

# 'India has big stake in sustaining momentum in efforts on climate'

PBD BUREAU

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PRIME Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said that as a developing country in the frontlines of climate vulnerability, India has a vital stake in the evolution of a successful, rule-based, equitable and multilateral response to climate change. He called for citizens of the planet to take individual responsibilities in their own sphere.

Singh inaugurated the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2012 organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) here.

Opening the summit Singh said, "This year marks the 20th anniversary of the landmark Rio earth summit of 1992, which set out the concept of sustainability and its importance as a critical parameter of human development".

"The Idea of sustainability began as a develop ideal. Over time, it has become an important focus of policy, especially in developing countries as we struggle to reconcile our effort to devel-



PM Manmohan Singh shakes hands with Seychelles Prez JA Michel as Finland Prez T Halonen (2nd L) and Kiribati Prez Anote Tong look on at 12th DSDS in New Delhi —PTI photo

op with the compelling need to protect our environment. Air pollution, industrial pollution, increasing quantum of waste and pollution of our rivers are problem we all face," he added.

Tarja Halonen, President, Finland was awarded the TERI's Sustainable Development Leadership Award for 2012 for her leadership in confronting climate change and leading her government to take the issue as a primary focus.

She said, "We need a modern trinity to preserve the Global Commons. We have a duty and right to preserve the Global Commons. India and Finland have always collaborated for sustainable development. Sustainable Development is an opportunity to counter the climate change and human resource plays a very important role in the effort."

Some past winners of the Sustainable Development Leadership Awards include

Singh, UN secretary general Ban Ki-Moon, and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger.

RK Pachauri, director-general, TERI, said, "The issue of the global commons has been part of global consciousness for half a century now. The global commons can be protected only if there is a commitment on the part of nation states to realize the tragedy inherent for all of us if we do not carry out proper protection of these."