

# Dev nations need help to grow

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Regarding the 'right to develop' for developing nations, Singh pointed out that, "The need for equity is starkly reflected in the fact that the emissions per capita in industrialised countries are ten to twelve times those of developing countries. We know that total emissions in the world must decline, but what does this imply for emissions in individual countries? We must find a way of solving this problem in a way that does not deprive developing countries of their right to develop."

"As a developing country," said the prime minister, "in the frontlines of climate vulnerability, India has a vital stake in the evolution of a successful, rule-based, equitable and multilateral response to issues relating to climate change. The principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change provide the basis for creating a workable framework along these lines. In this context, it is necessary to recognise that currently there appears to be a lack of collective global will to address this problem with the seriousness it deserves. We need to give renewed momentum therefore to the global negotiations for cooperative collective action for management of climate change."

He added that, "Food and energy security and sustainable use of scarce natural resources will constitute important constituents of our strategy for sustainable development. We will seek to reduce the emissions intensity of our GDP by 20-25 per cent by the year 2020 taking 2005 as the reference level."

He informed the gathering that the tiger population in the country had shown a 20 per cent increase since 2006 and said that lessons

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MANMOHAN SINGH

learnt from tiger conservation should also be utilised for conservation of other endangered species.

"I am happy to share with you the heart-warming news that India's tiger population is on the rise. The 2011 tiger census showed a 20 per cent increase in the number of tigers over that of the year 2006. We have estimated that today there are around



1,700 wild tigers in India out of a global population of 3,000. I hope that the lessons learnt will be used to conserve other endangered species as well," said Singh.

"I am also happy to state that India's forest cover increased by nearly 5 per cent between 1997 and 2007. We hope to see further accretion with the implementation of the Green India Mission which aims to increase the forest and tree cover by 5 million hectare and improve forest cover on another 5 million hectare. Eventually, these forests will act as a sink that could absorb 50-60 million tonne of carbon dioxide annually. This would offset about 6 per cent of India's annual emissions," he added.

"The government is trying to put into place institutional arrangements and mechanisms to promote policy development and stakeholder engagement on sustainable management of commons," added Singh.