'The Terminator' turns green crusader in India
Attends the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit

BS REPORTER
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Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Hollywood actor who was seen on screen saving the human race from artificially intelligent machines and former governor of California, is now trying to save the planet from the adverse impact of climate change.

The 64-year-old actor and politician, nicknamed "the Austrian Oak" during his fitness training days, said he wants to promote green and sustainable living with the same zeal with which he had promoted fitness during his younger days.

"I started weight training at the age of 15 and was awarded the title of Mr Universe at 20. At that time, I wanted to inspire people to be fitness conscious. Fitness was my crusade then, and green is my crusade now. I want to inspire people for sustainable living, the same way I did for fitness," Schwarzenegger said at the Sustainable Development Leadership Summit here today.

The summit is an annual event organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

"Be it fitness or sustainable living, Schwarzenegger, who has also served as the Governor of California from 2003 to 2011, believes in leading by example. Arnold, who drives a Hummer back home, said he used biofuels to run the vehicle instead of gasoline which leads to less or no emission of green house gases.

Besides, Schwarzenegger, who had played the role of a doting father in the movie Jingle All the Way, inculcates the same habit in his kids. "At home also, if my kids forget to turn off the lights, I unscrew the light in their room."

On his trip to India, Schwarzenegger said, "I was shooting for The Last Stand and I asked them to speed up the filming so that I could be free to come here. I always wanted to come to this land of culture and tradition."

"Though he didn't talk about whether he would like to have an association with Bollywood, but sure our Bollywood stars can take a lesson on sustainable lifestyle from the Hollywood legend."
Austrian actor and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger at the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2012 in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI
PM: Will lacking on climate woes

New Delhi, Feb 2: Noting that per capita emission in developed countries is 10 to 12 times that of those in developing countries, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said there appears to be a "lack of will" in the global community to tackle the problem of climate change. "...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 a function here.

The need for equity, he said, is starkly reflected in the fact that the emissions per capita in the "industrialised countries are 10 to 12 times that of those in developing countries."

In this regard, he referred to the principles of UN framework convention on climate change which provide the basis of creating a workable framework based on a broad-based equitable and multi-lateral response to issues relating to climate change.

Stressing on the need for a broad-based cooperation from developed as well as developing countries to address the issue, he said, "That cooperation must be based on the foundation of the right to development and the need for an equitable distribution of burden sharing."

The PM said solving the problem should be in a way that it does not "deprive developing countries of their right to development," adding India has a vital stake in the evolution of a successful response to climate change.

Observing that the Durban Climate Conference did achieve some important gains, the PM said the agreement reached there on the 2nd Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol is a significant achievement because there were doubts at one time about whether any accord could be reached.

"I am glad that an agreement was reached. We cannot make progress in this difficult area if we allow the commitments of the past to be unravelled," he said. Singh said that in the ensuing negotiations, the country needs to focus on the substantive nature of arrangements, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, more than their legal shape.

"As we go forward, we will need to make progress on all the four pillars of cooperative action that were agreed at Bali namely, mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and development and provision of financial resources and investment," he said.

The PM said there should be action in all these areas as part of a coherent and organic response to the problem of climate change.

"In that sense the Durban Platform must build on the Bali Action Plan," he said.

Bali Action Plan launched a new, comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action.

Maintaining India will play a constructive role in the ongoing negotiations, Singh said. "We will seek to reduce the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20-25 percent by the year 2020 taking 2005 as the reference level." - PTT
India has a vital stake in evolving climate change response: Manmohan

Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI: “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,” said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the inauguration of the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) 2012 organised by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) here on Thursday.

Over the past decade, the DSDS has evolved as a major global event addressing the key challenges of sustainable development and exploring the means by which this can be attained.

In its 12th edition, DSDS will focus on the theme “Protecting the Global Commons: 20 Years Past-Rio.” DSDS-2012 will be the first important meeting of global leaders preceding the June 2012, Rio+20 Summit.

The Prime Minister congratulated TERI on organising the global forum which once again brought together eminent dignitaries, Nobel Laureates, CEOs and leaders from across the globe.

“This year marks the 20th anniversary of the landmark Rio Earth Summit of 1992, which sets out the concept of sustainability and its importance as a critical parameter of human development. The idea of sustainability began as a developmental ideal. Over time, it has become an important focus of policy, especially in developing countries as we struggle to reconcile our effort to develop with the compelling need to protect our environment. Air pollution, industrial pollution, increasing quantum of waste and pollution of our rivers are problems we all face,” said Dr. Singh.

Present at the TERI DSDS 2012 inaugural ceremony were several dignitaries from across the world including Finland President Tarja Halonen as founder chair, P. K. P. Regions of Climate Change and the former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Farooq Abdullah and Union Minister for Environment and Forests Jayanthi Natarajan.

Meanwhile, Ms. Halonen was awarded the TERI’s Sustainable Development Leadership Award for 2012 for her leadership in confronting climate change and her government to take the issue as a priority focus.

India-Finland collaboration

Receiving the honour, she said: “It is a great honour for me to receive this award on behalf of my country. 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.”

TERI Director-General R.K. Pachauri 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 nations states to realise the tragedy inherent for all of us if we do not carry out proper protection of these. We hope this Summit and the official Rio+20 event in June of this year will mark a watershed in perceptions and priorities by which we work collectively towards a more environmentally and ecologically secure future for coming generations.”

GHG emissions

“India faces some major challenges as well as expanding opportunities. The mitigation of green house gases emissions carry with it a vast range of co-benefits including higher energy security, health benefits due to lower levels of air pollution, higher agricultural yields and many others. We need to consider these co-benefits in devising a new development strategy which would be relevant for the 21st century. One of our biggest challenges in the future would be to ensure security of energy supply. This can only be achieved through improvements in energy efficiency as well as a move to sustainable sources of energy supply,” he added.

JOINING THE FIGHT: Hollywood icon and former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, with Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit, at the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit on Thursday.— PHOTO: SHANKER CHAKRABARTY
We Want Equitable Response at Climate

New Delhi: Expressing concern about the absence of collective global will to stave off climate change seriously, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said India would play a pivotal role in climate talks, provided it be based on equitable response.

At the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) here, Singh said that in the ensuing negotiations, one needed to focus on the substantive nature of the arrangements, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, more than their legal shape.

"Being a developing country in the front lines of climate vulnerability, India has a vital stake on the evolution of a successful, rule-based, equitable and multilateral response to issues relating to climate change. The principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change provide the basis to create a workable framework along these lines," he said.

In this context, he said, it should be recognised that there was a lack of global will to address the problem as seriously as it deserves.

"We need to give renewed momentum to the global negotiations for cooperative collective action for management of climate change," he said. Appreciating the progress at the 17th Conference of Parties at Durban, the Prime Minister said the agreement at Durban on the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was significant as there had been doubts as to whether any agreement could be reached. He said that he was happy an agreement was reached, and acknowledged that a progress in this area was difficult.

"There is also a growing realisation that sustainable development is not something that can be achieved by countries acting individually. The threat of climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions has brought the world to a critical point, where the actions of each and every country affect the planet collectively. Sustainable development in this environment calls for cooperation of all countries," he explained.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presenting the Sustainable Development Leadership Award 2012 to Finland President Tarja Halonen during the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi on Thursday | PTI

PTI
PM: After 5% increase, forest cover diminishes

New Delhi, Feb 2: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said the country's forest cover had increased by nearly five per cent between 1997 and 2007.

"I am happy to state that India's forest cover had increased 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 five million hectares and improve forest cover on another five million hectares," he said while addressing the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

The PM felt that eventually these forests will act as a sink that could absorb 50-60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually and offset about six per cent of India's annual emissions.

The government, he said, is also trying to put in place institutional arrangements and mechanisms to promote policy development and stakeholder engagement on sustainable management of commons (resources that are owned in common).

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Director general of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) R. K. Pachauri (right) shows a LED bulb to former governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit. — AFP

UN body backs India

New Delhi: Conditions cannot be dictated for sustainable development of developing countries, including India, without providing them with the necessary funds and technology, UNIDO chief Kandeh K. Yumkella has said.

At the same time, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation director-general has also expressed optimism that India would be in the vanguard of leading the sustainable development.

"Developing countries like India can leapfrog (especially in going for green technologies). At the same time, I think we should always respect the fact that they have immediate energy access needs," Yumkella said in an interview here.

"We cannot say that India be super clean if we cannot help India access the finance and technology they need to clean up the energy systems. This requires massive investments, which India alone does not have," he said. — PTI
We know that total emissions in the world must decline, but what does this imply for emissions in individual countries? We must find a way of solving this problem in a way that does not deprive developing countries of their right to develop,” Singh said.

This was also the first public statement by the head of the government after the Durban meet in November last year, which saw India bring ‘equity’ back to the table as one of its key non-negotiable principle. In the two years before that India had let the principle of equitable burden sharing be diluted and taken off the agenda. At Durban, it achieved a partial comeback for the issue.

Developed countries have been keenly watching for signals from India about how it would approach the framing of discussions for what is called the Durban Platform — a new track of negotiations under the UN convention meant to set the rules for the post-2020 regime.

Leaving little room for doubt that Union environment minister Jayanthi Natarajan’s stance had his full backing, the PM said on Thursday, “In the ensuing negotiations, we will need to focus on the substantive nature of arrangements, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, more than their legal shape.”

For the first time publicly linking the Rio+20 dialogue with issues of equity as well, the PM laid down the line for upcoming negotiations that are to culminate with a heads of states meeting in Brazil. He said, “I urge all those gathered here today to reflect whether they have been given the importance they deserved in establishing a new and equitable global partnership that was the aim of the Rio Declaration.”

On the side of the DSDS meeting, the EU commissioner for climate change Connie Hedegaard met the Indian environment minister. The meeting, sources said, involved some plain speak from the Indian end including its views on how the EU carbon tax on aviation could destabilize talks on a future climate regime under the Durban platform.
We Want Equitable Response at Climate

New Delhi: Expressing...
India has a vital stake in evolving climate change response: Manmohan

Staff Reporter

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PM seeks ‘collective will’ on climate talks

New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Thursday that “a lack of collective will” was hampering efforts to forge a common global front against the threat of climate change. Addressing the opening of a Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi, Singh said India was committed to tackling greenhouse gas emissions, but rejected any framework that deprived the country of its right to develop.

“It is necessary to recognize that currently there appears to be a lack of collective global will to address this problem with the seriousness it deserves,” the Prime Minister said.

The threat of climate change has brought the world to a point where “the actions of each and every country” affect the whole planet, Singh said, adding that cooperation between industrialised and developing nations was crucial.

But any cooperation must be based on “the right to development and the need for an equitable distribution of burden”, he said, arguing that per capita greenhouse emissions in industrialised nations were 10 times higher than developing countries.

Emerging Asian giants India and China, both huge emitters of carbon,

India, Seychelles to up anti-piracy operations

New Delhi: Amid China’s increased foray into the picturesque Indian Ocean archipelago nation, Seychelles has assured India that it remains its key developmental partner and sought to intensify bilateral anti-piracy cooperation. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held talks on Thursday with Seychelles President James Alix Michel, who is here for the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, that focused on security issues, piracy and ways to expand developmental cooperation between the two countries. Agencies have long resisted calls to sign up to legally binding emission cuts.

Later in the day, the summit heard from Hollywood star and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger who said people had to embrace green energy without waiting for anybody or any international agreement.

“If it is great to hope but I would not wait. Everyone has to participate... do not hesitate,” he said, offering up Mahatma Gandhi as a model for how to affect radical change through grassroots movements. Agencies

STAR FOREVER: US actor-cum-politician Arnold Schwarzenegger with Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit at the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi on Thursday.