

Press Release

CII 5th Water-Tech Summit **“Tech-Enabled Water-Secure Future: Innovation for Impacts”** **25th September 2025; New Delhi**

A mission-mode approach to innovation, partnerships and digitalisation is required to secure water for industry: CII Water-Tech Summit 2025

The CII Water-Tech Summit, themed “Tech-Enabled Water-Secure Future: Innovation for Impacts”, organised by the CII Water Institute, set a decisive tone for action today as government, industry and international partners committed to technology-led solutions for water security.

Mr Ajay Popat, Conference Chairman, CII Water-Tech Summit and Senior Advisor, Ion Exchange (India) Ltd., in his opening remarks, pointed that water, once considered an abundant commodity, is now a critical raw material that directly influences industrial competitiveness. With growing demand from sectors such as green hydrogen, data centres, and renewable energy, competition for quality water is increasing rapidly. Mr. Popat stressed that addressing the challenge of this magnitude requires a sustained focus on awareness, innovation, digitalisation and active participation from startups and industry to develop scalable, affordable future solutions. He called for long-term partnerships between industries, innovators, and policymakers to ensure sustainable outcomes.

Mr Nathan Davis, Trade & Investment Commissioner, Australian High Commission, highlighted the shared challenges and opportunities for India and Australia in securing a sustainable water future. He noted that both nations face extremes of droughts and floods, making innovation and collaboration essential. Mr. Davis underlined that Australia, despite being one of the driest continents, has achieved some of the world’s highest water efficiency rates through technology, community engagement, and sustainable practices.

Mr. Davis underlined that, “the journey towards water security is not only about technology, but about creating inclusive, resilient and sustainable systems.” He pointed to successful Indo-Australian collaborations such as the Australia Water Centre and innovative projects in safe drinking water, irrigation, desalination, and wastewater management. Stressing the importance of partnerships, he said the Australia–India Water Accelerator Project being undertaken in partnership with CII

Water Institute, will further connect businesses, research institutions, and policymakers to co-develop scalable solutions.

Mr. V. K. Chaurasia, Adviser in-charge (PHEE), CPHEEO, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, stressed that India's urban water supply and wastewater management face pressing challenges. Ageing infrastructure, rapid urbanisation, resource constraints, and growing demand make delivering safe, reliable, and efficient water services increasingly complex. He emphasised that overcoming these challenges requires technology-driven innovation, sustainable practices, and strong partnerships between government and industry. He further stressed that solutions must be economical, adaptable, and scalable to ensure wide adoption and long-term impact and called for innovation, efficiency, and strong O&M practices.

Mr. Chaurasia called on all stakeholders to work together in developing smart, cost-effective systems that can help achieve India's vision of 24x7 water supply and universal wastewater treatment, strengthening the nation's water security. He also emphasised the potential of treated wastewater reuse in peri-urban agriculture, noting that sewage generated within cities can be effectively used for irrigation in nearby areas, reducing freshwater demand.

He shared that the Government of India is actively supporting innovation in the water sector by engaging with startups, academia, industry, and financing institutions. Over 150 water startups have already been supported, with some receiving seed funding and training to scale their solutions. He urged all stakeholders to bring forward ideas and work collaboratively with the government to address India's pressing water challenges.

Ms Shilpa Nischal, Executive Director, CII Water Institute, emphasised that water continues to remain an undervalued resource, and it is our responsibility to ensure it is managed sustainably.

The CII Water-Tech Summit brought to spotlight the latest technologies in water management and showcased innovations, partnerships, and good practices on practical and scalable water technologies. The summit was attended by more than 250 delegates.

September 25, 2025

New Delhi