

REPORT ON CELEBRATION OF WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5TH JUNE 2021



On the occasion of World environment day, a panel discussion was organized by the Department of Law on 5th June 2021. This was organized in collaboration with the Centre of excellence or Research on Clean Air, IIT Delhi and the Indian Council of Medical Research. This was in compliance of a letter issued by the University Grants Commission dated 3rd June 2021. The topic of discussion was “ Delhi’s Air Quality Control- A Quest for Viable solutions” . A galaxy of learned people from all walks of life participated in the discussion and tried to find a fruitful solution. The discussion as actually a cohort of scientific, technical, academic and judicial experts. Justice S.K.Singh, Judicial Member ,National Green Tribunal (NGT);Justice Swatantra Kumar, Former Chairperson, NGT; Dr. Arun Sharma, Director ICMR-NIIRNCD ; Prof. Sagnik Dey, Associate Professor, IIT Delhi; Mr. Sandeep, Director , Control of Pollution Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Mr. Shayantan Sarkar, Technical specialist, World Bank Group participated in the discussion.

Justice Singh highlighted the economic cost of pollution as 5.4% of the GDP and since the main cause of pollution on and around Delhi was vehicular pollution, dust particles from construction sites, mining activities in the Aravalis and industrial activities in the NCR, the concerned authorities and stakeholders should be made responsible to curb pollution. Dr. Arun Sharma emphasized on the nexus between air pollution and rising COVID cases because due to pollution Corona virus was suspended in the atmosphere and it had converted Corona into an air-borne disease. Prof. Sagnik Dey highlighted the need of airshed management, evidence based policies and prioritizing action plans to control the air quality of Delhi. Mr Shayantan Sarkar shared the success of California model for controlling smog and the regional treaty of ASEAN region for curbing haze pollution. Dr. Sundeep shared the need of to consider the unique meteorological characteristic in our policy making process. While comparing Delhi to a gas chamber justice Swatantra Kumar emphasized the need for stricter action from the state agencies.

Dr. Nand Kishore Garg, the Founder –Chairman of MAIMS addressed the audience with his concluding remarks emphasizing on the need of a strong will power amongst all stakeholders and authorities responsible to deal with the crisis and vehemently illustrated the significance of citizens' contribution along with the efforts of the government.

The program was conducted by Ms. Kriti Johri, Faculty, department of Law.