

## **Delhi and Tamil Nadu lead India's switch to electric cooking with 17% adoption: CEEW**

*-10% of urban households have already adopted eCooking*

*-States with higher subsidies on residential electricity will witness a faster shift to eCooking*

**New Delhi, 18 October 2021:** States like Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Assam and Kerala have seen a gradual uptick in the adoption of electric cooking (eCooking) devices such as induction cooktops, rice cookers, and microwave ovens, according to an independent [study](#) released today by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). In Delhi and Tamil Nadu, 17 per cent of households have adopted some form of electric cooking, while in Telangana, the rate of adoption stood at 15 per cent. In Kerala and Assam, 12 per cent of households have partially switched to eCooking. In February this year, the Government of India kicked off the *Go Electric* campaign to promote the benefits of electricity-based cooking.

The CEEW study further highlighted that penetration of eCooking among urban households stood at 10.3% while the penetration among rural households stood at just 2.7%. Overall, just 5% of the total households across the country have shifted to eCooking. At the current LPG prices, eCooking will be more cost-effective than LPG for households getting subsidised electricity. However, high upfront cost and perception barriers have limited the uptake within urban households.

The CEEW study also found that 93 per cent of e-Cooking adopters still rely on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as the primary cooking fuel and use eCooking devices as a backup. Electricity-based cooking is mostly prevalent among affluent families in urban areas, especially in states like Delhi and Tamil Nadu where electricity rates are economical compared to other states like Maharashtra.

The study is based on the India Residential Energy Survey (IRES) 2020, conducted in collaboration with the Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP). These findings are based on data collected from nearly 15,000 urban and rural households across 152 districts from the 21 most populous states.

Shalu Agrawal, author and senior programme lead, CEEW, said, "Affordability is the most important factor that drives adoption of any cooking fuel. Hence, affluent urban households in states with relatively higher subsidies are likely to witness faster adoption of eCooking. Policymakers should concentrate on reducing the upfront cost of eCooking devices and ensuring reliable electricity supply at affordable tariffs to drive this transition. Further, power surplus discoms could collaborate with financial institutions to offer affordable credit options to customers willing to shift to eCooking devices."

Dr. Arubabha Ghosh, CEO, CEEW, said, "A successful transition to e-cooking in the coming decades would be another example of India's ability to lead the energy transition. India has witnessed steady progress in its efforts to reduce household air pollution, with almost 85% of households now having access to clean cooking in the form of LPG cylinders. As urban households are more likely to embrace



electric cooking, supporting this transition would free up resources to meet rising LPG demand in rural areas.”

The CEEW study recommended that the availability of energy-efficient and low-cost devices, suitable financing solutions, and reliable electricity services will be crucial to scale up adoption of electric cooking. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency must bring eCooking devices like rice cookers and induction cookstoves under the Standards and Labeling programme. Also, a nationwide transition to electric cooking would translate into additional electricity demand of 243 terawatt-hour (tWh). Thus, meeting the additional demand through cleaner resources should be a priority.

The study ‘Are Indian Homes Ready for Electric Cooking’ can be accessed [here](#).

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### **About CEEW**

The Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) is one of Asia’s leading not-for-profit policy research institutions. The Council uses data, integrated analysis, and strategic outreach to explain – and change – the use, reuse, and misuse of resources. It prides itself on the independence of its high-quality research, develops partnerships with public and private institutions, and engages with wider public. In 2021, CEEW once again featured extensively across ten categories in the 2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report. The Council has also been consistently ranked among the world’s top climate change think tanks. Follow us on Twitter @CEEWIndia for the latest updates.