



Pollution in India, particularly in the cities of India, is one of the most critical problems faced by public and concerned authorities and remains a major challenge. The deteriorating urban environment is the result of several factors including population pressure, ad-hoc growth, increase in traffic and inadequacy of civic services to keep pace with the growing challenges. According to a WHO study last year, 13 of the world's 20 most polluted cities are in India.

Several approaches have been proposed to remedy urban environment. They are known by various names such as Green City, Eco-city, Sustainable City and the latest Smart City. Whichever of them is taken up, it is certain that a polluted city can be none of them. De-polluting the cities is, therefore, inescapable component of urban development and renewal.

Keeping in view the serious challenges posed by pollution in Indian cities, IDC foundation is organizing its 29<sup>th</sup> National Conference on De-polluting Indian Cities on 18 and 19 September 2015 at New Delhi to deliberate upon various strategies for reduction/ control of pollution of air, water and soil, odour pollution in Indian cities through general public, communities, administration and political diaspora.

IDC Foundation was established in 1997 and has all along engaged itself in improving the understanding and capacity for innovative approaches. Inventions and discoveries are important but they often wait for innovative application before they become useful to the society.

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According to the schedule, Dr Bhure Lal, IAS (Retd), Chairman, Environment Pollution Control Authority and Member, Supreme Court of India Monitoring Committee will inaugurate the Conference as the Chief Guest; Dr Ravindra Aggarwal, Additional Director, Health Services, Directorate of Health Services (DHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GNCT of Delhi will grace the occasion as the Guest of Honour; Prof J M Dave, Former Adviser (PH & EE), Govt of India and Former Professor of JNU New Delhi will deliver a Special Address and the Keynote address will be delivered by Shri R. S. Tyagi, Member (WS), Engineering Department, Delhi Jal Board, New Delhi. Several other dignitaries are also expected to enhance the value of this Conference.

Efforts of this kind shall need to be repeated to generate awareness and commitment to deal with the impact of pollution on Indian Cities, which is now for real rather than a mere threat.

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