

## **YOUTH FOR CLEANER AIR AND BETTER HEALTH**

***(An Awareness Workshop for School Children within National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health)***

**15 December 2023 | Venue: Ashoka Hall, Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi**

Youth awareness is critical to climate action and under the NPCCHH, NCDC is widely engaging with the young children in communicating about the intersection of climate, environment, and health. Schools and other educational institutions are being encouraged to enhance participation to amplify the youth voices in climate action. Developing a variety of information and communication materials, aimed at educating children for bringing a change in society around climate change, air pollution and its impact on health.

To continue this engagement, NCDC in collaboration with Vital Strategies organized an awareness workshop on December 15, 2023, at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi to engage school children from schools in and around Delhi. The objectives of the workshop were to-

- Raise awareness about the adverse health effects of air pollution, with a focus on children's health and development,
- Encourage Indian youth to utilize their creativity to convey messages around environmental and health impacts of air pollution awareness,
- Inspire environmentally responsible behaviour and advocacy among young individuals, and,
- Provide a platform for the youth to showcase their skills and engagement.

The workshop was chaired by Dr Atul Goel DGHS, MoHFW and Director NCDC. On this occasion Dr Sunil Gupta, Principal Advisor NCDC, Dr Aakash Shrivastava Head of Department CEOH&CCH, Dr Aniket Chowdhury Assistant Director CEOH&CCH, Ms Jayshree Nandi NPCCHH-CEOH&CCH and others from CEOH&CCH Division were present. Ms Devika Malik International Para- athlete and co-founder Wheeling Happiness Foundation grace the occasion. Dr Sudhi Nath Lead Public Health at BCTA, LM Singh Managing Director- India and Global Head of Partnerships and Innovative Finance at Vital Strategies were present. Over 230 students from standard 6-12 from government- aided schools in Delhi, students from the initiative 'Gurukul- Noida Chapter', teachers and co-ordinators from representing schools, others supporting NPCCHH programme, and Vital Strategies attended the workshop.

The workshop provided an opportunity to school children to engage and understand the profound impact of the climate crisis on youth and other under-represented communities and aimed to encourage students to engage and propose innovative solutions to reduce the adverse consequence of climate change and air pollution on environment and health. The interactive sessions conducted during the workshop helped accelerate efforts being undertaken to engage children in activities aimed to reduce exposure of air pollution under the NPCCHH. Additionally,



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health



NCDC announced and facilitated the winners of the “Go Green and Breathe Pure Air” online campaign launched on November 23, 2023, to encourage Indian youth to create impactful social media reels and videos addressing the crucial link between air pollution and health. 230 students from standard 6-12 from government- aided schools, teachers and other NCDC and programme representatives from NPCCHH, Vital Strategies attended the workshop.

#### SESSION DETAILS:

- Dr Aakash highlighted the imperative need for clean air to improve the health and development of children. He emphasized on advocating for clean air and that children and youth with their dedication and passion can become change agents inspiring others to do the same
- Dr Sunil Gupta highlighted the health implications of air pollution arising from societal changes associated with industrialization, extensive construction, and lifestyle shifts. He encouraged students to draw insights from the diverse interactions and narratives shared during the event, stressing the importance of implementing action at both individual and community levels to catalyse positive transformations.
- Ms. Devika Malik conveyed her personal journey, highlighting the obstacles she surmounted to emerge as a disability advocate and a representative of India on diverse national and international platforms. Emphasizing on strengthening the physical and mental health, she encouraged students to proactively safeguard themselves and the environment, advocating for action at both individual and community levels to address air pollution. Quoting, 'Since we all share responsibility for the issue of air pollution, we must collectively assume responsibility for the solution,' she motivated children to channel their passion in the fight against air pollution and actively contribute to the cause.
- Dr Sudhi Nath introduced "Project Gurukul," an initiative by Baptist Church Trust Association (BCTA) aimed at delivering education to underprivileged children in the Delhi region. As part of the initiative, students from Gurukul in Noida performed a skit, highlighting the role of diverse stakeholders involved in combating air pollution.



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health





*Image: Still from the skit presented by Gurukul students*

- Mr. Ronnit Nath, Ms. Varsha Mishra, and Ms. Siya Pal, three students, delivered talks featuring statistical data and insights, shedding light on key pollutants like Particulate Matter (PM), innovative technologies, and the urgency of environmental preservation initiatives. They underscored the significance of incorporating environmental awareness into the curriculum, aiming to empower the youth with knowledge and inspire them to become custodians of environmental awareness.
- Ms. Saesha Kapur, the winner of the "Go Green and Breathe Pure Air" video competition, explained the motivation behind her participation in the challenge and provided details on her endeavors to contribute to raising awareness.



*Image: Student speakers and winner of 'Go Green and Breathe Pure Air' campaign*

- Dr Sudhi Nath facilitated an interactive session delving into prevalent myths and facts associated with air pollution. The discussions covered a spectrum of topics, including different pollutants, both indoor and outdoor air pollution, key terminology around air pollution (such as difference between smoke and smog, key pollutants such as particulate



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health



matter, etc) populations most susceptible to its effects, and diverse measures to mitigate exposure and impacts stemming from air pollution.

- Dr Atul Goel DGHS urged students to embrace a healthy and sustainable lifestyle, emphasizing the individual responsibility of each child to contribute to pollution control at every level. Additionally, he expressed his commitment to visiting schools, interacting with students, and encouraging them to actively participate in these efforts.



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health





*Image: Dr Atul Goel, DGHS, MoHFW and Director, NCDC delivering his keynote address*



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health



## ANNEXURE

### ANNEXURE 1:

AGENDA	
09:30- 09:40	Welcome Remarks <i>Dr Aakash Shrivastava, Head, Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health, Climate Change and Health at NCDC</i>
09:40- 09:50	Opening Keynote Address by Director General, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
10:00- 10:10	Showcase information, education, and communication (IEC) materials NCDC a
10:10- 10:25	Youth Engagement for Climate Action <i>Small play by Gurukul children</i>
10:25- 10:35	Special Address: Amplifying youth voices Devika Malik, National Youth Awardee Govt of India, and Co-Founder- Wheeling Happiness Foundation
10:35- 10:45	Champions of Air: Talk by 3 school children on Climate and Health topics
10:45- 11:00	Announcement of winners: 'Go Green and Breathe Clean Air' Campaign <i>Dr Aniket Chowdhary, Assistant Director (PH), NCDC</i>
11:00- 11:20	Clean Air: Quiz and interactions Facilitated by Vital Strategies and Dr Sudhi Nath, BCTA
11:20- 11:30	Closing Remarks <i>Dr Aniket, Chowdhury, NCDC</i>

### ANNEXURE 2 : Participants detail

School	Children	Teachers	Representing standard
BM Gange Senior Secondary School	140	6	VIII-75, IX 35, XI-30)
United Christian English School	30	2	VIII – 30
United Christian Sr. Secondary School	30	2	IX-15, XI - 15
Gurukul Noida Chapter	30	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>11</b>	



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health



### ANNEXURE 3: Winners of “Go Green and Breathe Pure Air Campaign”

	Video	Reel
12- 18 age group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saesha, New Delhi</li><li>• Simran, Govt Model Middle School, Chandigarh</li><li>• Irshan Khan, Rajasthan</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jovan Kaur/Akshaj/ Seerat Kaur, Chandigarh</li><li>• Varsha Sethiya, Chattisgarh</li><li>• Angel, Chandigarh</li></ul>
19-35 age group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SK Ramez, West Bengal</li><li>• Sarita, Madhya Pradesh</li><li>• Shruthi MK, Karnataka</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Soshan Philip, Chhattisgarh</li><li>• Babli Parte, Madhya Pradesh</li><li>• Dr Emilia, Maharashtra</li></ul>



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health





ANNEXURE 4: SNAPSHOTS FROM EVENT







National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health





## ANNEXURE 5: SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

- <https://x.com/NPCCHH/status/1737347083869556765?s=20>
- <https://x.com/NPCCHH/status/1737343231980175722?s=20>
- <https://x.com/NPCCHH/status/1737343233955639512?s=20>
- <https://x.com/VitalStrat/status/1736809438051209344?s=20>
- [https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vital-strategies-airpollution-activity-7142577818827177985-JiOi?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_desktop](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/vital-strategies-airpollution-activity-7142577818827177985-JiOi?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop)

## ANNEXURE 6: About Guest Speaker : Ms Devika Malik

Devika, born with hemiplegia causing one-sided paralysis, has triumphed over her disability, and emerged as an accomplished international para-athlete with 15 national and 3 international medals in World Para Athletics Grand Prix events. Additionally, she serves as a psychological counsellor, an advocate for international disability inclusion, a TEDx speaker, and a social entrepreneur, co-founding the Wheeling Happiness Foundation. Devika's notable recognitions include Forbes 30 Under 30, the Queen's Young Leaders Award presented by Queen Elizabeth II, and distinctions such as the National Youth Award and Women Transforming India acknowledgment from the Vice President and the United Nations, respectively.

Report prepared by : Ms Jayshree Nandi, Technical Officer, CEOH&CCH, NPCCHH



National Programme  
on Climate Change  
and Human Health

