

Newspaper Clips

November 10, 2013

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi; Date: Nov 10, 2013; Section: Times City; Page: 6;

More IIT grads should take up research, says President

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) should find ways to attract more of their graduates to research programmes, President Pranab Mukherjee said at the IIT Delhi convocation on Friday. While praising the IITs, their students and teachers, he said, "Very few IIT graduates are pursuing specialized education leading to PhD or any other higher degree. In the long term, this will deprive [the] country of the talented specialized technical personnel who are the most important assets in a knowledge economy."

Mukherjee pointed out that the number of students engaged in research – for PhD degrees – is just a fraction of the total number of students in the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) and the IITs. NITs have a 71,000-strong student body, out of which only



Pranab Mukherjee during the annual convocation at IIT-D

4,000 are PhD students, while IITs have 60,000 students, and only 3,000 are researchers. "This indicates," he observed, "that bright students are not taking up research and innovation in adequate numbers. Orient[ing] these students toward research may help us in meeting the faculty shortages faced by our technical institutions, including IITs."

Apparently, India ranks

12th in all countries for the number of publications on science and technology, but is still far behind China. India has 119 researchers in the field of research and development per million people, China has 715 and the United States has 468. Mukherjee said, "The creation of intangible assets in an economy through knowledge, research and innovation is an important sign of a developed country. Many of the advanced countries and some developing countries are creating and owning the intangible assets through patents filing. This is happening due to emphasis on research and development".

He added, "India, in spite of its strong scientific and technical manpower base, is still far behind. The time has come to reverse this trend, which is only possible through dedicated programmes for research in technology, engineering and science."

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Few IIT students opting for research: President

Few IIT students opt for research: President

President Pranab Mukherjee on Saturday expressed concern over few IIT students opting for research, saying this can deprive the country of a talented workforce in the long term. "I understand that very few IIT graduates are pursuing specialised education leading to Ph.D. or any other higher degree. In the long term, this will deprive the country of the talented specialised technical personnel who are the most important assets in a knowledge economy," Mr. Mukherjee said. He was speaking at the annual convocation of IIT-Delhi. — IANS

Printable version | Nov 10, 2013 8:49:59 AM | <http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-newdelhi/few-iit-students-opting-for-research-president/article5334585.ece>

HT New Delhi

President urges IITs to encourage research studies

NEW DELHI: Laying emphasis on research and innovation, President Pranab Mukherjee on Saturday spoke about the immediate need for IITs to work out ways to attract undergraduate students towards post graduate programmes and research.

The President, speaking at IIT Delhi's 44th convocation, said trends showed that students were moving away from research.

"IITs have so far not been very successful in attracting undergraduate students to postgraduate education and research. IIT should hence now devise some strategy to attract undergraduate to post graduate programmes," he said.

"Very few IIT graduates are pursuing specialised education leading to PhD or higher degrees. In the long run, this will deprive the country of talented personnel who are the most important assets in a knowledge economy," he added. **HTC**

Attract more PhD students: Pranab to IIT-D (In Pics)

New Delhi, Nov 9: President Pranab Mukherjee today pressed upon the IITs to devise strategies to attract undergraduate students towards post graduate programmes and research activities, saying lack of enthusiasm to pursue higher studies does not auger well for the country. "IITs have so far not been very successful in attracting undergraduate students to post graduate education and research. IIT should devise some strategy to attract under graduate to post graduate programmes," he said while addressing the 44th convocation of IIT-Delhi. "I understand that very few IIT graduates are pursuing specialised education leading to PhD or higher degrees. In the long term, this will deprive the country of talented specialised personnel who are most important assets in a knowledge economy," he said. The President said as against the student strength of 71,000 in National Institute of Technology (NITs), there are about 4,000 PhD students. Similarly, in IITs, as against the strength of 60,000 students, there are around 3,000 PhD students. "This indicates that bright students are moving away from research and innovation. This does not speak well for our research facilities," he said. Asserting that the present day economy is knowledge- driven, he said IIT-Delhi needs to take a giant leap as a contributor of knowledge. This can happen only by further strengthening and enhancing post graduate education and research in IITs, he said. India is also far behind in creation of intangible assets and creation of ownership. Hence, the time has come to recover this trend through research in frontier areas of technology, engineering and science, Mukherjee said. As IIT system has seen an increase of new institutes and increase in number of seats, he asked the established and old IITs to provide the same kind of support and hand-holding to the new IITs which they received when they were set up by friendly countries.

Read more at: <http://news.oneindia.in/new-delhi/attract-more-phd-students-pranab-iit-d-in-pics-1338517.html>











Few IIT students opting for research: President

New Delhi, Nov 9 (IANS) President Pranab Mukherjee Saturday expressed concern over few IIT students opting for research, saying this can deprive the country of a talented workforce in the long term.

"I understand that very few IIT graduates are pursuing specialised education leading to Ph.D. or any other higher degree. In the long term, this will deprive the country of the talented specialised technical personnel who are the most important assets in a knowledge economy," Mukherjee said here.

He was speaking at the annual convocation of The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi (IIT-D)

He emphasised that the Institute should devise a strategy so that more and more undergraduates enroll in post-graduate programmes.

"This country needs to produce not thousands but lakhs of Ph.D. students for India to become a technical superpower. IIT, Delhi, through its innovative schemes, can really take a lead in this direction," he said.

He urged the students to rethink about their career options.

The President said in India, against the total student strength of 71,000 in National Institutes of Technologies, there are only about 4000 Ph.D. students. In IITs, against the total student strength of 60,000, there are only around 3,000 Ph.D. students.

Mukherjee said India ranks 12th amongst the top 20 countries, in terms of publications on science and technology.

He said the country has 119 researchers in research and development per million people as compared to 715 of China and 468 of the United States.

"There is a need to improve our standing in terms of publications and researchers employed in research and development field. That is possible only if the brightest students take up research and development at a young age," he added.

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2013/11/09/332--Few-IIT-students-opting-for-research-President-.html>