



### Dr Ashok Khosla at the third annual “Ideal Village” conference, Stanford University, California

**D**r Ashok Khosla, Chairman, DA, was invited as a speaker at the third annual “Ideal Village” conference, organised by Science for Society (S4S) and held at the Stanford University, California (CA), on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018. S4S is a collaborative forum bringing together the right experts and professionals to discuss needs, challenges, and innovative solutions that can improve the quality of life of under-served communities. The vision is to create holistic “Ideal Villages” where the basic needs of the community in water, healthcare, education, energy, livelihood, sanitation, etc. are fulfilled by applying innovations in science and technology and enabling integrated sustainable rural development. The theme of the 2018 Conference was ‘Empowerment of Women’. The day-long conference brought together panelists from several prominent social impact ventures world-wide, and focused on the empowerment of women, particularly in villages. Ashok Khosla spoke about his vision for self-sustaining shopping malls in which the rural community could simultaneously sell and purchase goods. The mini-malls called the Tara Hubs, would not only provide rural women with a source of income, but also allow them to access banking services and telemedicine, along with consumer goods. He explained that earning a sustainable livelihood allowed women more control over their lives, via economic empowerment. Some of the eminent speakers at the conference included, Kate Byrne, Chief Growth Officer, Watermark, CA, Dr Rajiv Bahl, WHO Directorate (Geneva), Ashok Venkatesan, Consul General of India, San Francisco, CA, Dr Sally Benson, Co-director, Stanford Precourt Energy Institute and Dr. Sundar Kamath, Senior VP, Sanmina Corporation, CA.