

We Want Equitable Response at Climate Talks, Says PM

'India Main Partner'

New Delhi: Expressing concern about the absence of collective global will to stave off climate change seriously, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday said India would play a pivotal role in climate talks, provided it be based on equitable response.

At the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS) here, Singh said that in the ensuing negotiations, one needed to focus on the substantive nature of the arrangements, based on the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities, more than their legal shape.

"Being a developing country in the front lines of climate vulnerability, India has a vital stake on 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 to create a workable framework along these lines," he said.

In this context, he said, it should be recognised that there was a lack of global will to address the problem as seriously as it deserves.

"We need to give renewed momentum to the global negotiations for cooperative collective action for management of climate change," he said. Appreciating the progress at the 17th Conference of Parties at Durban, the Prime Minister said the agreement at Durban on the second commitment period



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presenting the Sustainable Development Leadership Award 2012 to Finland President Tarja Halonen during the 12th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in New Delhi on Thursday | PTI

of the Kyoto Protocol was significant as there had been doubts as to whether any agreement could be reached. He said that he was happy an agreement was reached, and acknowledged that a progress in this area was difficult. "There is also a growing realisation that sustainable development is not something that can be achieved by countries acting individually. The threat of climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions has brought the world to a critical point, where the actions of each and every country affect the planet collectively. Sustainable development in this environment calls for cooperation of all countries" he explained. PTI

Express News Service

New Delhi: In the backdrop of the strategic position in pirate-infested Indian Ocean, Seychelles President James Michel met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday, and described India as his country's "main development partner". On his third visit to India in as many years, Michel will attend the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

"Matters of mutual interests, including international, regional and bilateral were discussed. Both leaders reaffirmed their close and abiding relationship and India

was acknowledged as the main development partner for the Seychelles," said a press release issued by the MEA.

This development is noteworthy as Seychelles had been in news following reports that China was setting up a military base there.

The Seychelles Government rubbished the reports, stating that the facility was a refuelling station, which was provided to other countries, including India. "The two leaders also discussed issues relating to piracy and its consequent impact on security, tourism and fisheries," the statement added.