

Chandigarh Region all set for ‘CRIKC Technology Club’

To strengthen the innovation ecosystem of India, DST-Centre for Policy Research (CPR) at Panjab University, Chandigarh, in collaboration with Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) organized a ‘Roundtable Meet’ entitled ‘Challenges in Technology Commercialization’ in Punjab University, Chandigarh.

The keynote speaker, Professor R K Sinha, Director, CSIR-Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), deliberated upon the technology commercialization ecosystem of CSIO. He addressed the Individual-level, Technological level, Organizational level, and National level challenges faced in technology transfer.

He further emphasized the fact that the government is focusing more on administrative issues, whereas, to enhance the technology commercialization, technical issues need to be given more importance. Professor Sinha also added that, for an effective technology transfer ecosystem, strong Industry-Academia linkages are of paramount importance.

He also dwelled upon the reasons for the stupendous success of CSIO for transferring technologies to the industries. This success, he said, was due to high caliber scientists ably supported by technical staff and the presence of high-end instruments. He also emphasized that institutions should be headed by champion leaders who are not only professionally competent but also have leadership capabilities.



Professor Shyam Sunder Pattnaik, Director, National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh, Guest of Honour of the event, expressed his views regarding the integration of industries and institutes, wherein the industry can provide financial and business support to the academia which in turn will help in resolving their research problems. He shared the initiatives taken at NITTTR to engage industry with academia. He further added that universities absorbing superannuated scientists tend to attract more funding from the public and private sectors.

Professor Rajkumar, Vice-Chancellor, Panjab University, Chandigarh, encouraged the academicians to undertake industry-oriented research and engage industry personnel in the academic activities. He also urged the gathering for an Industry-Academia club under the aegis of CRIKC.

The highlight of the event organized on February 1, 2020, was a Roundtable Meet on the challenges in strengthening the technology commercialization ecosystem. The technology experts from 15 CRIKC member institutes (IIT-Ropar, Panjab University-Chandigarh, IISER-Mohali, PEC-Chandigarh, NITTTR-Chandigarh, Chitkara University-Chandigarh, CSIR-IMTECH, CSIR-CSIO, NIPER-Mohali, NABI-Mohali, CIAB-Mohali, C-DAC-Mohali, SCL-Mohali, PSCST-Chandigarh, and Maharaja Aggrasen University-Baddi) deliberated on the gaps existing in technology commercialization and also provided solutions to most of these challenges.

In addition, the participants came up with several concrete recommendations to be forwarded to the government for consideration in preparing the draft for 'Technology led Innovation Policy, 2020' of India; and promoting innovation ecosystem in the institutes of Chandigarh region.

The august gathering unanimously agreed for the creation of the 'CRIKC Technology Club' under the guidance of Dr. S S Pattnaik and in association with DST-CPR. This Club will have a number of sector-agnostic Industry-Academia Sub-clubs. Dr. Pattnaik, along with a few experts from industry and academia, will lay down the roadmap of the activities pertaining to industry-academia.

Professor Rupinder Tewari, Coordinator, DST-CPR, introduced the genesis of the idea of this meet. He shared with the audience the recommendations submitted by the DST-CPR to the Ministry of Science & Technology, which have been carried forward at the national level for enhancing the Industry-Academia R&D ecosystem in India.