

# Clean air must be birthright for all: Javadekar

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**New Delhi:** A day after the Delhi high court expressed its anguish over the Capital's dirty air, Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar on Thursday admitted that the government needs to work to make air cleaner and said, "Clean air must be a birthright for all and that's the way India wants to walk".

The minister's remark came in the context of global carbon emissions that has triggered climate change and at a time when many countries look to India to take the lead in moving to a low-carbon economic growth model.

Jointly inaugurating the annual Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) with French foreign minister Laurent Fabius, railway minister Suresh Prabhu and Hollywood actor and ex-governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, Javadekar said, "We have the responsibility to improve lives of future generations. We have already taken the clean energy path and enhanced our renewable energy commitments".

All the participants

at the summit made a strong pitch for environmental protection by adopting renewable energy and sustainable development goals. France, chair of this year's UN climate conference, is represented by its official delegation - led by its foreign affairs minister Fabius - to the summit. Fabius later called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi who will visit France in April.

Arguing for an economy that generates more jobs and less carbon, Prabhu said, "Climate change is a scientific reality. If we delay action, the repercussions will be disastrous. We need to find a solution to tackle climate change innovatively."

The DSDS, organized by TERI, this year is significant as it is happening when the nations are gearing up for a global climate deal in Paris in December. Arnold Schwarzenegger, actor-turned-climate change activist, chose the occasion to praise Prime Minister Narendra Modi's action to deal with climate change while citing his work in promoting solar and wind energy during his tenure as Gujarat chief minister.