

# G20 Seminar on Strengthening Research and Promoting Innovation through richer Collaboration held at Amritsar

Seminar focused on bridging the gap between government-academia-industry linkages for designing solutions to address global challenges

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India's G20 Presidency took centre stage at Khalsa College, Amritsar, where IIT Ropar under Ministry of Education hosted a seminar on 'Strengthening Research and Promoting Innovation through Richer Collaboration.' The event brought together delegates from the G20 Education Working Group to discuss the future of work and innovation, with a focus on building bridges across nations for equitable development.



Prof. Rajeev Ahuja, Director of IIT Ropar, welcomed the participants and highlighted India's opportunity to establish itself as a leader in research and innovation globally.

Sh. K. Sanjay Murthy, Secretary, Higher Education attended the event and emphasized on the importance of collaboration in research for achieving Sustainable Development. Prof. Govind

Rangarajan, Director, IISC shared enlightening thoughts on interdependency of domains and interdisciplinary action for solving problems. He also highlighted India's frugal innovations, which have the potential to solve problems of the developed world, and the need to acknowledge and use grassroots innovation.

Prof. Budaraju Srinivasa Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad, stressed on the need of synergy between government- academia-industry to find solutions to pressing world problems. He highlighted that the National Education Policy 2020 has brought in path breaking reforms in education in India, and various programmes are helping promote cross-institutional collaboration in the country such as I-STEM portal, IInvenTive IIT-R&D fair etc.



The first panel titled 'Research in Emerging and Disruptive Technologies, Industry –4.0' moderated by Prof. Anil Gupta and chaired by Prof. Rajeev Ahuja brought together panelists from Australia, France, India and UK who shared pertinent insights on the role of various stakeholders to promote research on the emerging innovations, their impact on education systems and society in general.

The second panel on 'Research in Sustainable Development Goals' chaired by Prof. Shalini Bharat with panelists representing China, Oman, South Africa , UAE and UNICEF laid importance on enhancing the capacities of universities being the core of research

One of the panelists, Ms. Alison Dell, Assistant Secretary, Australian Government Department of Education, discussed about the National Collaborative infrastructure scheme in her country and what her government has been doing in moving towards applied research. She emphasized on the importance of international collaboration in research and innovation, highlighting the successful partnerships between Australian and Indian institutions in the past. She expressed her hope that such collaborations would continue to thrive and contribute to the sustainable development of both nations.

The seminar focused on bridging the gap between government-academia-industry linkages for designing solutions for addressing global challenges. There is a need for bringing multidisciplinary in education. The discussion reached a consensus that Research Collaboration is need of the hour and countries/Institutions need to break silos to promote translational research for achieving the sustainable development goals just as they did during the Covid 19 pandemic. There's also a need to establish frameworks for sharing research data and outputs. G20 countries should also work towards establishing a common framework for effective use of emerging and disruptive technologies to address global challenges.

The seminar concluded with an address from the Chief Minister of Punjab, Shri Bhagwant Mann. He welcomed the delegates and emphasized on the importance of education and innovation. He invited the participants to try Punjabi food and experience the rich culture of the state. Shri Mann also expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for giving Punjab the opportunity to host the G20 2nd Education Working Group meeting.

The seminar was followed with lunch and cultural performances to enthrall the G20 delegates. There is also multimedia exhibition being organised on the side-lines featuring participation from industry, academia, and start-up initiatives. It will be open to local institutions, students, academicians, and researchers on the 16th and 17th of March.

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