

# PM lauds India's efforts in curbing green damage

PBD BUREAU

NEW DELHI, FEB 3

**P**RIME Minister Manmohan Singh today called for a green development as he set up an objective to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 20 per cent by 2020.

"We are also taking action on our own in the form of a National Action Plan on Climate Change. A broad objective that we have set is to reduce the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20 per cent between 2005 and 2020," Singh said while addressing the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit here.

Singh also favoured proper enforcement of regulatory standards to prevent green damage while making sure that there is no return to the license permit raj system.

"The central principle that must be enshrined in any sustainable development strategy is that incentives facing all economic decision makers must encourage them to act in a manner that is environmentally benign," Singh said. He also backed the 'polluter must pay' principle to deal with the issue of residual pollution that may be caused despite regulation.

"This will discourage the polluters and also provide a

## No return to license-permit raj



PM Manmohan Singh with Afghan President Hamid Karzai at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2011—PTI photo

means of financing the corrective steps necessary to counter the pollution caused," he said at the summit which was attended by Presidents of Afghanistan, Dominican Republic and Seychelles—Hamid Karzai, Leonel Fernandez, and James Alix Michel respectively. Last year the Govt had introduced a cess of 5 pc on the use of coal both domestic and imported to build the

corpus of a National Clean Energy Fund. He made it clear that poverty eradication will have to be linked to the availability of renewable and affordable energy, he said.

Asserting that clear commitments from industrial countries are essential to achieve the goal of containing the likely temperature increase to two degrees or less, Singh said, "India

alone can not make significant difference to the climate as its emissions account for only four per cent of the global total."

The Prime Minister added that efforts by individual countries may not make much difference as the emission of green house gases knows no boundaries.

He said that there is a need to shift the patterns of energy generation and its

use. He cautioned if it is not done ecological sustainable development would remain only a pious aspiration.

Talking about the international situation, Singh said that the Cancun conference in Mexico did produce some modes results and assured that India will continue to play a constructive role in the ongoing negotiations to find practical, pragmatic but equitable solutions.