

Water Institute



Enhancing Water Use Efficiency in the Auto Sector

A conference on 'Enhancing water use efficiency and competitiveness of the automobile sector' was organized by the CII-Triveni Water Institute on the sidelines of the Auto Expo on 6 February in New Delhi.

"There is an urgent need for Industry to take an action-oriented approach for its water use and waste water generation to

ensure sustainable operations," said Dr Amarjit Singh, Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. Pointing out that the health implications created by water contaminants adversely affect productivity, he highlighted the role Industry has to play in mitigating water contamination. Dr Singh also stressed upon the need to evolve norms with respect to optimum water utilization and effective waste water discharge, especially for industries located in the Ganga Basin.

Mr Prasann Chobe, Conference Chairman, and Senior Vice President, Head Manufacturing Operations – CVBU, Tata Motors Ltd, said sustainable development must be the key focus area for the automobile sector, which is in its growing phase in India. He urged auto companies to invest in the growth of innovative ideas in the area of green technology from the perspective of water.

Mr Nikilesh Jha, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Water Mission, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, said the five goals of the National Water Mission are

1. Preparation of a water database for surface water, ground and wastewater
2. Build people and stakeholder partnerships to develop capacity to augment groundwater usage
3. Focus attention on vulnerable areas, particularly over-exploited areas
4. Increase water use efficiency by 20% across sectors



Prasann Chobe, Senior Vice President, Head Manufacturing Operations – CVBU, Tata Motors Ltd; **Dr Amarjit Singh**, Special Secretary; **K B Biswas**, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, and **Nikhilesh Jha**, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Water Mission, all from the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, at a conference on 'Water-use Efficiency in the Auto Sector' in New Delhi

5. Promote of basin-level integrated water resources management.

He urged auto industries to deploy efficient waste water treatment systems in their manufacturing processes and use recycled water in several operations instead of fresh water.

The progress of the country lies in effective water management across sectors, said Mr K B Biswas, Chairman, Central

Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. He urged industries to channelize funds towards nourishing groundwater resources by employing techniques like rainwater harvesting and artificial ground water recharge.

Dr Kapil K Narula, Executive Director and CEO, CII-Triveni Water Institute, in his closing remarks, welcomed the recent initiative of the Government of India for an effective Public Private Partnership model to combat water-related issues. Noting that it is extremely important for Industry to re-establish its identity with respect to watershed, he suggested isolating water rights from land rights.

Key Takeaways

- Industry must re-establish its identity with respect to its watershed to realize the water available for its future growth.
- There is a need to isolate water rights from land rights.
- There is a need to evolve norms to ensure efficient water use.
- CSR initiatives towards groundwater sustainability by artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting practices must be encouraged.
- Goal setting for Reuse, Recycle and Recovery should be done.
- People and stakeholders partnership is required to build capacity to augment groundwater usage. ■