

Predicting monsoon correctly key to nation's economy, says Sunita Narain

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Nishin A S



ALL SMILES: Ministers M K Muneer and Manjalamkuzhi Ali interacting with director general of Centre for Science and Environment Sunita Narain during a discussion on waste management in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram: Director general of the Centre for Science and Environment Sunita Narain has said that the economy would have a drastic impact if we could not predict our monsoons. "We are now facing more difficulty in predicting the monsoons. In fact our finance minister is not Pranab Mukherjee but it is the monsoon," said Sunita while delivering her inaugural speech at the 49th state conference of the Kerala Sasthra Sahitya Parishath (KSSP) here on Friday.

She said that even a city like Thiruvananthapuram is

not free from air pollution since there has been a steady increase in the number of vehicles hitting the road. Even though there is a major concern of environmental pollution in different segments of

the society, no notable solutions has been found for it till now.

"While Delhi has the second highest per capita income in our country, only 13% commutes to work by

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Sunita Narain |
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cars and the city is designed for cars. A city like Delhi should think of reinventing mobility itself. The people ought to think of eco-friendly mode of transport rather than spending lavishly on

cars for status symbol," she said.

She also talked about the shoddy underground sewage system in most cities of Kerala and also in other states. The sewage treatment plants too do not work properly. "Reinvention of a flush toilet that takes human waste and makes it into a resource in a hygienic way is a necessity in this context," she said.

She pointed out that the challenge we face is the path we take towards solving such problems. "We keep finding cosmetic solutions to grave problems," she said. The KSSP plays a vital role in confronting these challenges, she added.