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## International Energy Festival of Kerala 2026 set to Power a Sustainable Future

The International Energy Festival of Kerala (IEFK) 2026, presented by the Energy Management Centre-Kerala (EMC), will be held from February 7 to 9, 2026, at Prof. V. K. Damodaran Nagar, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Ernakulam. Conceived as a premier platform for energy dialogue and innovation, the festival is anchored on the theme “Empowering Energy Future – Pioneering a Sustainable Tomorrow.”

IEFK 2026 will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, energy professionals, researchers, students, and the public to deliberate on India’s evolving energy landscape and Kerala’s leadership in energy efficiency and clean energy transitions. The festival will open with a Grand Inaugural Session, followed by a Foundation Day Talk.

The three-day programme features high-impact technical sessions, panel discussions, and case study presentations on critical areas such as energy-efficient appliances, thermal utilities, EV charging safety, Battery Energy Storage



Systems (BESS), nuclear power prospects, and regulatory frameworks. Dedicated sessions for innovation and knowledge exchange, including sectoral presentations by leading national and international organisations, will highlight emerging solutions and best practices.

Parallel events such as Kerala State Energy Club Competitions, engineering student project presentations, and hands-on sessions on E-Cooking will ensure strong youth and community engagement. Cultural programmes, networking opportunities, and interactive forums will further enrich the festival experience.

A major attraction throughout the event is the IEFK 2026 Green Expo, showcasing cutting-edge clean energy technologies and energy-efficient solutions, along with daily lucky draws and public engagement activities. IEFK 2026 promises to be a landmark event, reinforcing Kerala’s commitment to a sustainable, energy-secure future.

# K. C. Panigrahy appointed as Director General of Bureau of Energy Efficiency

Mr. Krushna Chandra Panigrahy has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) for a five-year term, following approval by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. His appointment comes at a critical juncture as India accelerates its energy efficiency and sustainability agenda in line with the country's Net Zero 2070 commitment.

Prior to joining BEE, Mr. Panigrahy served as Operations Director at Air Liquide India Pvt. Ltd., where he delivered strong operational and financial outcomes. His tenure was marked by annual savings of ₹5 million, a significant improvement in plant utilisation from 70% to 100%, and an exceptional availability rate of 99.87%. He also demonstrated an exemplary commitment to workplace safety, maintaining over a decade without any lost-time accidents, underscoring a robust safety culture.

Widely recognised for his collaborative and results-oriented leadership style, Mr. Panigrahy has a proven track record of aligning operational excellence with strategic business objectives. In his new role at BEE, he is expected to provide strong leadership in advancing energy efficiency policies, sustainability initiatives, and clean energy transitions.

As Director General, Mr. Panigrahy will focus on key national priorities including green hydrogen, renewable energy integration, and climate-resilient infrastructure, reinforcing BEE's pivotal role in steering India towards a more energy-efficient, low-carbon future.



## The “Unarvu” programme is progressing successfully



The Energy Management Centre (EMC) conducted its energy conservation awareness programme titled “Unarvu” for students and teachers on 21 January 2026 at the EMC Auditorium.

The 40th edition of the programme witnessed the participation of students and teachers from Chinnamma Memorial Girls Higher Secondary School, Poojappura, Thiruvananthapuram.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Ms. Sindhu S. Kumar, Library and



Information Officer, EMC. The introductory address and the energy conservation awareness class were delivered by Ms. Rajashree, Project Engineer, EMC, who highlighted the importance of responsible energy use and sustainable practices.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Meera, Teacher, CMGHSS, Poojappura.

A total of 258 participants attended the “Unarvu” programme during this month, conducted across six sessions.



The Energy Management Centre-Kerala organised an ESCO Stakeholder Meet on 16 January 2026 at Hotel Olive Downtown, Kochi, bringing together key stakeholders to explore scalable Energy Service Company (ESCO) solutions for high-energy-consuming buildings across the State.

The meet focused on strengthening Kerala's ESCO ecosystem and promoting performance-based contracting models that enable building owners to implement energy efficiency measures without upfront capital investment. Deliberations underscored the need for effective stakeholder coordination, robust risk-sharing mechanisms, and proven implementation frameworks to ensure sustained energy performance and measurable savings in large, energy-intensive facilities.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. R. Harikumar, Director, EMC, who outlined the EMC's strategic initiatives to accelerate ESCO adoption in the building sector as part of the State's broader energy efficiency roadmap. This was followed by expert presentations by Mr. Ashish Jindal (SEforALL) and Mr. Sumedh

Agarwal (AEEE), who provided an overview of ESCO implementation pathways, institutional mechanisms, and project readiness requirements.

Real-world project experiences and best practices were shared through case study presentations by Mr. Max Ong (bbp Singapore), Mr. Sookrit Malik (Energeia), and Mr. Arjun P. Gupta (SmartJoules). The sessions offered valuable insights into project execution, operational challenges, and key success factors for successful ESCO deployment. An interactive discussion with building owners further enabled focused dialogue on adoption strategies and operational concerns.

The meet concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Johnson Daniel, Head - NMEEE & DSM, EMC Kerala. The event witnessed the participation of over 40 representatives from hotels, hospitals, educational institutions, and shopping malls, reaffirming strong stakeholder interest in ESCO-driven energy efficiency solutions and Kerala's commitment to achieving energy savings through innovative, cost-effective models.



# High-Level Industry Leadership Meet on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development Held in Kochi



A High-Level Industry Leadership Meet on Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Development was held on 16 January 2026 at Hotel Olive Downtown, Kadavanthra, Kochi. The programme was co-chaired by Mr. Manoj N. K, Director, Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE), Planning and Economic Affairs Department, and Mr. Ajith Kumar K, Executive Chairman, Board for Public Sector Transformation (BPT).

The meet was organised by the Energy Management Centre (EMC) and brought together senior officials from State Government departments, public sector undertakings, leading industries, and industry associations to deliberate on strengthening technology-driven and sector-specific energy efficiency initiatives in Kerala.

Welcoming the participants, Dr. R. Harikumar, Director, EMC, highlighted Kerala's achievement of securing First Position in the State Energy Efficiency Index published by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India. He emphasized that the next phase of progress should focus on outcome-oriented and technology-led interventions.

During the discussions, industry representatives noted that conventional energy audits often lead to generic recommendations, underscoring the need for technology-driven, process-oriented, and data-backed audits supported by digital tools and real-time monitoring systems, along with capacity building of energy auditors.

The importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance was highlighted, with suggestions that EMC could support industries through structured technical advisory services in energy efficiency improvement, green energy integration, emissions reduction, and ESG reporting.

Participants also stressed the promotion of electric cooking (e-cooking) and heat pump technologies, particularly in public kitchens, commercial establishments, and industries. The need for capacity building of green building professionals and facilitation of EV charging infrastructure was also emphasized.

In the concluding session, Mr. Manoj N. K, Co-Chair, emphasized meaningful, technology-aligned, and sector-specific energy efficiency initiatives supported by suitable incentive and financing mechanisms.

Mr. Ajith Kumar K, Co-Chair, highlighted the need for standardisation in energy auditing practices through industry-wise audit checklists and stressed the promotion of e-cooking, waste heat recovery, fuel efficiency measures, ESCO-based models, heat pump technologies, and awareness on Open Access mechanisms.

The meeting concluded with a consensus on adopting technology-driven and sector-specific approaches, with EMC playing a central coordinating role in advancing Kerala's energy efficiency and sustainable development agenda.

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