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Polluter must pay, but don't revive licence raj: PM

fe Bureau

New Delhi, Feb 3: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Thursday sought to make clear his government's policy on the environment-versus-growth debate. He virtually cautioned against over-zealousness of green lobbies, saying regulatory standards ought not bring back the licence-permit raj which the country sought to get rid of in the wake of economic re-

forms of the early nineties.

Addressing the 11th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit here, Singh, however, called for environmentally benign progress.

The PM's remarks need to be read in the context of the clearances being given to big industrial projects which have been held up for long by an obdurate environment and forest ministry.

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Our view is that those responsible for the greenhouse gas build-up should bear the brunt of the responsibility.

Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister