

Need for intense research for developing new technologies IIT Mandi emerging : Governor

By : INVC Team Published On : 15 Mar, 2015 11:49 AM IST

✘ INVC NEWS Shimla, President of India, Shri Pranab Mukerjee who was supposed to be the Chief Guest for the Second Convocation meet of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) at Mandi today could not land due to inclement weather conditions and directly left for Baglamukhi temple in district Kangra and landed at Sapri near Jawalamukhi at around 10.30 to pay obeisance at Baglamukhi Temple. However, Chairman, Board of Governors, Shri M. Natrajan read the President's speech, in which the President has exhorted the students to serve for the Nation and for the needs of common man and secure new vistas of frontier technology. The President in his message, as read by Shri Natrajan, congratulated the IIT for its convocation and achieving the desired quality of education in Scientific and Technical education and wished IIT Mandi to keep up the good name of IIT brands throughout the country and moreover, to fulfill the duty to respond to the needs of the Society. Meanwhile, Governor, Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kalyan Singh was the Chief Guest for the convocation ceremony while Chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh presided over the function. As many as 127 students were listed for being given degrees in various science and engineering streams besides six students were bestowed upon with Gold and Silver medals on the occasion. The President of India Gold Medal and the Institute Silver medal was awarded to Shoubhik Debnath by the Chief Minister. He also honoured Silver medals to Mr. Krishna Karnani and Deepak Sharma in streams of computer science and engineering. The Chief Minister also conferred upon Rani Gonsalves Medal for outstanding female B.Tech student to Ms. Damini Singal. The Governor in his convocation address stressed upon the need for intense research for developing new technologies in various sectors like agriculture, power, environment, information technology in order to ensure development of the nation and state. He said that growth in science and technology only can provide solutions to the existing problems and accelerate the pace of development. Shri Kalyan Singh lauded the contribution of IITs in the country which were not only imparting best quality education but were also doing commendable job in the field of technological research. He hoped that students of IIT Mandi would also bring laurels to the state and nation with their professional expertise. He said that whatever education you have received would depend upon how to use that to meet the future challenges and exhorted the students to have high aim in life. He said that whatever they intend to do in their life, they should be fully committed to whatever they want to do and achieve. He also stressed for preserving the culture and custom and said that if we fail to follow are traditions, he don't thinks that we can be successful in our endeavours. The Governor said that students should not only strive for achieving excellence in their fields but also sincerely work for the benefit of humanity and society. He said that they owed their success to their parents and teachers, who played a vital role in moulding them as successful professionals. He urged the students to face all kinds of challenges bravely by holding on to highest values in life. He said that best educational opportunities were available to the students as reputed institutions were set up in the state which was imparting quality education in all disciplines. Chief Minister Shri Virbhadra Singh while addressing on the occasion said that the views of the President would certainly help to meet day to day challenges of life through innovations in the field of science and technology. He congratulated the graduating students of IIT Mandi, who were being conferred degrees today. The Chief Minister said that he well understands the hard work the students have put in to reach this stage. He said that the capacity to create, organize and apply knowledge was the most important trait of every successful person today in every profession. We have to adopt the latest techniques in the fast changing trend of technological revolution and adopt the same in our day to day working, he added. In the present scenario, knowledge itself is expanding at ever greater speed and is a never ending process, he said. I am happy to learn that since its inception, this is the first of the new IITs to bag International Scientific Projects in a span of just five years and the institution is fast

expanding, he said. "It is pleasing for me to note that the sustained efforts of the State Government to support and nurture this pioneer institute has now begun to bear fruit. This certainly has long term positive implications for the development of education in the field of science and technology in our state", said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister said that IIT Mandi had recently expanded its academic curriculum to Masters Programme in Chemistry and Energy Materials. I am sure that these programs will cause rapid skill and knowledge building among the youth of Himachal Pradesh, he added. He said that the Institute had recently focused on the geographic needs of our state by initiating a program in infrastructure and civil engineering with a focus on the problems and needs of the State of Himachal. These efforts have been bolstered by other efforts of the Institute such as a project focused on developing technologies for the Himalayan region and also studying the medicinal and herbal plants in and around the Kamand valley and the region, he said. "I expect IIT Mandi to foster state-of-the-art education in the state. Having IIT in Himachal provides a good opportunity for engineering and science teachers to upgrade themselves by registering for Masters and Ph.D programmes", said the Chief Minister. "I want to say here that 'Green Energy' is a need and an opportunity for our State. I wish IIT to focus on hydro, geothermal and solar energy which are especially relevant in our State", he said adding that IIT can take the lead in energy education, energy conversion, energy policy, renewable energy technologies, distributed generation, protection of the environment, and the dissemination of useful information on energy alternatives and sustainability to users and providers of energy. He said that he was glad to know that energy was the main focus of IIT Mandi and also that it had recently introduced M. Tech. programme in Energy Materials. IIT Mandi also has a great potential to act as the hub for a hi-tech R&D park in and around the Mandi and Kamand area in future. Such a park, if established, would help provide cutting-edge research and technology to our industry and would focus on building a healthy academic-industry partnership, said the Chief Minister. Shri M.Natrajan, declared open the convocation and also read the President's Speech received through e-mail. Director, IIT, Mandi, Shri Timothy A. Gonsalves welcomed and honoured the Governor and the Chief Minister on the occasion. Health Minister, Shri Kaul Singh Thakur, Rural Development Minister, Shri Anil Sharma, Excise and Taxation Minister, Shri Prakash Chaudhary, Chief Parliamentary Secretary, Shri Sohan Lal, Member of Parliament, Mandi, Shri Ramswaroop Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Shri Tarun Shridhar, DGP, Shri Sanjay Kumar, DC Mandi, Shri Sandeep Kadam SP, Mandi Shri Mohit Chawala were also present on the occasion amongst senior officers of the State Government.

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