

**PRESS RELEASE**

**USAID and CEEW Host  
National Dialogue on Air Pollution and Health**

**New Delhi:** On August 31, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) hosted a National Dialogue on Cleaner Air and Better Health in New Delhi, which brought together key stakeholders from the Government of India, pollution regulating agencies, academic institutions, and civil society to discuss and advance approaches to improving air quality, with a focus on mitigating health impacts.

**Veena Reddy, Mission Director, USAID/India** said, “Clean air is an international environmental and health priority for the U.S. government. We are committed to supporting national and international efforts to curb air pollution and its health impacts on our people and planet. In India, USAID’s Cleaner Air Better Health initiative is strengthening pollution mitigation, with a focus on proven models that both reduce pollution and improve community health, while engaging local communities and addressing the needs of the most vulnerable.”

**Dr. Arunabha Ghosh, CEO, CEEW,** said, “Air pollution is not a seasonal issue in India, and neither is it just an environmental issue. It affects us all year and our economic productivity because of its health impacts. The Council’s research on air quality and the ground interventions of CABH aims to build a community of practice for cleaner air – whether through meetings with self-help groups to better distribute LPG refills, or monitoring air pollution at constructions sites, or focus-group discussions with delivery riders to understand their perceptions about electric vehicles. CABH uses data and evidence to impact solutions and policies at scale.”

Other distinguished speakers and experts at the Dialogue included Mr. A. K. Singh, Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest & Cooperation, Delhi Government, and Dr. Randeep Guleria, Chairman, Institute of Internal Medicine & Respiratory and Sleep Medicine and Director Medical Education at Medanta, Ex-Director, AIIMS Delhi.

The event also included an exhibition – *Hawa ke Saathi (Friends of Air)* – that showcased prototypes of clean air solutions and interventions developed through USAID’s Cleaner Air and Better Health project. Innovations included battery-powered wearable heating solutions for outdoor workers in winter months, a green hydrogen cookstove that provides energy security in areas where fuel delivery is a challenge, and a mini electric tractor designed to meet the specific requirements of small landholders and vegetable farmers.

USAID’s Cleaner Air Better Health project aims to strengthen air pollution mitigation and reduce exposure to air pollution in India by establishing evidence-based models for better air quality management. The project is being implemented by a consortium led by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), and includes ASAR Social Impact Advisors, Environmental Design Solutions, Enviro Legal Defence Firm, and Vital Strategies.

**For media inquiries contact:** Tulshe Agnihotri – [tulshe.agnihotri@ceew.in](mailto:tulshe.agnihotri@ceew.in) | +91 9621119643/+91 7905717812