

Editorial



EDITORIAL

There is a large gap between the technologies and research developed in laboratories and its commercialization to be put to use for the benefit of larger economy. Academics dealing with the research and innovation are lacking the linkage between industries and commercializing units. Whereas in industrial organization there are built in mechanism to translate the research to the market.

Researchers in India are heading towards the blue-sky research and not toward the application- oriented research and believe that commercialization involves the standard beneath their value system. We need to have mechanisms, policies and people able to facilitate effective technology commercialization. Another reason is how scientists are evaluated; their technology-based achievements are seldom recognized. Under these conditions, it is difficult to convince a scientist toward commercialization.

In addition to this, the lack of transparent policies on protection of intellectual property, technology transfer and commercialization do not encourage filing of patents and hinder commercialization efforts. Somehow less awareness of the process and the merits/demerits of patenting is also contributing towards creating the gap.

In May 2009, DSIR (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) has taken an initiative to promote technology startups and for research institutions to hold equity in startups. But more provisions should be given in-addition to the seeding of research ideas, transparency, policies, awareness, funding and future oriented applications.

Improving innovation productivity from research institutions in India needs a multi-stepped approach rooted in various issues in transfer of innovation and technology to the market.

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