



Malini Mehra, founder and director of the Centre for Social Markets — Express

A documentary with an inconvenient truth

NUMEROUS incidents of glacier's retreat, drastic climatic change and nature's fury — hurricane, typhoon, excessive rainfall — are reality that is knocking at our door. This lesson on global warming was well received at the US Consulate General's Office, Anna Salai, on Wednesday evening when they screened the documentary film *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The Oscar-winning film directed by Davis Guggenheim was screened here as part of the awareness programme on global warming, jointly by the Public Affairs Section of the Consulate General's and the Centre for Social Markets.

The documentary based on a speech of former US Vice-Pres-

ident Al Gore, has a direct message that global warming is real and is caused by human activity. Presented with well supported facts and data, the film points out that mankind must begin immediate effort to halt and reverse global warming.

Various space photographs, including the one taken by the first American astronauts used in the film, shows that glaciers and lakes are shrinking, snows are melting, shorelines retreating. The alarm bell continues to ring. The 10 warmest years in recorded history were in the last 14 years. On the recent happening, the South America experienced its first hurricane last year, Japan sets records for typhoons. In India, Mumbai record 37 inches of

rain in 24 hours.

Davis Guggenheim weaves Al Gore's personal history and his commitment in reversing the effects of global climate change. Yes, global warming is not about politics, it is a global issue that needs to be tackled by each individual.

The film screening was followed by short discussion headed by panel of experts — G Dattatri, former advisor of UN Habitat and Trustee, AR Nambi, project director, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai, and NR Krishna, retired Director (Environment), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

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