

## Way Ahead

Extreme heat is not just a weather event—it is a national humanitarian challenge to big corporations to small communities. AIDMI's vision is to work alongside NDMA and the private sector of India to shape a proactive, inclusive, and practical agenda for cooling India's most exposed businesses and communities. Our work must go beyond survival and ensure that vulnerable populations can live, work, and thrive even in a hotter future.

<sup>1</sup> Presented at Corporate Roundtable on Early Action and Disaster Risk Reduction: Impact on Vulnerable Populations, July 17, 2025, New Delhi, India.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fortuneindia.com/business-news/outdoor-workers-vs-50c-why-indias-top-human-rights-body-wants-to-declare-access-to-ac-a-basic-human-right/123527>

*"Cooling is not a luxury—it is life-saving."  
– Laxmipriya Bhoi, Puri, Odisha, India.*

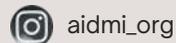


Photo: AIDMI.

*"In the face of rising heat, resilience begins not with response—but with readiness. Together, we can cool businesses and communities both before crisis strikes."*

*– Miraben Popatbhai Dantani,  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.*

Join us—corporates, authorities, communities, institutions, and individuals—in building a cooler, safer, and more resilient future for India's most vulnerable people and economy.



aidmi\_org



AIDMI\_ORG



AIDMI.ORG



@aidmi7344



All India Disaster Mitigation Institute



+91-079 2658 2962



bestteam@aidmi.org



www.aidmi.org

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## Corporate India and Early Action for Cooling Extreme Heat<sup>1</sup>

*"We've been working to unlock mitigation funds. That's been a win... but government resources alone are not enough. We need more from the private sector, NGOs, local bodies, and citizens. It's a community-wide problem that requires community-wide mobilisation."*

*– Dr. Krishna Vatsa, NDMA, India<sup>2</sup>*



Photo: AIDMI.



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As India faces increasing instances of extreme heat, the need to act early and reduce heat-related risks among vulnerable populations and all economic activity has become urgent. Small businesses, informal workers, family farmers, and the urban poor are on the frontlines of this crisis. In this context, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) proposes the following ten areas of action, anchored in community engagement, data-led strategies, and collaboration with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) actors and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) of India.

*"We need differentiated strategies for vulnerable groups—the elderly, children, women, and informal workers. Cooling centres, rescheduling work and school hours, training health staff—these must all become standard responses."*

*– Dr. Krishna Vatsa, NDMA, India<sup>2</sup>*

## Corporate India can step up with 10 community-based cooling solutions:

**1. Community Cooling Hubs:** AIDMI will partner with local bodies and corporates to establish community cooling spaces—solar-powered, water-enabled rest areas in heat hotspots such as market zones and bus stops. These collaborative local hubs will serve individual workers, corporate efforts, gig workers, elderly citizens, and street vendors during peak summer hours. Call AIDMI.

**2. Heat Resilient Livelihood Kits:** AIDMI will develop and distribute practical kits for all citizens—kits that include reflective caps, cooling towels, hydration support, and heat-protection guidance tailored to local contexts. Join AIDMI.

**3. Localised Early Heat Alerts:** AIDMI can localise NDMA's early heat alerts for community-level use by corporates. Using SMS, WhatsApp, and wall charts in informal settlements, we aim to ensure timely, actionable warnings for all workers, small vendors, corporate teams, and farmers.

**4. CSR Platform for Heat Solutions:** AIDMI is developing and launching a CSR-supported platform that links private sector innovation with local cooling needs—funding climate-responsive infrastructure, pilot testing cooling technologies, and creating shared knowledge resources. Join AIDMI.

**5. Training in Anticipatory Cooling Action:** Drawing from our experience with early action across hazards, AIDMI will offer training to community leaders, school teachers, public service staff, and health workers on what actions to take before heat peaks—saving lives and livelihoods. Collaborate with AIDMI.

**6. Rapid Assessments on Heat Impacts on Work and Workers:** We will continue using "data on action" approaches to quickly assess how heat affects small enterprises, local transport, and public service workers—generating actionable insights for both private and public sectors. Partner with AIDMI.

**7. Nature-Based Cooling Demonstrations to Facilities:** AIDMI will promote and demonstrate nature-based solutions—tree-lined corridors, green roofs, vertical gardens—designed with local communities to bring lasting cooling benefits to urban settlements. Collaborate with AIDMI.

**8. Heat-Indexed Microinsurance for Teams**  
We aim to co-develop heat-specific microinsurance schemes for small businesses—triggered by temperature thresholds—to help cover losses from reduced earnings or damaged stock. Ask AIDMI.

### 9. Youth-Led Awareness and Innovation in Family of Teams

By engaging schools, colleges, and vocational groups, AIDMI will encourage youth-led initiatives to design community heat preparedness campaigns, social media messaging, and local innovations in cooling. Join AIDMI.

### 10. Policy Support to NDMA and SDMA

With NDMA and State Disaster Management Authorities, AIDMI is ready to offer field evidence to update heat action plans—ensuring the inclusion of workers and community-led approaches in national frameworks for economic activities and community work.



Photo: AIDMI.