

Press Release

9th CII Water Innovation Summit

“Towards a competitive and sustainable India@100: Water for Growth, Inclusiveness, Globalisation, Building Trust”

12th & 13th December 2023, New Delhi

Enhancing efficiency of water use in all aspects of water use is key for water security: **Prof Ramesh Chand**

One tap connection provided every second in 2023 under Jal Jeevan Mission: **Ms Vini Mahajan**

Water demand is rising at a faster rate than the supply however, much of the scarcity being currently faced by the country is a created scarcity. Efficiency is the mantra and we as a country need to take proactive actions towards enhancing water efficiency of water use and management in all aspects of water use said **Prof Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, GoI** while delivering his inaugural Address at the 9th edition of ‘**CII Water Innovation Summit**’ organised by **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** in New Delhi today.

Speaking further he said that the ambition of Viksit Bharat has so many dimensions with water at its core and the theme of the conference “**Towards a competitive and sustainable India@100: Water for Growth, Inclusiveness, Globalisation, Building Trust**” completely resonates with the Government’s vision of becoming a “Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Ms Vini Mahajan, Secretary, Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI pointed that we have neglected our environment which is purest form of economic good. Water is the fundamental requirement for life and let us work together to arrest the deterioration of water availability and quality, she stressed.

Speaking further on the economic and health impact of access to quality water, Ms Mahajan shared that WHO report highlights significant impact of 'Har Ghar Jal' Program on Public Health and Economic Savings. She further informed that Jal Jeevan Mission’s work is going on at a fast pace and at present 71 percent of Rural India has tap water connections. One tap connection provided every second in 2023 under Jal Jeevan Mission, she highlighted, and she urged the industry to take benefit of the opportunities presented by the mission.

Ms D Thara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI in her special address at the session on “Source Sustainability and Smart Water Management” informed that under AMRUT -2 ministry is pursuing the agenda of digitization of infrastructure. Emphasising on data and analytics to take informed decisions, Ms Thara informed that, the ministry is closely looking at the inclusion of smart water management in all new projects sanctioned, integrating the smart element in legacy infrastructure and also onsite sanitation.

Underlining the need for speeding up actions towards adoption of smart water management, Ms Thara urged industry to take advantage of 32 promising startups that have been onboarded by the ministry.

H.E. Mr Kimmo Lähdevirta, Ambassador of Finland to India, Embassy of Finland viewed that Indo- Finnish collaboration extends beyond bilateral agreements and shared commitments towards climate change, sustainability, environmental and biodiversity protection. Collaborative efforts have been implemented at national and international levels, involving public and private sectors. He further highlighted that innovation and technology along with smart water and data management will be important in implementing sustainable water management practices.

A memorandum of understanding (**MoU**) was signed between **Finland Embassy and CII Triveni Water Institute** to promote water related sustainable practices, business opportunities and knowledge exchange of technologies in the sector.

Two other MoUs – 1) CII Triveni Water Institute and Electrosteel Castings Limited, for raising awareness on various aspects of water resource usages particularly 24X7 water supply management and 2) CII Triveni Water Institute and IB Group on application of CII's WATSCAN Tool for groundwater surveys and water smart solutions were signed during the event.

Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, GoI emphasized that the impact of climate change is on rise which is clearly visible in the rise in extreme events. Addressing this requires augmentation of weather monitoring, analysis and forecasting mechanism blending traditional wisdom, data, and actions to same to save the water for future.

Mr Nikhil Sawhney, Chairman, CII-Triveni Water Institute &, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine Ltd stressed on having an integrated perspective on water management with role of science and technology, policy as well as governance in efficient water management. He further highlighted that as water remains at the core of solutions collaborations and partnerships become imperative in navigating the intricate landscape of responsible water management.

Dr Kapil Narula, Executive Director and CEO, CII-Triveni Water Institute emphasized that the global community is placing significant emphasis on the vital intersection of water and climate connect and there is a growing awareness on the impact of water on climate patterns and sustainability.

Mr Ajay Popat, President, Ion Exchange, presenting his concluding remarks & vote of thanks underlined on the need for promoting efficiency in water management in all aspects of water use not only for industry but also for consumers.

Supported by Ministry of Jal Shakti and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and NITI Aayog, WIS 2023 witnessed a gathering of more than 400 delegates from Central and State Governments, Industry comprising of Users; Technology & Solution Providers, Environment and Climate Change Officials, Bi-Lateral / Multilateral Agencies etc.

The conference witnessed the **distribution of SCOPE 1 Certificates** to companies and facilities who have successfully completed Scope 1 (Aspiring) Water Neutrality/ Positivity phase as per recent national guidelines issued by NITI Aayog at the inaugural session.

New Delhi

12th December 2023