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'Research at IITs & IIMs doesn't address real India'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Nobel laureate and environmentalist RK Pachauri on Friday questioned the contribution of the premier IITs and IIMs besides other institutes of higher learning, on the research they have done to articulate the real interests of the country, especially pertaining to economic development. He termed these centres as places influenced more by the developed world.

"I am not pointing at any particular institute. By and large there is no excitement among them about the new economic system. Is it right to emulate the developed countries?" he asked before recalling a statement by academic and green activist Prof Madan Mohan Pant, 'The day a student joins IIT, his soul migrates to US. Four years later, the body follows'.

Pachauri was speaking at the inauguration of the International Congress of Environmental Research at RV College of Engineering in the city. Pachauri, who is also the chairperson of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), said:

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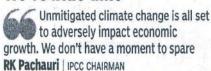
On the controversy over two expert committee reports on



protection of Western Ghats, led by K Kasturirangan and Madhav Gadgil respectively, Pachauri felt there was need for an informed public debate. "Protection of Western Ghats is a serious

environmental issue. I support the report which bats for sustaining bio-diversity in the ghats. However, there needs to be wider debate on both the reports," he added.

We've little time



"India never really had the economic growth in the context of what people need. Unmitigated climate change is all set to adversely impact economic growth. We don't have a moment to spare. I have decided to mobilize youth from all over the world to work towards tackling elemate change. Because it is their future which is at stake," he added.

Quoting the IPCC report, he said the impact of climate change is clear on the globe and last three decades have been the warmest since 1850. He warned the gathering about the possible disasters in food and water shortage, increase in poverty, coastal flooding and so on due to modern lifestyles.

Society to blame: Pachauri

Speaking to TOI, Pachauri said the government should understand the science behind climate change as it gears upforthe global climate summit in Paris next year. "And it's not just the government role. We as a society have to blame ourselves if we don't put pressure on the government to take right decisions while dealing with climate change. We should not forget that we are in a democracy," he added.

Pachauri addresses ICER Conference@RVCE

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