

PM lavishes praise on Pachauri

More nations back IPCC

PNS New Delhi

India on Friday made it clear it was strongly behind the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its chief RK Pachauri, both facing criticism over the Himalayan glaciers' goofup. The backing came from none other than Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who asserted India's "full confidence in the IPCC process and its leadership" and said it "will support it in every way that it can".

With Singh leading the way, heads of States of European Union countries Greece and Finland besides Norway, Bhutan and Kiribati too came out in support of the UN body while attending the 10th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit, organised by The Energy Research

Institute (TERI), headed by Pachauri. Some mistake in the IPCC report does not change the basic facts of global warming, they contended.

"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," the Prime Minister said while inaugurating the summit.

He also lavished praise on Pachauri for his "able and far-sighted leadership" in leading TERI.

The IPCC's year 2035 deadline for complete disappearance of Himalayan glaciers has been found to be based on speculation. It has since admitted its mistake and retracted its assertion but Pachauri has refused to put in his papers. In fact, he has claimed that a strong, influ-



ential and moneyed lobby with vested interests was out to demolish the science of climate change.

Reiterating that the Copenhagen Accord was not a negotiated set of legal obligations but a catalogue of voluntary commitments, Manmohan Singh outlined India's own action plan: "We will soon launch an ambitious National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency that will put in place an innovative policy and regulatory regime to unlock the market for energy efficiency, estimated at over US \$15 billion. It is expected that the initiative will lead to avoidance of capacity addition of nearly 20,000 MW and reduced carbon dioxide emissions of almost 99 million tonnes."

While Singh pointed to India's other mitigation actions for reducing its emission intensity by 20-25 per cent by 2020 on 2005 levels, he maintained the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has to be the centrepiece of global cooperation on climate issues. Singh also echoed the demand

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made by the BASIC group of countries to resume the two-track negotiating process from March. UNFCCC executive secretary Yvo de Boer has, however, already maintained that it wasn't possible. Besides Singh, the IPCC saw support coming from Bhutanese Prime

Minister Jigme Thinley who said, "Those who took delight in chastising the IPCC 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." Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh and Boer too have backed the IPCC and Pachauri.