

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Public Lecture**

"We shall not defeat any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation and basic health." – Kofi Annan.

Indrapastha College for Women held its 14th **Annual Public Lecture** on Monday, September 16, 2019, at 11:30 a.m in the auditorium. **Mr. Parameswaran Iyer**, Secretary of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and a flag bearer of the Swachh Bharat mission was the guest speaker for the occasion. The event was relayed live at the Staff Room, Seminar Room, Conference Hall and the AV room. The event attracted a packed audience, consisting of eminent guests, faculty, students, and alumni across the different disciplines.

Mr. Iyer talked to the students about the current environmental concerns and the various initiatives taken by the government of India regarding it. Through visual representations, he explained to the students how the **Swachh Bharat Mission** has worked since 2014 and how it has saved lives, environment and money and improved the health conditions throughout the country.

He spoke to the students about the **Water and Sanitation project (WATSAN)** and how it had had a positive and direct impact on poverty, gender equality, child health as well as maternal health. He also informed the students about the sixth sustainable development goal, i.e., clean water and sanitation.

This year, October marks the termination of the first phase of the **Swachh Bharat Mission** initiated in October 2014 by the honorable **Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi**. To mark Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, an event has been dedicated by the PM to Mahatma Gandhi, scheduled to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 in Ahmedabad.

**"Work on sanitation doesn't stop"** - The distinguished speaker said while concluding his lecture and emphasized the role of society in taking

up cleanliness, water, and waste management as the primary goals. It is notable that he also applauded and praised at length the efforts made by the Indraprastha college community towards the said goal.