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# Govt lends support to a beleaguered Pachauri

Our Political Bureau  
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## Indian Scientist Included In IPCC Bureau

INDIA on Thursday stepped forward to express support for the beleaguered chairman of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change R K Pachauri. But the support came after Mr Pachauri agreed to accommodate an Indian scientist from the environment ministry in the IPCC Bureau as the chair's nominee while preparing the panel's fifth assessment report.

The IPCC chairman is empowered to take a representative from the home country to the IPCC bureau meeting. India is not a member of the IPCC bureau, which has 30 members. These meetings, described as "the Davos of climate change," serve to build research networks.

"Starting with the May meeting of the IPCC bureau in Geneva, one scientist from the environment ministry will accompany the chairman of IPCC at its bureau meeting despite India not being a member of it. It gives us a foothold in IPCC. Our prestige will increase with out association with the IPCC chair," Mr Jairam Ramesh said. While Mr Pachauri has been the panel's head since 2002, this is the first time that India is exercising its right to have a representative at the meeting.

The environment minister said that the government annually spends Rs 5.7 million for running the IPCC office in Delhi. "As a gesture of support and respect for the post of chairman of IPCC, the Indian government bears the cost of running the IPCC office in New Delhi and there is nothing unusual about it. It has been a trend in the IPCC that the chairperson is finan-



WHATEVER HAPPENED, MATE: Jairam Ramesh and R K Pachauri—FILE

cially supported by the home country," Mr Ramesh said.

There has been some pressure on Mr Pachauri to resign over reports of mistakes and misrepresentations in IPCC's fourth assessment report and the adverse impact on the panel's credibility. The Indian government's support will come as reprieve for the embattled climate panel chief.

"The Indian government is backing Pachauri to the hilt. Let there be no doubt on that. There is no wavering in the support of the Indian government. The prime minister and others in the government are supporting him as chairmen of IPCC. Let there be no two opinions on that," Mr Ramesh said.

This is the first time that the government has come out in support of the IPCC chief after Glaciergate. IPCC has acknowledged its error over the rate of

disappearance of the Himalayan glaciers. The Centre had supported the study by former deputy director-general of the Geological Survey of India, V K Raina, which had challenged IPCC's claim that the Himalayan glaciers would vanish by 2035.

Mr Ramesh, who had been at the receiving end of scathing attack from the IPCC chief reiterated the government's support. "The government backs Pachauri as the chief of the IPCC at the highest level. Past is past."

Mr Ramesh's announcement of unequivocal support for the IPCC chief came as the minister outlined his plans to augment the India's scientific capabilities in the field of climate science.

Earlier in the day, the UNFCCC executive secretary Yvo de Boer came out in support Mr Pachauri, and said that he should not resign.