

Press Release

India and Netherlands to sign a “Strategic Water Partnership” : **H.E. Mr. Marten Van Den Berg**, Netherlands Ambassador to India

Industry can contribute in making India Atmanirbhar in Manufacturing of Sensors and Radars for weather forecasting : **Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra**, DG of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department

H.E. Mr. Marten Van Den Berg, Netherlands Ambassador to India speaking on the impact of Climate change pointed that while every country has different problem which requires customized solutions, learning from each other will be crucial to addressing the climate change. He was speaking at the Inaugural session of the Conference on ***Climate Change & Water Connect: Moving from Risks to Resilience for a Water Secure Future*** organised by Confederation of Indian Industry over Virtual platform today.

He mentioned that India and Netherlands will soon sign “Strategic Water Partnership” to broaden bilateral cooperation to strengthen new areas of collaboration in water management. Netherlands initiative in addressing climate change is prioritized to “building with nature” and “building with water”, through “nature based solution” which are sustainable, added Mr Berg. Managing water and climate impact would require a change in governance approach, change in behaviour and active involvement of all stakeholder, he stressed.

Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, referring to the changing hydrological cycle which has increased variability in weather at temporal and spatial level in the recent years, highlighted, the importance and availability of real time information. Keeping in view the increase in the unpredictable weather patterns and the need for early “warning” and early “actions” for all stakeholders, he stressed, for a robust technology enabled communication strategy for reducing the lead time for weather prediction and last mile dissemination of information. In this regard he urged industry in supporting the country towards attaining self-reliance in manufacturing of sensor and radars for weather forecasting .

Mr Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF made a strong plea to implement “nature base solution” to address the impact of climate change and also address water security. He shared some of the initiative

undertaken by his organization in various parts of the country where “nature base solution” have led to increase in soil moisture content, improvement in groundwater table, rejuvenated of water bodies and ensured ecological flow. Such initiative are prevalent in many other locations of the country, it is imperative to disseminate such practices to stakeholders, said Mr Singh.

Mr George Rajkumar, Country President, Grundfos Pumps (India) Limited lauded the various innovative initiatives for better water management like earmarking enhanced budgets for crop diversification by Tamil Nadu to promote water saving in agriculture, launch of India's first ever digital water data bank by Karnataka, Launch of Sujalam 2.0 by Ministry of Jal Shakti for grey water management. Mr. Rajkumar stressed that a holistic approach with involvement of all stakeholders, change in mindset & behaviour of stakeholder and water stewardship at individual level can transform the water management practices in the country.

Mr Rajesh Sharma, Chairman, CII National Council on Water & Chairman & Managing Director, Ion Exchange (India) Ltd emphasized for collaborations to address water management as the same is an important component of SDG. In the context of climate change and water stress, he urged for making communities resilient to water scarcity pressures and water stresses by ensuring that nature and its associated ecosystem services are protected and enhanced. He further added, build resilience now, before more people lose their lives or livelihoods.

Dr Kapil Narula, CEO & Executive Director CII-Triveni Water Institute, on dealing with challenges on climate change stressed on the need for developing strategies, methodologies and tools for incorporating climate change impacts into water resources management for reducing vulnerability.

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