



Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur Chandrakanta Kesavan Lecture Series



AUG 22, 2023(Tuesday)



5:15-6:30 PM



L-13

Speaker : Dr. Ajay A. Deshpande **Environmental Governance: Opportunity of Synergy of Science and Law in** **Emerging areas of Remediation and Restoration**

About the Talk



The rapid urbanisation and industrialisation coupled with infrastructural growth has been hallmark of India's progress journey in last few decades. Though this is necessary to meet the requirements of increasing population of the country and more so particularly, the aspirational youth of country, it has raised substantial environmental concerns related to urban pollution, non-performance of common environmental infrastructure, polluted rivers, besides emergence of several new micro-pollutants. This has raised several concerns on the conventional environmental governance which was dominated by command and control techniques. With public awareness and research indicating the long term health, economic and social impacts, the need for developing science-based governance approaches have been established and in one such major step, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), having equal number of judicial and subject matter experts was established in 2010 for environmental adjudication including remediation, restoration and compensation.

Though the tenets of "Precautionary Principle" and "Polluter Pays Principle" have been implemented since long, and having clean and pollution free environment is the fundamental right of the citizen, the scientific inputs have given strength to these principles in their wider application. In the last couple of years, several protocols have been developed on remediation and compensation, though there is a continuous need for research and technology evolution in terms of urban air pollution, river pollution, solid waste management and noise/odour. This emphasis of NGT on remediation and restoration through fiscal penalties has forced the stakeholders to try innovative governance tools such as economic and market based instruments, Circular economy, Resource efficiency, Environmental benchmarking etc.

The proposed lecture will attempt to outline this evolution of environmental governance in India, with some case studies, and will also emphasize the need for higher synergy between science and technology and law for an effective environmental governance. This will enable sustained environmental compliance with competitiveness for the sustainable development of the country.

About the Speaker

Dr. Ajay Deshpande is an Environmental professional with more than 30 years hands-on experience in Environmental Safeguards, Environmental Pollution Control And Mitigation; Environmental Policy and Governance; Compliance; Urban and Industrial Environment Management, and Sustainable Development. He has 360 degree experience of working in various capacities in the field of environment including consulting organisation, environment regulation, development organisation and environmental review/justice. Dr. Deshpande has done his Bachelors in Civil Engineering and Masters in Environmental Engineering from Walchand College of Engineering Sangli, and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering from IIT Delhi. Dr. Deshpande has worked with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), National Green Tribunal (NGT), Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) and Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS), and taught environment and sustainability related courses at IIT Bombay.

Organised By

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Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering