

Collective global will lacking to fight climate change, says PM

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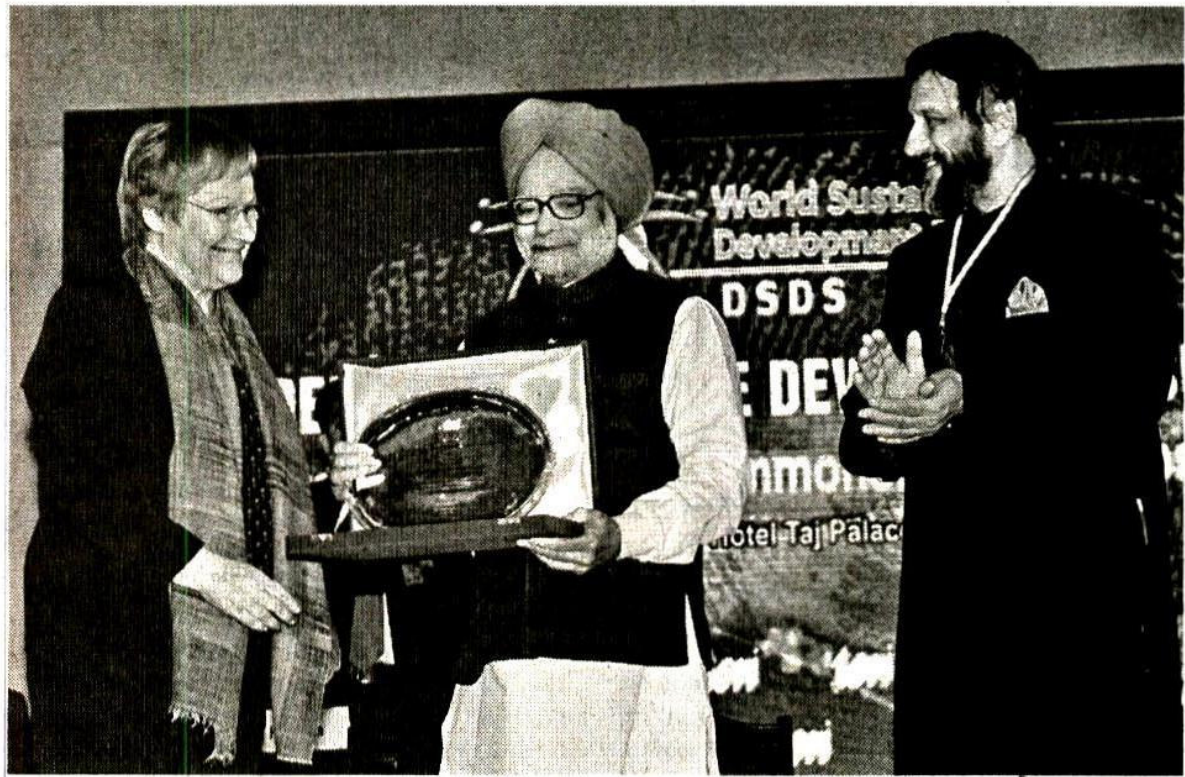
The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, on Thursday said there appeared to be a "lack of collective global will" to solve the problem of climate change, which could not be fought by countries individually.

"...it is necessary to recognise that currently there appears to be a lack of collective global will to address this problem with the seriousness it deserves," he said at the inauguration of the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit organised by TERI here.

Noting that the per capita emission in developed countries was 10 to 12 times more than in developing countries, Dr Singh said it was necessary to cut total emissions, but a way must be found so that countries were not deprived of their right to develop.

He said India was committed to the cause of sustainable development and would play a constructive role to ensure that a "fair and equitable" agreement was arrived at, globally.

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992, he said it had stated that the right to development must be fulfilled to equitably meet the needs of present and future generations. It also recognised that eradicating poverty was an in-



The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, presents the Sustainable Development Leadership Award 2012 to the Finland President, Ms Tarja Halonen, during the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2012, in the Capital. Dr R.K. Pachauri, Director General, TERI, India, is also seen. — V.V. Krishnan

dispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Towards this, India's Twelfth Plan was being designed to ensure significant benefits for climate change along with inclusive and sustainable development, he said.

TIGER POPULATION UP

Dr Singh also announced the "heart-warming news" that India's tiger population is on the rise. He said the 2011 tiger census showed a 20 per cent

rise in the number of tigers over 2006.

"We have estimated that there are today around 1,700 wild tigers in India out of a global population of around 3,000. I hope that the lessons learnt will be used to conserve other endangered species as well," he added.

FOREST COVER

India's forest cover, too, had gone up by nearly 5 per cent between 1997 and 2007, with a

small decrease since then. "We hope to see further accretion with the implementation of the Green India Mission which aims to increase the forest and tree cover by 5 million hectares and improve forest cover on another 5 million hectares," he added.

Earlier, the Prime Minister gave away this year's Sustainable Development Leadership Award to the President of Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen.

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