



Data for Heat resilience: What we have, lack & need

Mumbai Climate Week 2026

Roundtable | 17 February 2026 | 3:40– 4:55 PM

Background

The rising frequency, intensity, and duration of extreme heat have increasingly affected health, productivity, and the economy in India over the past decade. **Today, more than 56 percent of Indian districts, home to nearly 75 per cent of the population, face a high-to-very-high heat risk.** Rapid urbanisation has further amplified this risk, as built-up areas trap heat, strain infrastructure, and increase exposure through the urban heat island effect.

Building resilience to extreme heat in urban India requires action on two fronts. First, we need **stronger evidence on how heat affects people's health, livelihoods, and economic systems.** Second, we need to enable the large-scale implementation of heat-resilience solutions that are locally relevant and effective on the ground.

Heat is often invisible until it becomes a crisis. This makes **data a foundational element for planning and action.** Data is critical for understanding hyperlocal heat risk and coping mechanisms, designing heat-health early-warning systems based on predictive analytics, assessing the cost-benefit of cooling solutions, and developing financial protection tools such as parametric insurance.

This session, convened by H T Parekh Foundation, in collaboration with Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), will explore **what we already know, what gaps remain, and what it will take to build a standardised heat data system for India that helps practitioners, policymakers, and funders prioritise actions and investments, and understand how much effort is needed, and where.**

By bringing together evidence producers, decision-makers, practitioners, and financiers, the roundtable aims to shift India's heat-resilience agenda from fragmented efforts to shared systems, where data enables more equitable, effective, and scalable responses to extreme heat.

Agenda

| Time (IST) | Duration | Segment | Speaker |
|------------|----------|---|--|
| 1540-1545 | 5 mins | Arrival and seating | Organisers |
| 1545-1553 | 8 mins | Welcome address & presentation of findings from Maharashtra Heat Risk Adaptation Plan | Dr Vishwas Chitale, Fellow, CEEW |
| 1553-1558 | 5 mins | Keynote address by the chair | Mr Praveen Pardeshi, CEO, MITRA |
| 1558-1600 | 2 min | House rules and flow, session outcomes | Dr Indu Murthy, Sector Head, CSTEP |
| 1600-1620 | 20 mins | Part A: Lightning interventions | Distinguished speakers and experts |
| 1620-1640 | 20 mins | Part B: Lightning interventions | Distinguished speakers and experts |
| 1640-1645 | 5 mins | Synthesis of the session + Tool spotlight 1: National Heat Risk Dashboard | Dr Indu Murthy, Sector Head, CSTEP |
| 1645-1650 | 5 min | Closing remarks by the co-chair | Mr S Rakesh Kumar, Joint Secretary, NDMA (TBC) |