

*For immediate release*

## **Orientation cum Training workshop organized for health care professionals to manage Heat Related Illnesses in Rajkot, Gujarat**

**Rajkot, 03rd May 2019:** Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), in collaboration with Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) and Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar (IIPH G), organized a one-day workshop at The Fern Hotel, Rajkot on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2019.

The objective of this training workshop was to orient Rajkot healthcare professionals on Heat Stress Action Plan of Rajkot and to enhance capacities of medical officers for better management of heat related illnesses.

The workshop had wide participation of more than 50 doctors and public health professionals from Rajkot city. The discussions also focused on heat waves and interpretation of heat alerts, diagnosis and treatment protocol for heat exhaustion & heat stroke, and overall preparedness for prevention and management of heat stress during heat wave days.

The workshop cum-training was inaugurated by **Mr. Chetan Ganatra, Deputy Commissioner, RMC** in the presence of Prof. Dileep Mavalankar, Director, IIPH-G; Dr. P.P Rathod, Medical Officer of Health, RMC; Dr. Arti Trivedi, Head, Department of Medicine, PDU Medical college; Dr. Manish Chunara, Medical Officer, RMC; Ms. Asha Kaushik, Sr. Research Associate, IRADe; Dr. Mahaveer Goleccha, Associate Professor, IIPH and doctors from Health Department of Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC), Padma Kubarba Hospital, Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Hospital, Railway Hospital and Gokul Hospital.

**On this occasion, Mr. Ganatra** said *"All city stakeholders need to put equal efforts and take responsibility for better management of heat stress issue in the city"*. **Dr. P.P Rathod** stated, *"Rajkot is the heart & capital of Saurashtra region, and due to increasing global temperatures it is important to plan for heat stress. The workshop was very useful and guided the health professionals to prepare better for heat events."*

**Prof. Mavalankar** commented, *"We are not realizing morbidity and mortality caused by heat waves in India since our health & hospital statistic systems needs upgradation. The workshop in Rajkot focused on concrete actions to improve the readiness of health department to deal with heat waves."*

**Dr. Arti Trivedi** said *"Public awareness and knowledge training of health care professionals can create a paradigm shift in outcomes. Avoid extended exposure to direct sunlight, wear single layer of thin cotton clothes, drink little but frequently. Early detection and prompt treatment helps reduce mortality/morbidity. Understanding the wide spectrum of heat related illnesses is key to reduce burden on healthcare system. Hyperthermia is not same as fever, as the treatment differs."*

**Mr. Rohit Magotra, project PI & Deputy Director, IRADe** informed *"Heat waves can particularly affect the vulnerable population which includes pregnant mothers, infants and children, senior citizens, and people with medical history of diabetes & blood pressure. It is increasingly important for medical officers & hospitals to be prepared for heat-related cases and prevent mortality due to heat stroke. This workshop is timely and will go a long way in establishing protocols for early diagnosis and management of the heat related illnesses."*

IRADe and IIPH (G) are working with Rajkot Municipal Corporation to develop Heat Action Plan for Rajkot. This training workshop is part of IRADe's on-going research study supported by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada to develop Climate Adaptive Action Plans for managing Heat Stress in Rajkot city.

### **About the project**

#### **Climate Adaptive Action Plans to manage heat stress in Indian Cities**

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The main objective of the project is to improve the management of heat stress risks in India by developing spatially differentiated and gender sensitive Heat Stress Action Plans (HSAPs) in Delhi, Bhubaneswar and Rajkot. HSAPs developed through the initiative will serve to support India's medium term development planning, especially in prioritizing and integrating adaptive resilience within the agenda of climate resilient smart cities. The project is implemented by IRADe in partnership with partnering cities' Urban Local Bodies (Bhubaneshwar, Rajkot), IIPH (G) & IIPH (B) and funded by International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.

**About IRADe**

IRADe is an independent advanced research institute which aims to conduct research and policy analysis to engage stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations, corporations, academic and financial institutions. The organization conducts multi-disciplinary and multi-stakeholder policy and technical research & analysis in the domains of energy, climate change, urban development, poverty, gender equity, agriculture, and food security in Asia.

Being Asia Centre for Sustainable Development, it has been carrying out policy research and its implementation for enabling socio-economic growth and charting pathways for sustainable development in South-Asia. IRADe Centre of Excellence of the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) for urban development and climate change. In addition, it provides expertise to other ministries, national and international institutions and partners with other reputed organizations.

For more details please visit [www.irade.org](http://www.irade.org)

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