

Press Release

Climate-resilient, sustainable and affordable housing is the need of the hour: The 9th GRIHA Summit

GRIHA Council launched 'Rating for Affordable Housing' during The 9th GRIHA Summit 2017

New Delhi, 18 December 2017: To align with government's 'Housing for all' initiative, **GRIHA** launched **Rating for Affordable Housing** during their flagship event **The 9th GRIHA Summit** today in New Delhi.

In his message on the occasion **Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (I/C), for Housing & Urban Affairs**, said, "The theme for the GRIHA Summit - 'Sustainable is Affordable' is apt and I am sure shall dispel the myth that sustainable is not affordable". He further provided support and encouragement to the Summit by expressing his thoughts on the new rating system and added, "Affordable, climate resilient and sustainable buildings are the need of the hour, and the new rating will facilitate integration of relevant features for optimal sustainability in the Affordable Housing segment."

Studies suggest that the shortage of urban housing stood at 18.8 million units in 2012 and is expected to grow with a CAGR of 6.6% to 34.1 million units by 2022 in India. The Government of India has taken several steps to address this demand, one among many being the 'Housing for All' schemes implying that the construction sector will keep growing exponentially in the years ahead.

In his keynote address, **H.E. Dr. Andreas Baum, Ambassador of Switzerland to India and Bhutan** said, "70 years of Swiss-Indian friendship has resulted in us working together in many fields such as economy, trade, research, culture and also policy issues. The current Indo-Swiss cooperation programme aims in particular at partnering for a climate compatible sustainable development that addresses both the effects and the causes of climate change. The Indo – Swiss collaboration is working together with the Indian Bureau of Energy Efficiency in the development of guidelines for thermally comfortable and energy efficient housing." He highlighted that according to current growth rates, it is estimated that the total building stock in residential, commercial and public spaces in India will double to reach 32 billion square meters in 2030. This provides an opportunity to build 12 million affordable houses sustainable.

Sharing his thoughts on the 9th edition of the GRIHA Summit, **Dr. Ajay Mathur, President, GRIHA Council**, said, "As urbanization happens and our cities grow, many new houses are going to be constructed both in the Affordable as well as the MIG and HIG housing segments. The issue of thermal comfort and exponential growth in air conditioning electricity consumption is critical. There is an urgent and immediate need to promote design of energy efficient building envelopes to address both these issues. Over the years, the GRIHA Council has played a pivotal role in providing solutions to various challenges faced by the built environment".

While enumerating the achievement of significant milestones and developments of the GRIHA Council during the year 2017, **Mr. Sanjay Seth, CEO, GRIHA Council** highlighted the exponential growth in the GRIHA footprint over the years. He spoke of the new partnerships that were forged during the 9th GRIHA Summit with several esteemed organizations like National Housing Bank (NHB), Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) and Indian Society for Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE), to develop green buildings in the country.

About GRIHA Council

Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council is an independent, not-for-profit society jointly setup by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India to promote and administer green buildings in India. GRIHA has been acknowledged as a tool to evaluate reduction in emission intensity through habitats, as part of mitigation strategy for combating climate change in INDIA's "Nationally Determined Contributions" (NDCs) submitted to UNFCCC.

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