

# **Minutes of Meeting of the webinar on ‘STI Based Public-Private Partnerships in India: Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) an exemplary PPP model’**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Organized by**

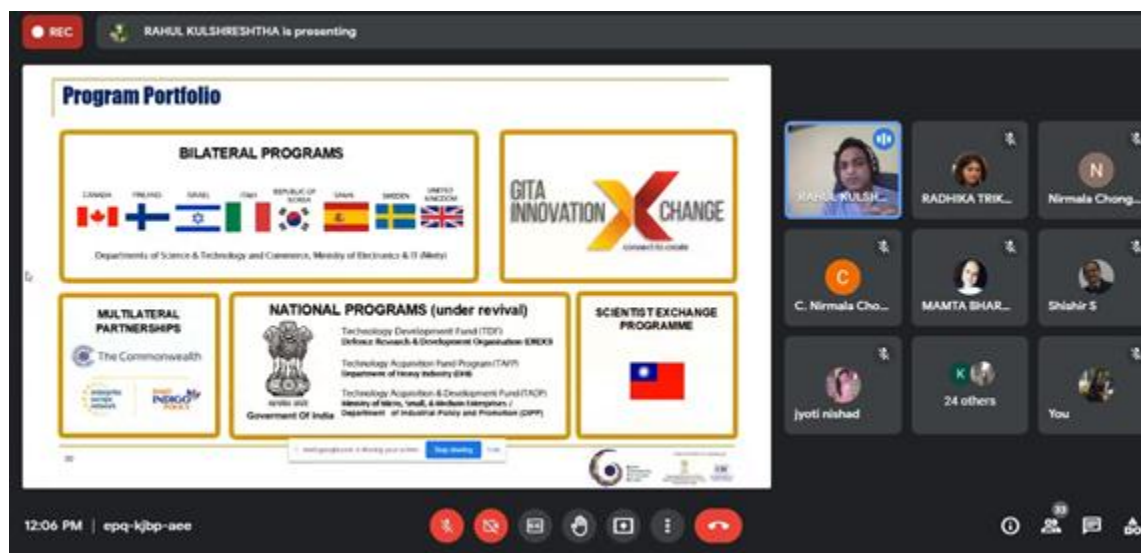
**DST-Centre for Policy Research (CPR) at Panjab University, Chandigarh**

**Speaker:** Mr. Rahul Kulshreshtha, Head Strategic Project Management, Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA), New Delhi

A webinar to sensitize policymakers, academicians and researchers about technology transfer, commercialization and various Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) models was conducted by DST-CPR on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2021. The webinar was aimed at motivating and guiding the researchers, academicians, industries and entrepreneurs about the significance of PPP models for scientific innovations. Dr. Radhika Trikha (Senior Policy Fellow, DST-CPR) opened the session by highlighting the objective of this webinar which was to sensitize the researchers of Panjab University about technology transfer, commercialization and paradigm approach of various PPP models that will help them to get their research work acknowledged. Prof. C. Nirmala (Coordinator, DST-CPR) officially welcomed all the participants and thanked the special invitee, Prof. Rajesh Gill, Dean Social Science Research, Panjab University, Chandigarh for sparing her valuable time to make significant contributions for this webinar. The special invitee Prof. Rajesh Gill, Dean Research Sciences mentioned the importance of ventures on PPP models to have synergy with industries for having replica and implementation of research projects of Panjab University with a social impact.

Dr. Radhika Trikha introduced the speaker and briefed the audience about GITA. The speaker, Mr. Rahul had started his career in Chemical Engineering and worked in Industries for 8 years

mainly in commissioning, Erection & stabilization in manufacturing plants. In 2015, he diversified his career and joined an innovative platform “GITA” which is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) between Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India (GoI) and India’s apex industry association Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Currently, he is responsible for managing International collaboration Industrial R&D programmes for 8 countries like Israel, Sweden, South Korea, Italy, Spain, Canada etc. and other national programmes under MSME, DRDO & DHI.

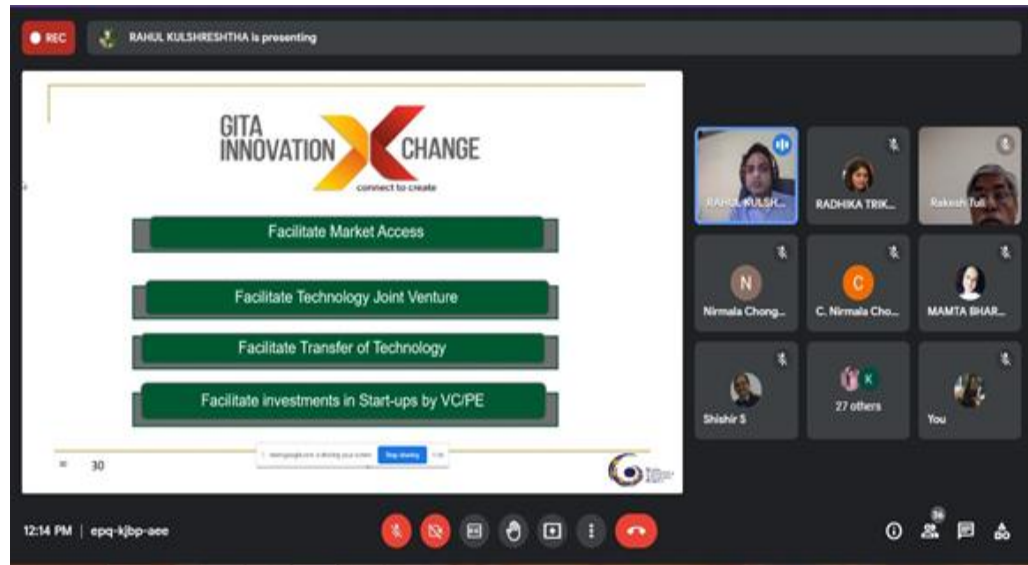


Mr. Rahul initiated his talk by elucidating the Genesis of GITA. GITA aims to strengthen the scientific ecosystem through capacity building and funding projects. He mentioned that in spite of multiple stakeholders in Indian ecosystem, a major gap in the global innovation system and in our country is the inadequate government's role in R&D. Other countries have novel innovation strategies coupled with the government's flexibility in accepting, recommending and implementing suitable policies. However, he highlighted that the recently initiated national research foundation is a good step by the government in this direction and to obviate this barrier.

He discussed the following key features during his talk:

- Ø Incentivizing private partnership in R&D is a mandatory step to facilitate efficiency of Indian R&D.
- Ø Encourage monetization of Intellectual Property (IP) through appropriate laws and benefits.

- Ø Most of the researchers invest funds on fundamental and basic research, but research should be applied research and should be connected through the market.
- Ø Need of well-established transfer offices and venture capitalists with industrial participation should be encouraged to achieve above mentioned aims and objectives.
- Ø We need to boost up in the manufacturing and agriculture sector. This will come through venture capital.
- Ø There are around 260 incubators in India, but when we talk about the survival rate of startups, it is very less because of the low innovation system.
- Ø Global Innovation Index (GII) has escalated, but more focus needs to be put on the innovation ecosystem and entrepreneurs. The various innovation index parameters like R&D expenditure, percentage of GDP, Hi-Tech export, and patents filed, etc. should be looked upon, evaluated and monitored carefully.
- Ø We have the necessary infrastructure for incentivizing R&D, but the innovation system needs to be boosted up. The main core strength in R&D is the manufacturing sector. Therefore, industries should also work with academicians and researchers on innovation and IP generation.
- Ø Number of patents filed in our country has increased but 70 % of patents are coming from non-residents. To boost the innovation system from industries and researchers, contributions from private industries should also come up in R&D. E.g. South Korea has recently come up among the top 10 countries in GERD in the world.
- Ø In India, the contribution of the government is ~52 % and industries is ~ 48 %. This is unlike other countries where contribution from the private sector is more as compared to the public sector.



While addressing gap analysis of GITA parameters, Mr. Rahul mentioned the following parameters:

- Availability of scientists and engineers.
- Rate of growth of annual manufacturing exports
- Overall innovation ecosystem
- Quality of research institutes
- Industry-industry collaboration for joint R&D.

GITA program portfolio: Bilateral programs, scientists list, exchange program (especially Taiwan scientists), Multinational program TDF, TAFP, etc. GITA is working with almost all the fields and driving innovation led competitiveness through funding and utilizing appropriate prototypes. GITA works with international governments in which 25 % of the risk is shared by GITA. Concluding his talk, Mr. Rahul demonstrated success stories of GITA through videos and shared the link of the same with participants for further references.

After completion of the talk, a question/ answer session was taken by Ms. Mamta Bhardwaj (Sr. Scientist C). A significant view on exploring PPPs for revamping Indian STI terrain was also shared by Dr. Rakesh Tuli, Senior Research Advisor & J C Bose Fellow, Panjab University, Chandigarh and Dr. Shishir Shrotriya, Councillor of S&T, Embassy of India, Moscow, Russia during question/answer session. While responding to the queries of the participants, Mr. Rahul added that self-sustainable is a challenge for GITA. A model of royalty and revolving fund is required for sustainability. A lot of integration and joining hands is required to achieve this aim. To fill the gap between R&D and social impact, there is a need to have international academia and industries, which have more expertise in this domain and can supervise in this regard.

Prof. C. Nirmala, Coordinator, DST-CPR thanked the speaker for sharing his valuable views and to enlighten our audience. She emphasized the significance of team work of academicians, researchers and industrialists for enabling PPP in plugging India amongst global rankings. She also added that funding agencies also sometimes get incentivized through brand names and avoid risky behavior in accepting novel ideas, which acts as a gap in the proliferation of an innovative project. She also mentioned that the current challenge in R&D of India is that researchers are working in silos and are unaware of marketing strategies, IPR, patents, etc.

Therefore, there is an imperative need to sensitize researchers and academicians in this domain to make their research a contributing factor in industries and commercialization process.

The webinar was concluded with an official vote of thanks by Prof. C. Nirmala to the speaker, our worthy vice chancellor, Prof. Raj Kumar, Prof. Rajesh Gill, Dean Research, Social Sciences, all the participants and DST-CPR team for making their valuable contribution for successful completion of this event.