



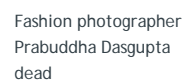
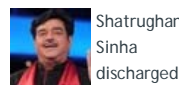
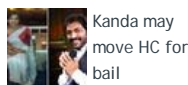
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**Ask Prabhu**  
Mr. Prabhu Chawla,  
Editorial Director of  
The New Indian Express

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## Concerns of the marginalised lot stressed

By Mathew A Thomas | 14th February 2009 01:57 AM

CHENNAI: The burning issue of climatic change and global warming should be addressed from the point of view of climate injustice, considering the abnormal levels of greenhouse gases being emitted by the developed countries, mostly by the USA, observed the ongoing National Consultation on Global Warming in Chennai on Friday. Any analysis of the issue and the remedial measures should come from the perspective of the poor and the marginalised, the meet felt.

The brainstorming sessions of the conclave, being held under the aegis of the CSI, noted that the impact of climatic change would disproportionately fall upon the poor and the marginalised in the developing nations.

The dalits and the tribals will have to bear the brunt of the problem as their agriculture- dependant livelihood and the forests will be hit badly.

Sudip Mitra, lead fellow and faculty member at the School of Environment Sciences, JNU, said that though climate change studies were treated as science it had ended up as politics now. Any successful programme on climate change issues is dependent on bringing some policies which will prove as detriments in the emission of greenhouse gases, he said. "It is remarkable for the Indian Parliament and democracy that the topic was discussed in detail by its houses for more than two weeks at a stretch recently," he said. Co-relating health issues with global warming, George Chandy, former director of the CMC, Vellore, affirmed that depletion of the stratosphere ozone and increased ultraviolet radiation are occurring due to global warming, leading to the high incidence of cancer and infectious diseases.

The day was also noted for leads from various Church denominations to translate their concern for the environment in realistic terms. On behalf of the CSI, Mathew Koshy Punnakkadu, who is also the general convener of the organising committee, presented an ambitious plan of the diocese to promote vetiver cultivation and mangroves in a big way by the side of various water courses throughout the South.

A Malayalam short film titled 'Rain Dreams', brought out by the students of the Orthodox Church seminary, Kottayam, caught the attention of the conclave. The Mar Thoma Church's attempt to 'green' itself was presented through small initiatives like awareness building exercises for both the clergy and the laity, earmarking the second Sunday of July as Green Sunday every year and promotion of environment-friendly parsonages. For most of the participants in the meet, representing the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Council of Baptist Churches in the North East, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Mennonite Brethren Churches of India, the Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Church etc., the initiatives of the bigger Churches in the group were eyeopeners on two counts - redefining their activities with thrust on the protection of all creations and a true ecumenical order in a different milieu. The

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