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‘Care for Air’ campaign for reducing air pollution in Patna

Pranava Kumar Chaudhary | TNN | Jan 28, 2016, 10.09 PM IST

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PATNA: Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) on Thursday launched 'Care for Air' campaign for reducing pollution in Patna to help improve ambient air quality. The campaign urges Bihar government to implement 'Solar Roof Top Program' to reduce emissions from diesel in non-domestic sector.

The campaign will witness rickshaw pullers mobilizing public on street to get support for clean energy, and aware them about growing air pollution in the city. The campaign will be implemented in collaboration with 'Sammaan Foundation' for one month across the city.

"The Patna air quality is poor and deteriorating faster, and nobody can say better than me", mentioned by Krishna Prasad Gupta, a rickshaw driver in the city. Due to inhalation of poor air on daily basis is leading to major health risk. "Burning of eyes, nose and throat irritation is something we witness everyday" said Krishna. "I request Bihar government to immediately implement the 'Solar Roof Top Program' to stop emissions from diesel in non-domestic sector to control pollution" he added.

While talking at the event, Ankita Jyoti, Program Manager of CEED said, "the Patna air quality is deteriorating witnessing more red air quality days, and aggravated concentration of particulate matter. The diesel generators in the city are contributing to pollute air further, and it can be stopped by swapping diesel with clean energy. All of us need to take action now, if we want our air to be clean and healthy" Jyoti concluded.

While flagging off the rickshaws to seek support from public for cleaner energy, Irfan Alam, director, Sammaan Foundation said, "rickshaw community is immensely exposed to air pollution and they are taking responsibility as flag bearers to facilitate 'Care for Air' campaign in Patna. Action is required by everyone to improve the quality of air we breathe. The campaign provides an opportunity for public to support and participate which will have an impact on air quality", he added.

While concluding the programme, Naveen Mishra, of CEED said that "The 200 rickshaw drivers in Patna will be the ambassador for 'Care for Air' campaign to help Patna breathe. The campaign is about promoting measures to help improve ambient air quality and indeed breathe better together. The implementation of the solar roof top program in city -means clean air, healthy neighborhood, and less money spent on respiratory illness". "It is a small step towards series of strong steps to be taken to improve air quality in the city" he concluded.

The brand ambassadors of 'Care for Air' campaign at the event were wearing air masks to highlight the health problems created by polluted air. The city dwellers are encouraged to sign up the petition for taking action to curb air pollution.

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