Special Session
Cool Futures: Inspiring the NextGen of Sustainable Cooling

9:30-11:15 Hrs | 17 April 2025 | Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

About the Session

With 65% of its population under the age of 35 and nearly 8 million young people entering the workforce each year, India is poised to leverage its youth population to drive both economic growth and climate action. At the same time, the rising demand for cooling driven by increasing temperatures and urbanisation presents both a challenge and an opportunity for innovation.

This session is designed to empower India's youth with the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to lead this transition. This dynamic session at the ICC Conclave will provide students and young professionals with direct access to industry experts, enabling them to explore career pathways, understand market trends, and identify opportunities for innovation in sustainable cooling. It will feature a rotating discussion format, allowing participants to engage with three different thematic areas led by leading experts in sustainable cooling and related fields.

Thematic Areas

Integrated and Efficient Cooling Technologies	Climate-Responsive Building Design and Materials	Nature-Based Cooling and Passive Solutions	Refrigerants and Refrigerant Transition
District Cooling Systems (DCS), solid-state cooling, thermally-driven cooling	*High-albedo materials, phase change materials, insulation*	*Shading, ventilation, orientation, green roofs, urban forestry, water bodies*	*Low-GWP refrigerants, natural refrigerants*

Cooling Policy and Regulations	Cooling and Industry Innovations	Cold Chain and Food Security	Communications for Cooling
Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), Kigali Amendment, ICAP implementation	*Emerging startups, market demand, business opportunities*	*Impact of cooling on agriculture, logistics, and food preservation*	*Creative storytelling, digital engagement, and innovative communication strategies to drive sustainable cooling*

Agenda

Duration	Agenda Item
10 mins	Introduction and Context Setting
30 mins	Lightening Talks on Thematic Areas
45 mins	Speed Networking on Thematic Areas (Three Rounds)
10 mins	Q&A
10 mins	Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Who can participate:

- Students (Undergraduate, Graduate and Doctoral)
- Young Professionals
- Young Researchers and Academics
- Young Entrepreneurs and Startups

About ICC Annual Conclave

The ICC Annual Conclave is a premier forum for leaders and experts in sustainable cooling. It drives dialogue, innovation, and collaboration to advance a future where thermal comfort, health, and food security are accessible to all.

Focusing on the theme 'From National Vision to Local Action: Integrating Subnational Action for India's Cooling Agenda,' the ICC Annual Conclave 2025 will drive discussions on state-level cooling roadmaps, strengthening institutional capacity, and integrating cooling into state climate policies and urban planning. Key discussions will focus on bridging the skilling gap, unlocking innovative financing mechanisms, and leveraging regulatory frameworks and market incentives to accelerate the adoption of climate-friendly cooling solutions.

About India Cooling Coalition

The India Cooling Coalition (ICC) is a dynamic multi-stakeholder group comprising non-profits, academic and research institutions, and industry associations dedicated to sustainable cooling research and application. It serves as a national platform for dialogue with diverse stakeholders, recommending policy initiatives to ensure the success of government programs while enabling access to affordable and sustainable cooling for all. With 23 member organisations, the ICC aims to accelerate the implementation of the India Cooling Action Plan and strategically address developmental challenges aligned with national and international commitments such as the Kigali Amendment, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals.