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# PM backs Pachauri

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NEW DELHI, 5 FEB: Under fire for his organisation's incorrect conclusions on the melting of Himalayan glaciers, the chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Mr R K Pachauri, today found



support from leaders of various countries who argued that a single mistake in the panel's report did not dilute the hard reality of global warming. The Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, and his counterparts from Norway, Finland, Greece and Bhutan today came out in support of the IPCC report at the inauguration of the Delhi Sus-

tainable Development Summit (DSDS) being organised by Mr Pachauri's TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute). Dr Singh defended the IPCC and its chairman. "Let me here assert that India has full confidence in the IPCC process and its leadership and will support it in every way that it can," said Dr Singh inaugurating the summit. "Some aspects of the science that is reflected in the work of the IPCC have faced criticism. But this debate does not challenge the core projections of the IPCC about the impact of greenhouse gas accumulations on temperature, rainfall and sea level rise," he added.

The Bhutanese Prime Minister, Mr Jigme Thinley, said: "Those who took delight in chastising the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for its prediction on melting of Himalayan glaciers

by 2035 missed the point - we in Bhutan feel and see for ourselves the rapid change in the surroundings."

Mr Jens Stoltenberg of Norway said, "Some of the recommendations (of IPCC) have been subject to criticism. In principle I welcome criticism. I congratulate R K Pachauri for taking steps to correct mistakes... But the main point of climate panel's report remains unchanged. Polar ice is melting. Sea levels are rising and the globe is warming." The Finnish PM, Mr Matti Vanhanen, underlined the need for a collective global response to the imminent threat of global warming. He said efforts were needed to ensure that each of the countries sign a legally binding agreement on cutting down on emission of greenhouse gases.

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