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Govt asks industry to pitch in higher R&D budget and support startups

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IIT-D to start M-tech in Robotics this year and appealed to industry to support this mission



Government said that it is mulling over making Indian Patent Act more simplified and research friendly for product-oriented results.

Addressing the Global Science, Research and Innovation Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) titled “Fostering Science, Research and Innovation Partnerships’ under the aegis of the India’s G20 Presidency at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D), Dr Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Adviser at the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India said, while India grants average of 23,000 patents per annum, despite having over 1000 Universities, it is over 5 lakhs in China. He said, India lacks the culture of Patents filing and taking it to its logical conclusion.

Dr Gupta, who is also Secretary of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) said that time duration of patents filing and grant of patents is 3 years in India, while the global average is two years.

Referring to around 0.69 percent of budget being spent on R&D in India, Dr Gupta said, private sector must pitch in with higher research allocation to match and support government for a win-win proposition.

Dr Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary in the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India said, "out of 90,000 startups in India, only 12,000 are technology-based and also only about 3,000 of them are deep tech startups." She said, unless industry will not lend funding support to innovative and bright ideas, India will miss the bus, which is now on its way to full bloom.

Prof K.P Sudheer, Ex-Officio Principal Secretary, S&T Department, Government of Kerala in his address said that 4 Science Parks will be established in Kerala in coming days with participation from Industry and startups. He also informed that Kerala is the only state in the country with a separate R&D budget document and this year the allocation was Rs 3500 crore.

Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, IIT-D in his address announced that IIT-D will start M-tech in Robotics this year and appealed to Industry to support this mission. He said, CII should work with Industry to sponsor at least 300 to 400 PhD through a new model to develop market ready products.