



**Annual Flagship Conference “Towards Clean Air in Delhi/NCR”**  
**20<sup>th</sup> December 2018, IIT Delhi**  
*Conference Summary*

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) has set up a Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air (CERCA). The CERCA is structured around three broad themes: resource, research and action in the area of clean air and aims to become a nodal centre for India in general, and Delhi in particular. CERCA vision is to contribute to restoring Blue Skies and improving Air Quality in Delhi/ NCR and other cities in India through scientific research and as a Think Tank.



*From Left to Right: Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Prof. Vimlesh Pant, Prof. Sagnik Dey, Prof. Nimesh Bolia, Prof. Mukesh Khare, Prof. Ramgopal Rao, Ms. Bharti Ramola, Shri SP Singh Parihar, Shri Arun Duggal, Prof. B.R Mehta, Dr. Naresh Gupta, Shri V.K Shukla*

CERCA has organized its Annual Flagship Conference “Towards Clean Air in Delhi/NCR” on 20th December 2018 at IIT Delhi. A wide range of speakers were invited from all arenas – research institutions, Government ministry, and Govt. agencies. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri S.P Singh Parihar, Chairman CPCB. Shri Parihar gave his keynote “Towards a blue sky in Delhi” and informed about India’s target for reducing the PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration of 30 % by 2024, 2019 as the base year. He also mentioned the importance of mass communication to educate peoples about air pollution problems. Dr. Prashant Gargava, Member Secretary, CPCB also presented keynote on Glimpse of improvised plan, specific action items for 2018. He focused on three milestones implemented by CPCB i.e. Air quality index, Graded response action plan, Source apportionment study. Afterwards, Shri Arun Duggal, Co-Chairman of CERCA has introduced the idea behind the inception of CERCA at IIT Delhi. He shared his views on people participation in dealing Delhi air pollution problem. He has also formally launched the weekly newsletter under the brand name “CERCA” that will be circulated among the various stakeholders to spread the news on clean air in Delhi. Through this newsletter, people will get informative articles about new measures and initiatives taken to combat air pollution, significant impacts of air pollution on human health, new emerging technology or new research or policy, new international developments.

During the conference, speakers spoke about international perspective of air pollution; how satellite images are useful for monitoring and forecast air pollution in Delhi; role of geographical and meteorological data to predict air pollution; air pollution problem in a different seasons; positive role of news media in spreading awareness on air pollution; local air pollution measurement and environmental management plan; Importance of modelling for effective implementation of GRAP; Case study on urban air quality management; capacity building for data scientists; studies that explained the exposure impact of PM<sub>2.5</sub> on pregnant ladies and children; Green school initiative; use of satellite data for better monitoring of action taken by the government; Source apportionment study of the different type of air polluting sources like ozone NO<sub>x</sub> volatile organic matter. In conference conclusion, Shri Arun Duggal proposed a vote of thanks to audiences and organizers and wrapped up the conference with a serious look at the quest to bring about change. Since CERCA is entering in a new growth phase, this conference was not meant to be a single event, but a starting point for the work that must be done to mitigate this problem once and for all. The Chairman CPCB and Advisory Board Members have also passed their sincere appreciation for our efforts in supporting the Institute in this important undertaking. Most of the conference success credit goes to all speakers who gave such interesting presentations on this extremely sensitive issue. We hope that conferences can be a good way to encourage participants to focus on what is important and to think about the innovation, challenges, embracing new ideas, and new approaches and learn from each other to collaborate in shaping new solutions.