as an engaging platform for professionals, practitioners, and students to exchange knowledge and explore low-impact, resource-efficient building practices aligned with the objectives of sustainable development.

GRIHA Council extends its sincere gratitude to the LBC team for successfully conducting the workshop and for their valuable contribution towards promoting sustainable construction practices.

Key Highlights

Fireside Chat- From Awareness to Action: Embracing Sustainable Lifestyle
The session emphasized on:

- Climate-responsive design must move from intent to implementation, with greater focus on microclimates, material performance, and passive strategies rather than generic, glass-heavy approaches.
- Women's leadership plays a critical role in advancing climate resilience, bridging technical solutions with social, equitable, and community-focused outcomes.
- A significant gap exists between design intent, construction, and actual building performance, highlighting the need for better execution, continuous monitoring, and user engagement.
- Strengthening resilience requires integrating traditional knowledge, local climate practices, and stronger on-ground implementation of existing policies and guidelines.

Inaugural Session
The session stressed on:

- Kerala has made significant policy progress in building energy efficiency, with ECSBC being rapidly notified and integrated into building rules, setting a benchmark for faster implementation compared to ECBC's long adoption timeline.
- Resilience must be embedded in planning and design from the outset, with strong emphasis on passive strategies, performance-based approaches, and collaboration across government, industry, and academia.
- GRIHA and related frameworks are emerging as critical tools for standardizing sustainable development, guiding infrastructure and buildings toward measurable outcomes in resource efficiency, resilience, and long-term performance.

Plenary Session - Climate-Smart Infrastructure and Multi-Modal Mobility for Kerala
The session emphasized on:

- Kerala's high-density context makes road safety and sustainable transport deeply interconnected, with Vision Zero targets driving design-stage interventions like wide footpaths, cycle tracks, and smart junctions.
- Seamless multimodal integration is a key innovation, exemplified by Kochi Metro and Water Metro, with unified ticketing, physical hubs, and digital coordination enhancing efficiency and climate resilience.
- Sustainability is embedded across design and operations, from solar energy, regenerative motors, and metro stations to electric buses and circular economy practices.
- Infrastructure planning incorporates climate resilience, including linear geography considerations, stormwater management, coastal monitoring, and extreme event preparedness.
- Data-driven tools and performance benchmarks are essential, enabling developers and operators to optimize energy, emissions, and materials use while maintaining social inclusiveness and long-term operational reliability.

GRIHA Regional Conclave in News

കാലാവസ്ഥാ പ്രതിരോധശേഷിയുള്ള നിർമ്മിതിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട മേഖലാ സമ്മേളനം കിഫ്ബി അഡീഷനൽ സിഇഒ മിനി ആന്റണി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഡോ.ആർ.ഹരികുമാർ, ഇഎംസി ഡയറക്ടർ സഞ്ജയ് സേത്, ശബ്നം ബസ്സി എന്നിവർ സമീപം.

കാലാവസ്ഥ പ്രതിരോധ നിർമിതി മേഖലാ സമ്മേളനം

തിരുവനന്തപുരം∙ കാലാവസ്ഥ പ്രതിരോധ നിർമിതിയുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട മേഖലാ സമ്മേളനം കിഫ്ബി അഡീഷനൽ സിഇഒ മിനി ആന്റണി ഉദ്ഘാടനം ചെയ്തു.

ഗൃഹ കൗൺസിൽ, കിഫ്ബി, ഇഎംസി എന്നിവർ ചേർന്നാണ് പരിപാടി സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചത്. ഗതാഗത സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ, തുറമുഖങ്ങൾ, വിമാനത്താവളങ്ങൾ എന്നിവയെ കുറിച്ച് പ്രതിരോധ ശേഷിയുള്ള രൂപ കൽപനകളും കാർബൺ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യകളും ഉപയോഗിച്ച് എങ്ങനെ സംയോജിപ്പിക്കാമെന്നു ചർച്ച ചെയ്തു.

വിവിധ മേഖലകളിലെ പ്രമുഖർ പങ്കെടുത്തു. നയരൂപീകരണവും പരിഹാരമാർഗങ്ങളും ഉൾപ്പെടെയുള്ള നിർദേശങ്ങൾ മുന്നോട്ടുവച്ചു.

Source – Malayala Manorama
Dated 23rd February 2026

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Resilient Kerala 2030: From Vision to Measurable Climate Action

February 23, 2026 The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

23 February 2026, New Delhi: The 10th GRIHA Regional Conclave, hosted by the GRIHA Council at the Hyatt Regency Thiruvananthapuram, convened leaders from government, finance, infrastructure, academia, and industry to advance a unified roadmap for a climate-resilient Kerala.

Source - Newsletter on Global Agriculture
Dated 23rd February 2026

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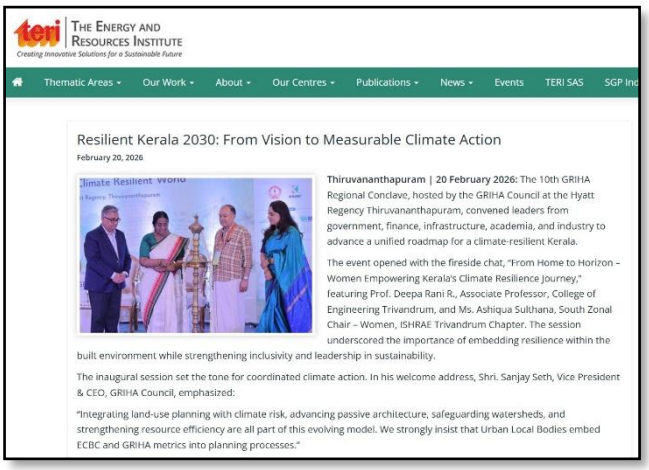
10th GRIHA Regional Conclave 2026 | Thiruvananthapura

By TheAPN / February 6, 2026

Innovate to Act for a Climate Resilient World

The 10th GRIHA Regional Conclave is set to take place in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, bringing together leading voices from the built environment sector to deliberate on innovation-led pathways for climate resilience. Organised by GRIHA Council, the conclave will focus on translating climate ambition into actionable strategies for resilient infrastructure and sustainable cities.

Source – The Architecture and Planning News
Dated 6th February 2026



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Resilient Kerala 2030: From Vision to Measurable Climate Action

February 20, 2026

Thiruvananthapuram | 20 February 2026: The 10th GRIHA Regional Conclave, hosted by the GRIHA Council at the Hyatt Regency Thiruvananthapuram, convened leaders from government, finance, infrastructure, academia, and industry to advance a unified roadmap for a climate-resilient Kerala.

The event opened with the fireside chat, "From Home to Horizon – Women Empowering Kerala's Climate Resilience Journey," featuring Prof. Deepa Rani R., Associate Professor, College of Engineering Trivandrum, and Ms. Ashiqua Sulthana, South Zonal Chair – Women, ISHRAE Trivandrum Chapter. The session underscored the importance of embedding resilience within the built environment while strengthening inclusivity and leadership in sustainability.

The inaugural session set the tone for coordinated climate action. In his welcome address, Shri. Sanjay Seth, Vice President & CEO, GRIHA Council, emphasized:

"Integrating land-use planning with climate risk, advancing passive architecture, safeguarding watersheds, and strengthening resource efficiency are all part of this evolving model. We strongly insist that Urban Local Bodies embed ECBC and GRIHA metrics into planning processes."

Source – Newsletter on The Energy and Resources Institute
Dated 20th February 2026

GRIHA Regional Conclave 2026

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