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Oorja Pathrika | A Newsletter from Energy Management Centre- Kerala

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National Workshop Highlights STREE Programme's Role in Advancing Electric Micro mobility

A National Workshop on "Promoting Micromobility through Electric Bicycles" was held in New Delhi, on March 16 showcasing innovative strategies to advance sustainable transport and strengthen rural livelihoods through electric mobility solutions.

Dr. R. Harikumar, Director of the Energy Management Centre Kerala, participated in the workshop as a speaker and panellist, contributing insights on scaling up electric micromobility solutions and integrating them into state -level energy and transport strategies.

The workshop featured the STREE (Sustainable Transport for Rural Entrepreneurs through Electric Bicycles) Programme, a flagship initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited and its wholly owned subsidiary Convergence Energy Services Limited, under the Ministry of Power. The programme addresses mobility challenges in rural and tier II/III cities by deploying electric cargo bicycles, enabling livelihood opportunities, enhancing last -mile connectivity, and promoting low-carbon transport systems.

The pilot phase of the programme has been implemented with grant support from the Global Environment Facility through the Asian Development Bank, in collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development. Under this initiative, 1,800 electric cargo bicycles have been distributed to women entrepreneurs associated with Self-Help Groups across Kerala, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh.

In Kerala, the programme has made significant progress, with 600 electric bicycles deployed across Palakkad and Kannur, supporting diverse income-generating activities and strengthening last-mile delivery systems, particularly for women-led enterprises.

The workshop reinforced the transformative potential of electric micromobility in fostering inclusive growth while advancing India's clean energy transition and climate commitments.

EMC Leads Stakeholder Consultation to Strengthen Localised Climate Action Planning in Kerala

The Energy Management Centre Kerala (EMC), in collaboration with Vasudha Foundation, is advancing Climate Action Planning at the Grama Panchayat (GP) level, recognising the critical role of local governments in translating climate priorities into context-specific strategies and actionable outcomes. As part of this initiative, a half-day stakeholder consultation was convened at EMC in Thiruvananthapuram, bringing together over 20 officials from key state departments and agencies. Participants included representatives from the Kerala Forest Department, Suchitwa Mission, Department of Economics and Statistics Kerala, Kerala State Planning Board, Kerala State Land Use Board, and the Local Self Government Department Kerala. The consultation focused on defining Grama Panchayat selection criteria, strengthening data convergence mechanisms, and addressing sectoral gaps across

key domains such as energy, waste management, and mobility. These discussions are aimed at establishing a robust and evidence-based foundation for decentralised climate planning. Participating departments provided valuable technical inputs and expressed strong support for enhanced inter-departmental coordination and improved data accessibility, both of which are essential for effective planning and implementation at the local level.The initiative will build on the ongoing efforts of the Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), with close coordination to ensure alignment, avoid duplication, and develop context-driven, implementable climate action plans. The consultation highlighted a strong collective commitment across departments to embed climate priorities within decentralised governance frameworks, marking a significant step towards advancing localised climate action in Kerala.

BEE Star Labelling Awareness Drive Launched for Solar Inverters

In a significant step towards promoting energy efficiency and informed consumer choices, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has initiated measures to introduce star labelling for solar inverters, with awareness activities gaining momentum in country.

The awareness drive is expected to play a crucial role in accelerating the adoption of high-efficiency solar solutions across the states. By integrating energy performance standards into solar equipment, the programme aims to ensure quality assurance, optimise energy usage, and contribute to long-term environmental sustainability.

The move marks another milestone in advancing energy efficiency practices in Kerala, reinforcing the state's commitment to a cleaner and more sustainable energy future.

Global Hydrogen & Renewable Energy Summit 2026 Spotlights Grid Flexibility and Storage Solutions

The 2nd Global Hydrogen & Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026 was held at The Leela Kovalam, on March 13 bringing together leading policymakers, industry experts, and energy professionals to deliberate on advancing clean energy transitions and resilient power systems.

Organised by Agency for New and Renewable Energy Research and Technology (ANERT) in association with Elets Technomedia, the summit served as a key platform for high-level dialogue on emerging trends in hydrogen and renewable energy integration.

Dr. R Harikumar highlighted the importance of integrating flexible grid management practices and scalable storage solutions to support Kerala's transition towards a sustainable and low-carbon energy future.

A major highlight of the event was an engaging panel discussion on "Operating the High-RE Grid: Storage, Flexibility as a Grid Resource," which explored critical

strategies for managing high renewable energy penetration. The session emphasised the role of energy storage systems, grid flexibility, and advanced technologies in ensuring reliability and resilience in renewable energy-powered grids.

Moderated by Terance Alex, the panel brought together distinguished experts, including Neeraj Semwal, Aditya Jiwane, Dr. R Harikumar, Director of the Energy Management Centre Kerala, P Surendra, Sarit Maheshwari, and Alexander Hogeveen Rutter.

The discussions underscored the growing importance of coordinated policy frameworks, technological innovation, and institutional collaboration in enabling efficient operation of high-renewable energy grids. The summit reaffirmed Kerala's proactive role in driving forward India's renewable energy ambitions and fostering global partnerships in the clean energy sector.

Earth Hour 2026 Cyclothon Flagged Off in Thiruvananthapuram by Director EMC

As part of the global observance of Earth Hour 2026, a vibrant Cyclothon was organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Thiruvananthapuram on March 31:, promoting energy conservation and sustainable mobility.

The event was officially inaugurated by Dr. R Harikumar, Director of the Energy Management Centre Kerala, who flagged off the Cyclothon, underscoring the importance of collective action in addressing climate change and encouraging eco-friendly lifestyle choices.Organized in association with Indus Cycling Embassy, the Cyclothon commenced from Manaveeyam and covered key city routes including Statue Junction, Press Club, and the Kerala Legislative Assembly, before returning to the starting point. Around 60 cyclists participated enthusiastically in the initiative, reflecting strong community support for sustainable practices. The Cyclothon was led by Prakash Gopinath, Founder Trustee of Indus Cycling Embassy,

who guided the participants throughout the route.The event highlighted the growing public engagement in environmental campaigns and reinforced the message of reducing carbon footprint through simple yet impactful actions such as cycling.

EMC Study Positions Kerala at Turning Point for Electric Cooking Transition

A recent study led by the Energy Management Centre Kerala (EMC) has identified Kerala as being at a pivotal juncture for transitioning to electric cooking (e-cooking), supported by near-universal electrification and a strong policy ecosystem.

The study, titled "Kerala: Readiness Assessment Study for E-cooking," highlights that the State possesses the foundational pillars required for a large-scale shift towards electric cooking, although a structured and phased approach will be essential for successful implementation.

Conducted in collaboration with Development Environergy Services Pvt. Ltd. and supported under the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme, the study provides a comprehensive assessment of Kerala's cooking energy landscape across residential and institutional sectors. It examined key segments including households, anganwadis, schools, hospitals, and other public institutions.

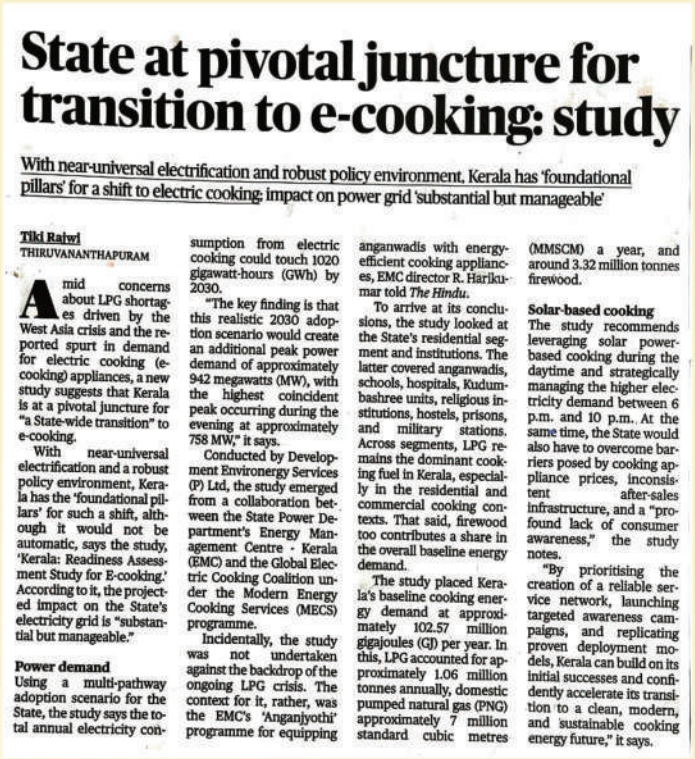
A key finding of the study indicates that under a realistic 2030 adoption scenario, electric cooking could significantly increase electricity demand, with total consumption projected to reach approximately 1,020 GWh annually. The transition is expected to create an additional peak demand of around 942 MW, with the highest load occurring during evening hours. However, the report emphasizes that this impact on the power grid, while substantial, remains manageable with appropriate planning and demand-side management strategies.

The study also notes that LPG continues to dominate as the primary cooking fuel in Kerala, particularly in residential and commercial sectors, while firewood still contributes to a portion of overall energy use. Kerala's baseline cooking energy demand is estimated at approximately 102.57 million gigajoules annually.

Importantly, the report underscores the need for integrated interventions, including the promotion of solar-based cooking during daytime, strengthening of service and maintenance networks, targeted awareness campaigns, and improved affordability of appliances to accelerate adoption.

The Energy Management Centre Kerala has been instrumental in driving initiatives such as the 'Anganjyothi' programme, aimed at equipping anganwadis with energy -efficient cooking solutions, reinforcing its leadership in advancing clean and sustainable energy transitions in the State.

The findings reaffirm EMC's strategic role in guiding Kerala towards a clean, modern, and sustainable cooking energy future, while ensuring grid stability and consumer-centric adoption pathways



State at pivotal juncture for transition to e-cooking: study

With near-universal electrification and robust policy environment, Kerala has 'foundational pillars' for a shift to electric cooking; impact on power grid 'substantial but manageable'

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Amid concerns about LPG shortages driven by the West Asia crisis and the reported spurt in demand for electric cooking (e-cooking) appliances, a new study suggests that Kerala is at a pivotal juncture for "a State-wide transition" to e-cooking.

With near-universal electrification and a robust policy environment, Kerala has the 'foundational pillars' for such a shift, although it would not be automatic, says the study, 'Kerala: Readiness Assessment Study for E-cooking.' According to it, the projected impact on the State's electricity grid is "substantial but manageable."

Power demand

Using a multi-pathway adoption scenario for the State, the study says the total annual electricity consumption from electric cooking could touch 1020 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2030.

"The key finding is that this realistic 2030 adoption scenario would create an additional peak power demand of approximately 942 megawatts (MW), with the highest coincident peak occurring during the evening at approximately 758 MW," it says.

Conducted by Development Environergy Services (P) Ltd, the study emerged from a collaboration between the State Power Department's Energy Management Centre - Kerala (EMC) and the Global Electric Cooking Coalition under the Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme.

Incidentally, the study was not undertaken against the backdrop of the ongoing LPG crisis. The context for it, rather, was the EMC's 'Anganjyothi' programme for equipping anganwadis with energy-efficient cooking appliances, EMC director R. Harikumar told *The Hindu*.

To arrive at its conclusions, the study looked at the State's residential segment and institutions. The latter covered anganwadis, schools, hospitals, Kudumbashree units, religious institutions, hostels, prisons, and military stations. Across segments, LPG remains the dominant cooking fuel in Kerala, especially in the residential and commercial cooking contexts. That said, firewood too contributes a share in the overall baseline energy demand.

The study placed Kerala's baseline cooking energy demand at approximately 102.57 million gigajoules (GJ) per year. In this, LPG accounted for approximately 1.06 million tonnes annually, domestic pumped natural gas (PNG) approximately 7 million standard cubic metres (MMSCM) a year, and around 3.32 million tonnes firewood.

Solar-based cooking

The study recommends leveraging solar power-based cooking during the daytime and strategically managing the higher electricity demand between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. At the same time, the State would also have to overcome barriers posed by cooking appliance prices, inconsistent after-sales infrastructure, and a "profound lack of consumer awareness," the study notes.

"By prioritising the creation of a reliable service network, launching targeted awareness campaigns, and replicating proven deployment models, Kerala can build on its initial successes and confidently accelerate its transition to a clean, modern, and sustainable cooking energy future," it says.

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY – GIZ PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT FOR STATE DESIGNATED AGENCIES

The BEE-GIZ Partnership Summit 2026 was held at Radisson Blu Hotel, New Delhi on 19th March 2026. Mr. Suresh Babu B. V., Registrar, EMC; Mr. Johnson Daniel, Head – NMEEE & DSM; and Mr. Mohammed Aneez, Consultant (CLASP), from the Energy Management Centre attended the programme.

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