Disconnect between R&D and delivery system, says expert

R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Union government, has said that there is a strong disconnect between research, development, and delivery system in the country that is being looked into by the government.

He was inaugurating a three-day international conference on ‘Wireless technologies for humanitarian relief,’ organised by the Centre for Wireless Networks and Applications of Amrita University, at Amritapuri, near here, on Monday. “One of the reasons for this disconnect is the perceived disequilibrium between academic achievements and inability of the corporate sector to commercially exploit them,” Dr. Chidambaram said. He said the delivery of research and development invariably failed in rural areas owing to the inability to have a dialogue that could be understood by the rural people. Measures were being proposed for the involvement of local people in the application and delivery of research and development (R&D) innovations.

He stressed the need for wireless technologies for e-governance, disaster management, telemedicine, electronic education, utilities sector, child-elder tracking, and drug delivery.

He said the National Knowledge Network (NKN) was an optical fibre network through which the government wanted to connect all knowledge-related institutions in the country. In his welcome address, P. Venkat Rangan, Vice Chancellor of Amrita University, said Mata Amritanandamayi had been the driving force behind the success of the university in applying technology for humanitarian work.

In his address, Swami Amritaswaroopananda Puri spoke on the relationship between science and spirituality, and said that far from being competitive they were collaborative in their search for human well-being. Nearly 250 delegates from 15 countries are participating in the conference.