

Dr. A Ramesh Kumar, Scientist-E, CSIR-NEERI delivered a talk on “Remediation of Mercury Contaminated Site at Kodaikanal: Experiences and Lessons Learned” at the National Workshop on Mercury Management in India: Bridging Science, Technology, and Policy, organized by IIT Madras on 18-19 June 2026. He highlighted CSIR-NEERI’s pivotal role in remediating India’s first mercury-contaminated site. He recalled the pioneering contributions of former Director, CSIR-NEERI Dr. A. N. Vaidya and Dr. M. P. Patil, Scientist G & Chair, SHWMD in site assessment, technology selection, and validation of remediation strategies. The project successfully treated about 26,000 MT of contaminated soil between 2021 and 2025, demonstrating India’s scientific capabilities and commitment to the Minamata Convention on Mercury. Dr. Kumar emphasized that mercury is a global pollutant due to its long-range atmospheric transport and underscored the need for clean energy transitions and adoption of Best Available Techniques (BAT) and Best Environmental Practices (BEP) to reduce mercury emissions.

