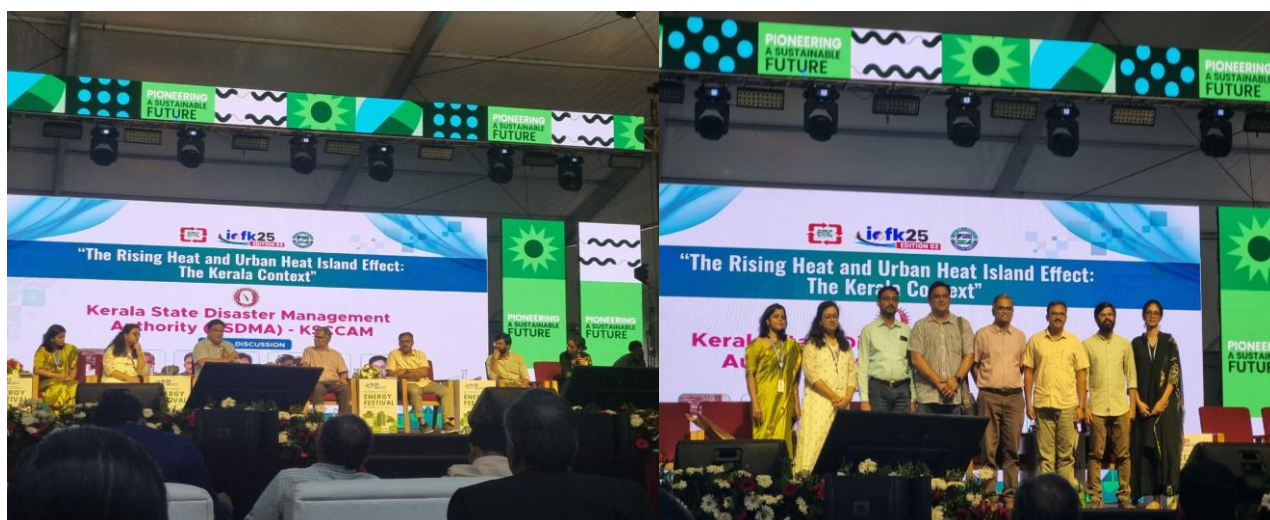




Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

EVENT REPORT

Title	: Panel Discussion on “The Rising Heat and Urban Heat Island Effect: The Kerala Context”
Date	: 9th February 2025 (11:40 AM – 1:15 PM)
Organized by	: Energy Management Centre (EMC) in collaboration with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and KSCCAM as part of the International Energy Festival Kerala (IEFK)
Venue	: International Energy Festival Kerala (IEFK) 2025, Thycaud Police Ground, Thiruvananthapuram



As part of the International Energy Festival Kerala (IEFK) organized by the Energy Management Centre (EMC), a panel discussion on “*The Rising Heat and Urban Heat Island Effect: The Kerala Context*” was held on 9th February 2025, from 11:40 AM to 12:45 PM at Thycaud Police Ground, Thiruvananthapuram. The session was jointly organized by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and EMC.

The panel was moderated by Dr. Joy Elamon, Member, KSDMA, and featured distinguished panelists — Dr. Neetha Gopal (IMD), Dr. Manoj M.G. (CUSAT), Dr. Manoj Kini (Kerala State Institute of Design), Mr. Fahad Marzook (Hazard Analyst, Atmospheric Sciences, KSDMA), Ar. Arya Narendran (Architect, KSDMA), and Ms. Anna John (Urban Planner).

The discussion centered on Kerala’s rising temperatures, the increasing frequency of heat-related incidents, and the emerging urban heat island (UHI) effects observed in many parts of the state. The panel explored the scientific, social, and design dimensions of the issue, emphasizing Kerala’s unique climatic vulnerabilities linked to both temperature rise and high humidity levels.

Panelists deliberated on the changing temperature patterns, the impacts of heat stress on health, infrastructure, and livelihoods, and the need for resilient urban design and planning. Cultural

and lifestyle practices influencing heat exposure were also discussed, underscoring the importance of community awareness and behavioral change.

A key highlight was the emphasis on rethinking the built environment, promoting climate-sensitive design principles, and redefining daily life and sectoral practices to enhance resilience to heat stress. The session concluded with a consensus that addressing rising heat requires interdisciplinary collaboration, policy support, and local-level adaptation strategies to safeguard public health and sustain Kerala's environmental balance.

The discussion was highly engaging and insightful, drawing active participation from experts, students, and professionals from multiple sectors. It served as an important platform to build awareness and momentum toward Kerala's preparedness in facing the challenges of a warming climate.

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) - KSCCAM



February 09, 2025
SUNDAY
11:40 am - 12:45 pm

TOPIC
"The Rising Heat and Urban Heat Island Effect: The Kerala Context"

ABOUT PARTNERING AGENCY
The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) is the apex body responsible for disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery in Kerala. Established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, KSDMA functions under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Kerala and coordinates with various government departments, district administrations, and local bodies to enhance disaster resilience. The authority plays a crucial role in managing natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, landslides, and epidemics, which frequently affect the state. It focuses on early warning systems, capacity building, and public awareness campaigns to minimize disaster risks. KSDMA also ensures effective post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation, integrating modern technologies like Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and real-time monitoring tools. With its proactive approach, the authority strengthens Kerala's disaster preparedness, making the state more resilient to future challenges.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Ms. Neetha K Gopal
Head, IMD, Thiruvananthapuram

Dr. Joy Elamon
Member, KSDMA

Dr. Manoj M. G.
Scientist D, ACARR, CUSAT

Mr. Fahad Marzook
Hazard Analyst, Atmospheric Sciences, KSDMA

Dr. Manoj Kumar Kini
Principal Kerala State Institute of Design

Ms. Arya Narendran
Architect, KSDMA

Ms. Anna John
Urban Planner, KSDMA

SPEAKERS



Ms. Neetha K Gopal
Head, IMD, Thiruvananthapuram



Dr. Joy Elamon
Member, KSDMA



Dr. Manoj M. G.
Scientist D, ACARR, CUSAT



Dr. Manoj Kumar Kini
Principal Kerala State Institute of Design



Mr. Fahad Marzook
HA Atmospheric Sciences, KSDMA

34