Water Institute

CII-TRIVENI WATER INSTITUTE

Making India Water Secure

Dr Ravi Singh, Member, Advisory Board, CII-Triveni Water Institute, and Secretary General & CEO, WWF India; **Raj Chengappa,** Group Editorial Director, India Today Group; **N K Ranganath,** Co-Chairman, CII National Committee on Water, and MD, Grundfos Ltd; **Uma Bharti,** Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation; **Dhruv M Sawhney,** Past President, CII, Chairman, CII-Triveni Water Institute, and MD, Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd, and **Dr Ashok Gulati,** Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, at the 1st Water Innovation Summit in New Delhi

The imperative of saving and securing water ecosystems for ensuring a sustainable future for the country was the underlying theme of the **1st Water Innovation Summit** organized by the CII-Triveni Water Institute on 16 November in New Delhi.

The River Ganga would be one of the clean river systems of the world by October 2018, stated Sushri Uma Bharti, Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. She said her Ministry has a mandate to meet the October 2018 deadline for making the Ganga 'nirmal.'

Pointing out that the delays and failures in implementation of schemes in the past for river cleaning were mainly due to a dual i.e. Centre-State financial model, and lack of ownership and responsibility amongst stakeholders, the Minister said these gaps have now being internalized. A new financial model of implementation is likely to emerge ensuring a 100% Central Sector Scheme with allocation of ₹ 20,000 crores directly from the Central pool, she said. Stressing that Cleaning Ganga is a collective responsibility, Ms Uma Bharti said cleaning of Indian rivers will follow multiple successful models implemented across the world. India is learning and innovating from these approaches to develop a unique approach customized to Indian conditions with full regard to its culture, she said.

The Minister lauded the work undertaken by the CII-Triveni Water Institute, especially in the areas of water audits and watershed projects. She said her Ministry looks forward to partnering with CII and Indian industry to ensure not only the successful implementation of the Ganga programme but more importantly, to ensure that the Ganga remains 'nirmal' in the future as well.

Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud, Minister of Water Resources, Bangladesh, highlighted the need for India and Bangladesh to have a shared vision to manage precious water resources. With water resources increasingly facing stress, a regional approach is required for dealing with the issue. Both surface and groundwater resources run across political boundaries, he said, calling for a unified approach for sustaining livelihoods, human wellbeing and socio-economic development. Mr Mahmud shared the innovative ways used by Bangladesh for water conservation where a network pre-payment system has been designed and installed in each water pump house, with an electronic power meter to implement the prepayment of water used for irrigation.

Mr Shashi Shekhar, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, stressed the need to conserve and manage water resources effectively through the adoption of watershed management approaches, reuse and recycle of sewage, and improved water use efficiency across sectors. He urged Industry to use water efficiently, pointing out that almost 60% water can be saved in several industrial applications through simple implementable measures.

Dr Kapil K Narula, CEO & ED, CII-Triveni Water Institute; **Onno Ruhl,** Country Director, The World Bank; **Anisul Islam Mahmud,** Minister of Water Resources, Bangladesh; **Dhruv M Sawhney**; **Shashi Shekhar,** Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation; **N K Ranganath,** and **Joe Phelan,** Director, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, India

We need to not only 'Make India water secure' but also 'Keep India water secure,' said Mr Onno Ruhl, Country Director, The World Bank. While water challenges can be addressed through innovations, the innovations need to be adapted to the realities in India, he said.

Mr Dhruv Sawhney, Past President, CII, Chairman, CII-Triveni Water Institute, and CMD, Triveni Engineering Industries Ltd, observed that the initial 30-35% of water and wastewater savings is achievable through very low to low cost measures. Water audits undertaken by CII have resulted in water savings of 80 billion litres, equivalent to supplying drinking water to the entire rural population of India for a day, he said. He also talked about the need for an integrated river basin and watershed approach for water resource management, besides the need for imparting training and skill development to wastewater operators and managers. The online India Water Tool, a powerful means for screening water risks to Industry, developed by CII in partnership with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), India, and Industry, is being refined, he said.

Dr Ashok Gulati, Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture, and former Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices, expressed concern over the growing instances of drought in the country. Suggesting incentives to encourage people to adopt water conservation, he called for reforms in the water pricing system.

Dr Amitabh Kundu, Chairperson, Technical Advisory Committee on Housing Startup Index, RBI Committee, and Professor, JNU, highlighted the need for safe, resilient and environmentally-sustainable cities, and demand-side management of water. He mooted a balanced strategy of urbanization and support to a large number of smaller towns and efficiency in resource use for sustainable development in India.

Calling for defining and improving the health of our rivers, Prof. Vinod Tare, IIT Kanpur, suggested reducing non-revenue water and more efficient utilization of water resources.

The Summit discussed integrated water management for building Smart Cities, water security for the 'Make in India' mission, and the safety and security of water ecosystems, with special focus on the 'Namami Gange' programme.

TAKEAWAYS

- Reuse of treated wastewater should be encouraged and wastewater should be managed as a resource.
- Benchmarking with international standards to improve water use and efficiency.
- Develop the market for treated CETP water through a conducive policy framework.
- Facilitate equitable distribution of water resources through innovative techniques.
- Need for energy and water neutral management strategies.
- Water-efficient sanitation systems are required to ensure optimal usage of water.
- Industrial zoning should be done in an ecologically-friendly manner. Land use allocation for Industry should focus on the watershed to assess the availability of water at any location.
- Promote research on water-efficient crops.
- Encourage supply of treated sewage water for non-potable uses such as flushing and industrial processes.
- Focus on demand side innovations to bridge the demand – supply gap.