

# Need for regulatory environment policies, says Manmohan

statesman news service

NEW DELHI, 3 FEB: The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, today emphasised on the need to put in place a structure of regulatory policies which will prevent potentially environmentally damaging behaviour.

Inaugurating the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit here, where he was conferred the Sustainable Development Leadership Award, Dr Singh said standards are not enough. He said "they must also be enforced which is often difficult. It is also necessary to ensure that these regulatory standards do not bring back the license permit Raj which we sought to get rid of in the wake of economic reforms of the early nineties."

Receiving the award from the Afghan President, Mr Hamid Karzai, which he deemed an honour, Dr Singh said incentives must encourage economic decision makers to act in an environmentally benign manner.

"The solution lies in two dimensions. First, we must put in place a structure of regulatory policies which will prevent potentially damaging behaviour. This is what we do by setting regulatory standards and enforcing them. I must emphasise that standards are not enough," he said.

Dr Singh felt there was need to "deal with residual pollution that may be caused despite regulatory efforts. The principle that should be followed in such cases is that the polluters must pay. This will discourage the polluters and also provide a means of financing the corrective steps necessary to counter the pollution caused".

The PM said India was trying to do this by setting appropriate standards in several areas, especially in the most energy using industries.

On the global front, Dr Singh said India would continue to play a constructive and responsible role in the climate change talks and work with others to find practical pragmatic



*The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh addressing the inaugural session of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2011, in New Delhi on Thursday. sns*

much less culpable, and have much greater need for continued growth. These countries should be helped to achieve sustainable development paths," he said.

"India particularly welcomes the agreement on the setting up of a framework of technology innovation centres under the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) to foster local adaptation and mitigation measures," Dr Singh said.

He said India was engaged in preparing the Twelfth Five Year Plan, to cover 2012-17. It would focus on specific initiatives needed to put the country's development on a path consistent with low carbon growth, energy efficiency and exploitation of renewable energy sources