

'Development has to be environment-inclusive'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Bangalore, Dec 16: Dismissing the notion that economic development and environmental preservation had to be on a path of confrontation, Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen said that economic development could not be divorced from ecological concerns.

He was delivering the valedictory address on 'Environment and Poverty: Two Worlds or One' at the Future Environmental Trends Conference on 'Energy, Environment and Development-Analysing Opportunities for Reducing Poverty'

in the city on Saturday.

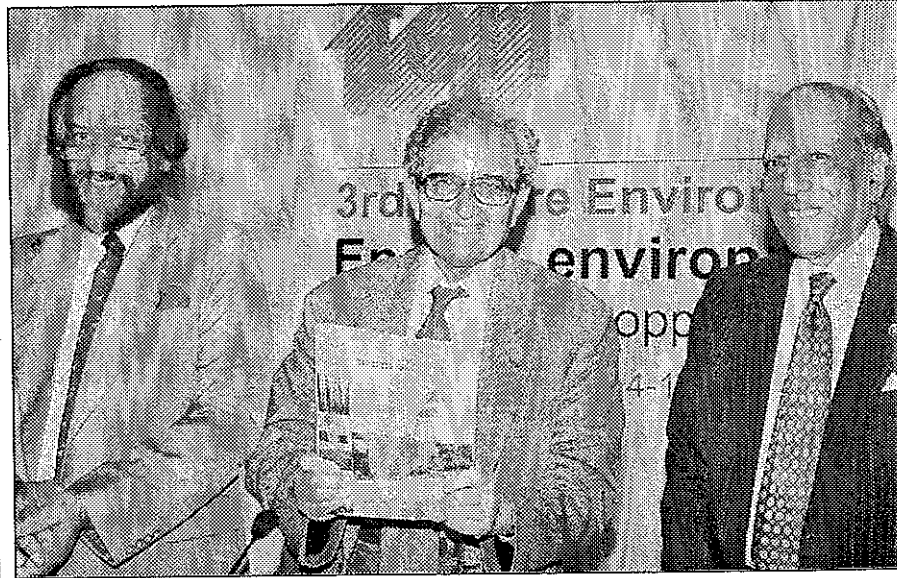
Calling development the 'expansion of personal freedom' he said that it was not merely increase of income or industrialisation or technological advance, but also how development can influence and affect the lives and freedom of people involved

He said "Seeing development as enhancement of human freedom involves diverse concerns, but incorporating expansion of social opportunities and quality of life, which are integrally dependent on ecology and environmental preservation, must be among

the central concerns in development thinking."

Many human activities that accompany the process of development may have destructive consequences "Development is an empowering process and this power can be used to preserve and enrich the environment and not just to decimate it "

He also spoke about the political inactivity in dealing with issues like global warming and maintained that some societal action or institutional intervention was required to deal with the biases of 'self-centred economic incentives that characterise the pure market economy'.



Nobel Laureate Prof Amartya Sen releasing literature on 'Green India 2047 Renewed: Looking Back to Change Track' at the '3rd Future Environmental Trends Conference on Energy, Environment and Development' organised by TERI in Bangalore on Saturday. Also seen are Chairman, TERI Governing Council A Ramachandran and Director General Dr R K Pachauri.