

ENVIRO NEWS

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Noble Peace Prize 2007 to Climate Change

The year 2007 can be considered special as for the first time the Noble Peace award is being given to work carried out in environmental sciences. The Noble Peace Prize for the year 2007 was jointly awarded to the Geneva-based Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) and the former American Vice President Al Gore, for the fight to save the environment.

The Noble Peace Prize reflects the efforts of the awardees to build up and disseminate knowledge of manmade climate change and to lay the foundations to fight the same. As the head of a body set up by the United Nations Environment Programme and the UN's World Meteorological Organisation to evaluate the available science on climate change, IPCC Chairman Dr R. K. Pachauri is overseeing the publication of a long-awaited report on global warming this year.

In the latest IPCC Report issued at the beginning of February, scientists said it was 'very likely' or more than 90% probable, that global warming was manmade. The Report predicts a 'best estimate' that temperatures may rise by between 1.8° and 4.0° C by 2100, within a likely range from 1.1° to 6.4° C. The study projects a rise in sea levels in the range of 28 - 43 cm by the end of this century.

From the above report, it is clear that the earth's recent warming was more than likely to be manmade. The individual choices about transport, heating and consumption are extremely important. A country's development adds to changes in lifestyle, behavioural patterns, consumption patterns, etc. So, every society should carry out a detailed analysis on the kind of lifestyle changes that needs to be brought about in saving the environment. This is an absolute critical part of mitigation measures. If all the individuals think about moving in a particular direction, the change observed will be better as also faster. □

