

## Our cities need to be re-invented: CM



The Chief Minister, Mr Pratapsingh Rane speaks at the Urban India 2020 conference, in Benaulim on Thursday. Also seen (from left) vice-chairman and managing director of Mahindra and Mahindra, Mr Anand Mahindra, chairman of Lafarge, Mr Bertrand Colloms, Reliance Industries Limited chief, Mr Mukesh Ambani, the vice mayor of Lisbon, Mr Carlos de Carvalho, chief mentor of CII, Mr Tarun Das and the co-president of Euro-India Centre, Ms Colette Mathur.

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The hosting of 'Urban India 2020' conference by the Euro-India Centre is an eloquent tribute to resurgent India said the Chief Minister, Mr Pratapsingh Rane while declaring the conference open, here, this evening.

"Welcome to Goa and please be at ease to take it easy to exchange your ideas which you can do in a very easy atmosphere," the Chief Minister said in his opening remarks, and advised the distinguished gathering from Europe and India to deliberate plans during the next three days so that Indian cities regain a fresh lease of life.

He further said it is significant that Europe has evinced plans for the development of major cities, but it is also time to have a look at smaller cities. There should not be a mismatch between demand and supply and taking into consideration that a lot of disturbances have crept in during the recent

times, our cities should be re-invented, the Chief Minister added.

He said that India today is on the threshold of breaking up poverty and marching ahead to become a country to reckon with in trade and industry. Concrete measures have therefore to be taken to overcome inadequacies, Mr Rane said. He expressed hope that incidents like constant flooding will not be witnessed in the future with proper planning and exchange of ideas.

The Chief Minister felt that for every problem solutions must be found with national level dialogues. He also opined that there was a need to built satellite towns and markets to meet the growing needs.

The chairperson of Reliance Industries Ltd, Mr Mukesh Ambani in his address said that Goa is always his favourite place and congratulated the co-president of Euro-India Centre, Ms Colette Mathur for holding such a conference in Goa, amidst loud applause from the gathering. These forms of Indo-European conferences can

be significant, he added.

He said that cities need to be vibrant vistas and technology should be of such type that it can help alleviate Indian urban problems. He said that technology should be such that it can convert waste into bio-fuels.

Mr Ambani stressed that solutions should be found to problems such as transportation, traffic congestion and others at low cost. He said he was of the view that there should be deep sensitive urban planning which must take into account that the world is not flat.

Dr Carlos Fontao de Carvalho, vice mayor of Lisbon also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier in his welcome address, the co-president of Euro-India Centre, Ms Colette Mathur spoke about the plans of developing rural India along with Dr Tarun Das, chief mentor, Confederation of Indian Industry, Dr Alexander Spachis, Minister Counsellor, deputy head of mission, delegation of the European Commission to India was also present.