

**Remarks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Water Innovation Summit on CII – Triveni Water Institute awards for excellence in water management.  
– 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

Water along with air and soil are the three natural endowments essential for sustaining life on earth. Existence of we, the humans has put all these three endowments under severe stress, threatening our very existence. Speaking about water, it has become one of the greatest challenge globally, regionally for us in India and locally in many places in our country. We in India are at the threshold of being a water scarce country. Domestic, agricultural and industrial sectors, all face this challenge primarily due to anthropogenic factors but now as secondary but even more severe effects due to environmental factors created by humans.

As responsible segment of society, industry must make its determined efforts to address this challenge. I am happy to note that this is indeed happening. CII national awards for excellence in water management has been a part of industry efforts to recognise the good work done by the industry, show case it for others to emulate and share the best practices. I must express my gratitude to CII – Triveni Water Institute for the honour to chair the Jury group to facilitate this process. I must also express gratitude to my colleagues on the Jury, Dr. Sushil Gupta former Chairman Central Ground Water Board, Dr. Sengupta former member secretary CPCB, Prof. A. K. Keshari of IIT Delhi and Mr. Ranganath MD Grundfos.

Multilayer process backed by scientific evaluation involving written response to a well-designed questionnaire, assessment by validated tools like the India Water Tool for GIS based evaluation and WATSCAN™, an innovative Water Planning & Assessment Tool and understanding the on-ground situation through visits for a detailed field assessment are very noteworthy features of the evaluation process. Dr. Kapil Narula and his team from Triveni Water Institute deserve our thanks and compliments for this data driven credible evaluation process. I also wish to compliment all industrial units that have participated in these awards. Today's event is for sharing some of the achievements of the industry and advise from members of jury and other experts.

Some general remarks at this stage would be in order.

1. A holistic approach to water use should involve community and should lead to community benefit.
2. Control of water effluent at the source could both minimise water use as well as effluent management burden.
3. Move towards a state where use of fresh water is resorted to only to the extent of essential input for the process.
4. Reduce, reuse, recycle should remain the mantra for minimisation of waste generation.
5. We should always remain conscious of the interface between water, air and soil and ensure healthy state of all three.

6. We should move towards circular economy with adoption of 'Producer's extended responsibility'.
7. Industry and industry - community partnership should progressively evolve to a level where neighbourhood communities can benefit from efficient local body services at least in respect of essential things like safe and clean water, effluent management moving towards zero pollution, electrification, pre-primary and primary education that is holistic and if possible primary health.