



## MAHARAJA AGRASEN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT STUDIES

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### **Panel discussion on ‘Delhi’s Air Quality Control – A Quest for Viable Solutions to prevent Health Hazards’**

**June 5, 2021**

In compliance with the University Grants Commission’s letter vide 3rd June 2021, Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies’s Department of Law in collaboration with Centre of Excellence for Research on Clean Air, IIT- Delhi and Indian Council of Medical Research- National Institute of Implementation Research on Non-Communicable Diseases, Jodhpur organised a Panel Discussion on ‘Delhi Air Quality Control- A Quest for Viable Solutions to prevent Health Hazards’ as part of its World’s Environment Day Celebrations on 5th June, 2021.

The Discussion was a cohort of scientific, technical, academic and judicial experts deliberating together in churning out solutions that meet the desired results namely Justice S K Singh, Judicial Member, National Green Tribunal, Justice Swatanter Kumar, Former Chairperson, National Green Tribunal, Dr. Arun Sharma, Director, ICMR-NIIRNCD, Prof. Sagnik Dey, Associate Professor, IIT-Delhi, Mr. Sundeep, Director, Control of Pollution Division, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Mr. Sayantan Sarkar, Technical Specialist, World Bank Group.

The programme started with the Introductory Remarks by Ms. Kriti Johri, Faculty Convenor introducing the theme and the collaborators of the Discussion. Thereafter, Prof. Ravi Kumar Gupta, Director, MAIMS extended a warm welcome to all the participants and delineated the successful journey of the Institute so far. Prof. S K Garg, Director General, MAIMS lauded the efforts of the Department of Law and stressed on the problem of increasing Particulate Matter in the air that is aggravating the pandemic management in Delhi. Prof. Rajni Malhotra Dhingra thereafter, spoke about air pollution as the 5th largest killer of human life and reminded that development is required not at the cost of lives of people. She further introduced the Panelists to the participants.

Justice S K Singh highlighted the economic cost of the Air Pollution that is 5.4% of GDP and since the factors contributing range from vehicular pollution, dust particles from construction activities, mining in aravali to industrial activities in the NCR areas, joint and collaborative efforts must stem from various authorities responsible for these activities.

Dr. Arun Sharma emphasized on nexus of air pollution and COVID-19 cases and stated that reduction of air pollution is likely to reduce the mortality rate of pandemic. Prof. Sagnik Dey highlighted the need for airshed management, evidence based policies and prioritizing action plans to control the air quality of Delhi. Mr. Sayantan Sarkar shared the success of California Model of controlling smog, Regional treaty of ASEAN region for curbing haze pollution and signifying the success of cohort measures to deal with air quality. Dr. Sundeep shared the core factors responsible for air pollution and the need to consider the unique meteorological characteristics in our policy making process. Justice Swatanter Kumar remarked Delhi as nothing better than a Gas Chamber and emphasized on the need for stricter actions from State agencies to liberate the city from harmful air.

Dr. N K Garg, founder-chairman of the Institute addressed the audience with his concluding remarks emphasising on the need for strong will power amongst all stakeholders and authorities responsible to

deal with the crisis and vehemently illustrated the significance of citizens' contributions along with efforts of state authorities as a viable solution to the problem.

This was followed by the Q&A discussion with the participants. The programme was concluded by the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Praveen Kumar Gupta, Head Department of Law. The event was coordinated by Ms. Kriti Johri, Faculty Convenor of the Panel Discussion.

