

India, Belgium to foster climate resilience, assures ambassador



Delegates at the International urban climate resilience conference at AKTU on Wednesday

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Lucknow: "To fight climate change, we need to have more data and data analytics in place. Bringing together global knowledge on tackling key urban climate concerns in an integrated manner will help solve environmental issues," emphasized experts during a two-day International urban climate resilience 'URBCA-RE' conference organised by the faculty of architecture and planning of APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU) in collaboration with VITO Belgium on AKTU campus on Wednesday.

"Climate change stands as the defining issue of our time. Belgian company's presence in UP exemplifies the value of collaboration between India and Belgium to foster climate resilience," said Ambassador of Belgium and Luxembourg to India Didier Vanderhasselt at the conference.

Expressing concern on climate change, he said, "The most recent intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) report delivers a stark message. Human activity primarily Green House gas emissions have undeniably propelled alarming global warming." He said these emissions have continued to rise due to unsustainable practices and the consequences are felt globally and impacts are not theoretical, but are causing weather extremes and widespread harm to both nature and communities. Thus, the imperative for more mitigation policies and their effective implementation is needed, he added.

"As we grapple with climate change, we cannot overlook global urbanization. By 2050, around 70% of the world's population, including 800 million Indians, are projected to reside in urban areas. This will cause several challenges like congestion and manage-

ment difficulties. Like Belgium, India is dedicated to addressing environmental challenges and taking measures," said Vanderhasselt.

Speaking on the occasion state minister (independent charge) for forest and environment Arun Kumar Saxena said, "Tackling climate change is a broad issue and requires efforts of the government, organizations and every individual. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched Mission LIFE which makes the fight against climate change democratic, in which everyone can contribute within their capacity," he said.

Dean and principal, faculty of architecture and planning, AKTU, Prof. Vandana Sehgal said: "We as an institute are proud to host an event featuring experts from around the world to address the issue of climate change and discuss climate responsive architecture."