

Make clean air a birthright of every Indian: Javadekar

Follow Modi's Actions, Arnie Tells States

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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.

Inaugurating the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 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 PM Narendra Modi who will visit France in April.

Arguing for an economy that generates more jobs and less carbon, Prabhu said, "We need to find a unified solution to tackle climate change innovatively. We need to create a new economy which tackles climate change and creates jobs".

Arnold Schwarzenegger said he would be a "terminator" for climate change and asked states to follow Modi's "actions" to achieve sustainable development. He said "Gujarat is California of India" and Modi had certainly created "good action".