

**High-Level Workshop on District Cooling:
Pathways to Accelerate Adoption in Uttar Pradesh**
Mehfil, Taj Mahal, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
3 July, 2026

Background

Uttar Pradesh is at the epicenter of India's emerging cooling crisis. Peak power demand crossed 31,347 MW in June 2025, with cooling now estimated to drive 50–55% of summer peak load. Summer maximum in UP cities now reach 45–47 °C, while air-conditioning penetration has tripled to 30%+ in the last decade and is set to rise sharply across the state's 240 million residents.

At the same time, an upcoming urban and industrial pipeline is taking shape: the YEIDA Master Plan 2041, the New Noida DMIC city, the Noida International Airport at Jewar, data-centre pipeline in the Greater Noida belt, the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, and 27 Integrated Manufacturing & Logistics Clusters across 26 districts. Each of these indicates high-density, long-life cooling load which if served by conventional split / VRV systems, could potentially lock in decades of inefficient electricity, refrigerant and water use.

Water-and-sewage stress compounds the case. UP generates approx. 5,500 MLD of sewage against installed treatment capacity of 4,176 MLD across 138 STPs, leaving 1,300 + MLD untreated. District Cooling, through Treated Water Offtake Agreements with new STPs could convert UP's sewage gap into a bankable revenue stream.

Recognising this convergence of cooling, energy, water, and waste challenges we request a high-level discussion be convened in Lucknow to orient line departments and development authorities on District Cooling Systems (DCS), demonstrate Indian and global precedents, and conclude with a shortlist of projects in Lucknow and Noida that the BEE–UNEP DCS Hub can help move to development-ready stage.

Agenda

Time	Session	Speaker / Lead	Description
9:30 – 10:00 (30 min)	Registration and Welcome Tea	-	Arrival and registration of state government delegates Networking over welcome tea
10:00 – 10:25 (25 min)	Inaugural Session: Opening and Setting the Context	Mr Sudheer Perla, Senior Advisor, UNEP India Sh. Manoj Kumar Singh, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), State Transformation Commission (STC),	Welcome Remarks Opening Remarks Framing of the UP cooling– energy–water–waste

		Government of Uttar Pradesh	challenge, and articulation of the workshop's objective
10:25 – 11:15 (40 min)	Session 1: What is District Cooling? Technology, Components and Benefits Indian DCS Precedents and Operating Case Studies	Mr Sudheer Perla, Senior Advisor, District Cooling, UNEP India Noida International Airport (<i>tbc</i>)	Walk-through of DCS fundamentals and introduction of the energy, water, urban heat nexus positioning DCS as a circular-economy infrastructure response Detailed walk-through of operating Indian precedents. Presentation on Noida International Airport DCS integration
11:15 – 11:25 (10 min)	Tea and Bio-Break	-	
11:25 – 12:25 (60 min)	Session 2: Case for Urban Infrastructure Development; UP DCS Opportunity: Lucknow, Noida and the State Pipeline	Mr Sudheer Perla, Senior Advisor, District Cooling, UNEP India	Presentation of priority opportunities for DCS in UP
12:25 – 13:00 (35 min)	Closing Remarks and Way Forward; BEE– UNEP DCS Hub Support Framework Vote of Thanks	UNEP India and State Transformation Commission	Capture of agreed actions and timelines: priority pilot list (3–5 projects) Formal closing of the workshop