

City feels global warming

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

April. 19: City dwellers need not wait till 2020 to feel the effects of global warming and temperature rising. "It is already being felt at Chennai and other cities across the country. The average temperature has increased by 1 Degree Celsius every year over the last couple of years. That is why Chennai days are hot even in March," Dr A. Ramachandran, director, centre for climate change and adaptation research, Anna University, Chennai,

"We must have periodic auditing of energy consumption and emission by buildings and vehicles. This is the way to fight global warming."

**Dr A. Ramachandran
Director, CCCAR**

told *Deccan Chronicle*.

"The rise in sea level and the melting of Arctic ice are issues at the macro level. We are ignoring the fact

that our own city is experiencing a heat wave and winter days have become hotter. The city has become a concrete jungle. The buildings emit huge quantity of carbon and heat. Most buildings have air-conditioners," pointed out Dr Ramachandran.

Dr Nanditha Krishna, director, CPR Environmental Foundation, substantiated Dr Ramachandran's findings with her own studies and experience. "Till '70s, Chennai summers were bearable. We never used fans or air-conditioners those days. The excessive traf-

fic on city roads has made Chennai hotter," said Dr Krishna.

According to studies carried out by the CCCAR, the ever-increasing concrete areas of Chennai easily absorb the sun's radiation. "The retention time of this radiation has gone up and the heat is released very slowly. Hence we find that humidity is high and heat persists well past midnight," said Dr Ramachandran.

Both Dr Krishna and Dr Ramachandran called for urgent measures to monitor the microclimate of all urban areas in the state.