

Ambani for ecology, economy and equity for urban planning

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PANJIM: Chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd Mukesh Ambani yesterday said, "Ecology, Economy and Equity must march together in urban planning. This is the only way for urban renewal."



Mukesh Ambani

He was addressing the maiden meet of the Euro-India Forum at a starred hotel in South Goa. The meet, organized by the Euro-India Centre has focused on the theme - Urban India 2020.

He also called upon the people to learn from the mistakes of Europeans who have modernized their cities but have also preserved the basic architecture at the same time. He also warned that urbanization is a complex phenomenon and cannot be left unmonitored while stressing on the fact that the solutions, which have worked for affluent European cities may not hold ground in India.

"In the cities, there are islands of prosperity amidst

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oceans of squalor while transportation, lack of parking space have proved to be the bane of cities in our country," he remarked.

Chief Minister Pratapsing Rane in his inaugural address called upon the Union Urban Development Ministry to start a national level dialogue among stakeholders for follow up action so as to widen the scope of the Urban Renewal Mission.

The co-presidents of the Centre Ms Collete Mathur and Anand Mahindra, Chief Mentor of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Dr Tarun Das, Chairman of Reliance Industries Ltd Mukesh Ambani, Vice-Mayor of Lisbon city Dr Carlos Fontao de Carvalho, Chairman of Lafarge, France Bertrand Collomb were also present on this occasion. While pointing out to the capital city Panjim, Rane identified the major problems like flooding during monsoons, lack of parking space and a total disregard to the residents while construction of new buildings as those responsible for the decline of the city. The Vice-Mayor of Lisbon Dr Carvalho and Chairman of LaFarge, France, Bertrand Collomb also spoke on this occasion. While Dr Carvalho emphasized the need of both Europe and India learning from each other, Collomb spoke of improving the cities without mimicking the model from USA.

The Co-president of EuroIndia Centre Anand Mahindra proposed a vote of thanks.

The 4-day conference comes to an end on Sunday. Over the next 3 days, participants at the Forum will deliberate on ideas to improve the condition of Indian cities and various workshops will serve as the vehicles for exchange of ideas between planners in our country and their European counterparts.