

## ENVIRONMENT CONCERNS

# PM for greener growth without licence raj

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**NEW DELHI:** India should have regulatory policies to prevent potentially “damaging behaviour” but it should not mean return of “licence permit raj”, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Thursday.

The PM was referring to recent debate on balance between growth and environmentally sustainable development at the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

“The solution lies in two dimensions,” the PM said. First was a regulatory standards and mechanism to enforce them in a transparent manner and effective policies to deal with residual pollution caused despite regulatory structure.

“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.

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

“As a general rule we are trying to establish the principle that the polluter must pay



■ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with his Afghan counterpart Hamid Karzai at the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2011, in New Delhi on Wednesday. REUTERS PHOTO

though that is much more difficult to achieve.”

To achieve goal of sustainable growth, the PM stressed on the need for capacity building at the local level but said local or national action would be of no avail when the externalities cross natural boundaries, as in the case of climate change. Even the recent climate summit in Mexico failed to resolve these issues, Singh said and described the outcome of the conference as a “modest” gain.

He, however, welcomed the agreement on setting of a network of technology innovation centers under United Nations to foster local adaptation and

mitigation measures.

“India will continue to play a constructive and responsible role in the on-going negotiations and will work with the international community to find practical, pragmatic and equitable solution,” he said.

## AFGHAN TIES

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday updated the PM about the transition process in his country as both leaders held discussions on a range of bilateral and regional issues, including the common threat of terrorism. The Prime Minister also accepted an invitation from Karzai to visit Afghanistan at an early date.