



Confederation of Indian Industry

CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards 2026

Co-Creating India 2047

**Honoring Partnerships Advancing India’s Development through
Research, Innovation and Impact.**

The CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards 2026 recognise and celebrate exemplary collaborations that transform research into innovation, knowledge into enterprise, and partnerships into national progress.

The Vision

India’s aspiration to become a developed, innovation-driven economy by 2047 requires a fundamental shift in how knowledge, research and enterprise interact. Deep partnerships between industry, academia, research institutions and startups will play a defining role in shaping India’s innovation ecosystem.

-  Increasing national R&D intensity
-  Building globally competitive industries
-  Strengthening technology sovereignty
-  Accelerating commercialization of research
-  Developing a future-ready workforce

Why Industry–Academia Collaboration Matters Now

India stands at a pivotal moment in its development journey. As the nation advances toward its vision of becoming a **developed, innovation-driven economy by 2047**, strengthening the connection between **knowledge creation and industrial application** has become more critical than ever.

While India has made remarkable progress in science, technology, and entrepreneurship, **bridging the gap between research and real-world deployment remains a national priority.**

Effective partnerships between industry and academia are essential to unlock the full potential of India’s innovation ecosystem.

Indicator	Current Status	Strategic Goal
R&D Investment	~0.7% of GDP	2.5% by 2030 4% by 2047
Industry Needs	Advanced research and skilled talent	Stronger collaboration with academia
Academia Needs	Research excellence	Market pathways and commercialization

When **industry and academia collaborate effectively**, the innovation cycle accelerates:

Research → Innovation → Products & Enterprises → Economic Growth & Societal Impact

Such partnerships ensure that research moves beyond laboratories to **solve real-world challenges, create new industries, and drive national competitiveness.**

About the Awards

The **CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards 2026** recognize and celebrate exemplary leadership and institutions from **industry, academia, section 8 company and research** institutions that are building high-impact and sustainable partnerships in **research, development, and innovation.**

The Awards aim to spotlight collaboration models that deliver **measurable outcomes**, encourage **market-relevant research**, and promote **industry-aligned skill development** for the next generation of innovators.

Through this initiative, CII seeks to showcase how industry–academia partnerships can become a **strategic driver of competitiveness, technological advancement, and inclusive growth.**

By celebrating successful collaborations and inspiring wider replication across sectors, the Awards strengthen the bridge between **knowledge creation and industrial application**, accelerating **India’s journey toward an innovation-led economy.**

Key Dimensions of Collaboration

The Awards recognize partnerships that create tangible impact across the innovation ecosystem.

Collaboration Dimension	Impact
Joint Research & Development	Breakthrough technologies and solutions
Intellectual Property Creation	Patents, technology platforms and knowledge assets

Collaboration Dimension	Impact
Commercialization	Market-ready innovations and technology transfer
Talent Development	Industry-aligned skills and experiential learning
Ecosystem Building	Sustainable research–industry collaboration networks

Why Participate?

Benefits for Applicants

- ❖ Opportunity to foster innovation driven culture within Org.
 - ❖ Structured evaluation for benchmarking & jury feedback
 - ❖ Networking with innovation ecosystem leaders
 - ❖ Positioning as a collaboration-driven organisation

Benefits for Winners

- ❖ National visibility
- ❖ Recognition of exemplary Org. vision & forward-looking leadership
- ❖ Feature in the first of its kind compendium - CII Industry–Academia Excellence Compendium widely circulated among industry, academia and innovation ecosystems
 - ❖ Media and digital amplification across CII platforms
 - ❖ Right to use Award Winner branding
 - ❖ Trophy and Certificate of Excellence

Who Can Apply

The **CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards 2026** are open to organizations that are actively building meaningful collaborations

between **industry, academia, and research institutions** to drive innovation, research excellence, and real-world impact.

Eligible applicants include:

Category	Eligible Participants
Large Industry	Large enterprises sponsoring or funding research collaborations with Indian academic institutions
MSMEs	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises supporting research, innovation, or technology partnerships with academia
Academic Institutions	Indian universities and higher education institutions partnering with industry and/or MSMEs
Section 8 Companies	Not-for-profit organisations engaged in research, innovation, and industry-academia collaboration
Research Institutions	National laboratories and research organisations working with industry to translate research into application
Centres of Excellence (CoEs)	Specialised research or innovation centres collaborating with industry and MSMEs

These diverse stakeholders together form the **foundation of India's collaborative innovation ecosystem**, where knowledge, technology, and enterprise converge to address real-world challenges and drive sustainable economic growth.

Application Categories

Applications are invited from organizations across **industry, academia, and the innovation ecosystem** that are driving impactful **industry-academia partnerships in research, innovation, and technology development.**

1. Industry

Large Enterprises – Service | Manufacturing

MSMEs – Service | Manufacturing

2. Section 8 Organizations

Research Parks / Incubators

Accelerators

3. Academia (*Public & Private Institutions*)

Colleges:

Engineering | Science | Architecture | Pharma | Medical | Dental |

Agriculture & Allied | MBA | Design | Polytechnic

Other Institutions:

Research Labs / Institutions | Centers of Excellence (COEs)

Award Recognition

Recognition Levels

 **Platinum**

 **Diamond**

 **Gold**

Award Categories

Industry

- **Large Enterprises** – Service | Manufacturing
 - **MSMEs** – Service | Manufacturing

Section 8 Organizations

- **Research Parks / Incubators**
 - **Accelerators**

Academia (*Public & Private Institutions*)

Engineering | Science | Architecture | Pharma | Medical | Dental |
Agriculture & Allied | MBA | Design | Polytechnic

Special Recognition Awards

★ **Outstanding Achievement Award**

Recognizing the **highest number of Intellectual Property commercialization** through Industry–Academia partnerships.

★ **Industry–Academia Partnership Impact Award**

Honoring collaborations that demonstrate **exceptional technological, societal, or economic impact**.

Evaluation Framework

1. Application Screening
2. Technical & Impact Assessment
3. Jury Shortlisting
4. Jury Assessment & Validation
5. Grand Jury

Application Submission Process

1. Register & use emailed credentials to log into the portal
2. Fill the online application & Submit

3. Make payment towards service fee (as mentioned below)
4. Start with the assessment process

Schedule (Tentative)

Milestone	Timeline
Applications Open	April 2026
Application Deadline	June 2026
Assessor Interaction	June-July 2026
Grand Jury	Tues, 25 August 2026
Award Ceremony	Fri, 27 November 2026

Application Fee

Applicant Category	Fee
Large Industry	INR 1,00,000 + GST
All Other Applicants <i>(MSMEs, Pvt. Academia, Pvt. Research Institutions, Section 8 Organizations)</i>	INR 65,000 + GST
Public - Academia, Research Institutions & Labs, CoEs	INR 45,000 + GST

GST applicable as per Government of India regulations.

Reflections from Past Editions

Over the years, the CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards have recognized inspiring collaborations that bridge research excellence and industrial innovation.

Past editions have showcased partnerships delivering breakthrough technologies, impactful research outcomes, industry-ready talent, and successful commercialization of ideas.

These collaborations demonstrate how industry and academia together can drive innovation, strengthen India’s research ecosystem, and accelerate economic growth

The 2025 Edition



Release of the CII Industry–Academia Partnership Compendium by Hon’ble Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, highlighting impactful collaboration and research-led







Contact & Apply

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Terms & Condition

I. The CII Industry-Academia Partnership Awards reserve the right to refuse or reject any entry that fails to meet the eligibility criteria at any stage of the awards process.

II. The fee is non-refundable, non-adjustable, non-transferable, and applicable as a one-time payment. Upon payment, the receipt must be submitted along with the duly filled application form. No separate evaluation fee will be charged for different stages of the assessment.

III. Application fees at any level are strictly non-refundable under any circumstances.

IV. All decisions are at the sole discretion of the CII Industry-Academia Partnership Awards. No correspondence or appeals regarding the decisions will be entertained.

V. Applicants may withdraw their application at any point during the award process; however, participation fees will not be refunded.

VI. All personal or sensitive information provided will be treated as confidential.

VII. Claims made by applicants such as "unique," "world first," "one of a kind," or "owned by" must be substantiated. The CII Industry-Academia Partnership Awards reserve the right to request additional evidence.

VIII. Titles conferred by the CII Industry-Academia Partnership Awards may be revoked if the information supplied is later found to be incorrect.

IX. The decision of the Jury is final and binding, and no correspondence will be entertained.

X. Inputs submitted in the initial or main application forms may be used for the CII Industry-Academia Compendium and other promotional materials.

XI. All submission materials and accompanying documentation must be written in English.

XII. By applying, the applicant agrees to abide by all the terms and conditions mentioned above.