

Widen services to rope in all, Prez tells bankers

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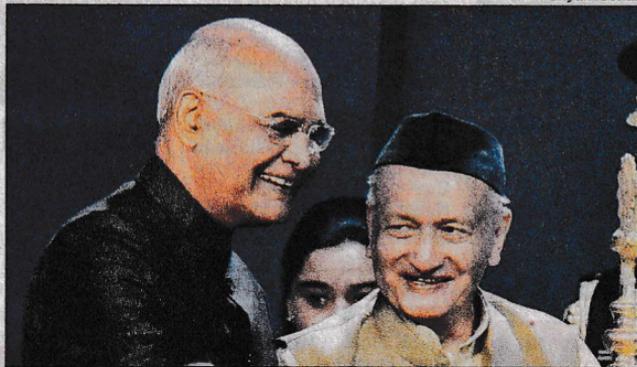
Pune: President Ram Nath Kovind has said that bankers must look at including all citizens in the banking services net.

“I would urge them not to leave any one behind. This is also the best way of gaining market depth and de-risking operations,” he said at the golden jubilee celebration of National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) in Pune on Wednesday.

The President urged bankers to focus on providing for the banking needs of divyang (physically challenged) and enhance gender diversity.

“Banks must take proactive measures to bring greater gender parity in ownership of financial assets. Divyang are more than 2% of our population and we have to make every effort to fully integrate them in the financial mainstream,” he said.

He said the Jan Dhan Yojana had taken banking services to the unbanked. “Never before have so many been brought into the fold of the formal financial system. Nearly 35 crore bank accounts have been opened, larger than the population of countries except ours and China’s,” Kovind added.



President Ram Nath Kovind (left) and governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari at the golden jubilee celebration of NIBM on Wednesday

‘Orient research towards unbanked’

Pune: President Ram Nath Kovind commended NIBM for training more than one lakh bankers and contributing immensely to building the country’s “soft power” abroad.

“It was the foresight of Reserve Bank of India and banks to set up the National Institute of Bank Management for capacity building,” Kovind said.

He suggested that NIBM design tool kits for banks to increase financial awareness among women and the institute play a crucial role in achieving the \$5 trillion economy target.

“The banking sector has to start preparing for the next big leap. NIBM can take responsibility of creating a pool of trained human resource personnel skilled to serve banking institutions of global standards,” he said. TNN

“Deep involvement of those at the bottom of the ladder requires display of empathy and compassion by the bankers. This needs greater engagement from banks with our underprivileged population and an attitudinal change,”

he said.

The President said the goal of \$5 trillion GDP mainly involves “banking with the unbanked” and “securing the unsecured”. India should just more than one bank in the global list of top 100, he added.