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Kristu Jayanti hosts global meet on disaster response

BENGALURU

Scholars and experts from across the world discussed the growing role of technology in disaster management at an international conference hosted by Kristu Jayanti University in Bengaluru.

The two-day conference, titled "Disaster to Recovery," brought together academics, policymakers and students to explore new strategies for improving disaster response and recovery in the face of increasing climate-related challenges.

Speaking at the inaugural session, keynote speaker Dileep Kumar Mohanachandran, former Vice Chancellor of Hensard University in Nigeria, highlighted the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in disaster management. He said AI-based systems are now helping authorities predict disasters such as floods, coordinate search-and-rescue missions and deploy emergency resources more efficiently.

According to experts at the conference, modern forecasting systems powered by AI have improved disaster prediction accuracy by nearly 30 per cent compared with traditional methods. This allows governments and relief agencies to issue early warnings, evacuate vulnerable communities faster and distribute relief materials based on real-time data.

The conference was also attended by Lijo P. Thomas, Pro Vice Chancellor and Director of the School of Law at Kristu Jayanti University, along with several researchers and disaster management specialists.

Speakers noted that rapid urbanisation and climate change are increasing the frequency of disasters such as flash floods and landslides. They also warned about a growing "data crisis," where misinformation spread through social media during emergencies can complicate rescue and relief efforts.

Experts stressed that technology alone cannot solve the problem. They called for stronger collaboration between governments, academic institutions and local communities to build more resilient disaster management systems.

The conference concluded with a consensus that while advanced technologies such as AI will play a critical role in future disaster response, effective recovery will ultimately depend on community participation, coordinated governance and human resilience.