Climate Change Panel Formed

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New Delhi: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said regulatory mechanisms for environment protection and development needs should be transparent and accountable so that both could work in tandem.

Speaking at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2013, he stressed that protection of environment and promotion of development need not amount to a zero sum game.

“What is required is regulatory regimes that are transparent and accountable, and subject to oversight and monitoring. They (regulatory regimes) are often the prerequisites to ensure that environmental and economic objectives are pursued in tandem,” Singh maintained.

The Prime Minister argued that global growth model should be both inclusive and sustainable, as it would assist developing countries to pursue their national development objectives. Pitching for resource efficiency, he said that in an unequal world, scarcity of resources would affect the poor more adversely, and key resources may become accessible only to a small section of people on the planet.

“Resource efficiency is a critical element of inclusive growth and development agenda... We should enhance efforts to develop technologies that ensure efficiency gains, which allow for more equitable distribution and use of these available resources,” he noted.

In a separate decision, the PMO has set up an executive committee on climate change that would assist him in evolving a coordinated response to issues relating to climate change at the national level.

The committee, to be headed by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, will have members from ministries like environment, finance, power, urban development, water resources, science and technology, agriculture, coal, and petroleum.

Talking of difficulties before the country, Singh said that the issue of fresh water was a major concern for India.