Keeping heat from going through roof

Ahmedabad: The Heat Action Plan (HAP) project of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC), IIPH Gandhinagar and other partners includes the installation of cooler roofs as part of an experiment to uncover its implications.

“The white-roof initiative has been going on for at least the last two years. We have taken up a similar initiative in each zone this year too. The roofs of an estimated 1,500 houses have been painted white to reflect the heat and minimize indoor temperatures,” said a senior health department official of AMC. As a pilot project, the civic body is also installing cool roofs in a slum in the Kankaria area of the city. “Certain roof tiles can bring down the indoor temperature by up to seven degrees. Due to cost limitations, these are being installed at 30 houses in the Ved Mandirni Chali in the Kankaria area. A private agency has been roped in for this,” the official said.

A city-based NGO, Mahila Housing Trust (MHT), had earlier installed these roofs on 300 houses. The initiative also focuses on materials available locally. “It’s helpful in shanties, where the use of white tarp and asbestos can be used to reflect the sunlight,” said an official.