



Confederation of Indian Industry

GLOBAL SUMMIT ON INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA PARTNERSHIP 2026

Industry-Inspired University Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Breaking Silos. Accelerating Market-Relevant R&D. Building India's Innovation Economy.

Friday, 27 November 2026 | New Delhi

1. Strategic Context

India has entered a decisive decade in its journey to become a global innovation economy. While the country has built strong scientific capabilities, world-class talent and research institutions, the next phase of growth depends on translating research into technologies, startups, products and globally competitive enterprises. The opportunity is no longer just to generate knowledge, but to accelerate its journey from laboratory to market. For industry, future competitiveness will increasingly depend on accessing innovation beyond corporate R&D. Universities are a vast yet underutilized source of breakthrough technologies, scientific talent, research infrastructure and deep-tech ventures. Harnessing this potential can accelerate innovation, reduce R&D costs, shorten development cycles and create new growth opportunities. For universities, stronger industry engagement enables research commercialization, faculty entrepreneurship, global partnerships and sustainable research funding, while allowing students and researchers to address real-world challenges. However, these opportunities remain constrained by a fragmented ecosystem. Information asymmetry, limited visibility of university capabilities, weak technology transfer, uneven commercialization readiness and limited access to capital continue to hinder collaboration. The strategic imperative is to move beyond isolated partnerships towards a connected innovation ecosystem where industry, universities, venture capital, government and research institutions collaborate through structured, scalable and outcome-oriented partnerships.

2. The 2026 Opportunity: From Collaboration to Commercialization

The 2026 Summit marks the next phase of CII's Industry–Academia Partnership journey. The conversation is no longer simply whether industry and academia should collaborate, but how collaboration can create measurable economic, technological and societal value. The Summit will seek to address six strategic questions:

- How can industry gain earlier and easier access to university technologies, talent and research capabilities that strengthen business competitiveness?
- What policy, institutional and process reforms can improve the ease, speed and predictability of industry–academia partnerships?
- How can India build a stronger national pipeline of commercialization-ready technologies and research-led startups capable of attracting industry adoption, capital and global scale?
- How can fiscal incentives, technology transfer frameworks and innovation policies encourage greater private-sector investment in R&D?
- How can universities convert high-potential research into technologies, ventures and solutions that industry can adopt, license or co-develop?
- How can promising university startups become more visible, investible and connected to corporate markets and venture capital?

3. Strategic Objectives

For Industry

Access Innovation Beyond Corporate R&D

Discover emerging university technologies, faculty expertise, research capabilities and high-potential startups that can accelerate innovation, strengthen competitiveness and create new business opportunities.

Partner & Shape the Ecosystem

Build strategic partnerships while contributing to policy and institutional reforms that enable faster, more effective industry-led R&D and innovation.

For Venture Capitalists

Discover the Next Generation of Innovation

Gain curated access to commercialization-ready university startups and faculty-led ventures before they reach mainstream visibility.

Invest Earlier, Scale Faster

Evaluate high-potential ventures for investment while helping build India's pipeline of deep-tech and research-led enterprises.

For Academia

Commercialize Research at Scale

Connect technologies, faculty entrepreneurs and university startups with industry, investors and markets to accelerate licensing, adoption and venture creation.

Build Entrepreneurial Institutions

Strengthen industry engagement, global partnerships and institutional reputation while showcasing high-impact research and innovation.

4. Key Highlights

- Leadership dialogue on Industry-Inspired University Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Policy dialogue on strengthening private-sector investment in R&D
- UVIN – University Venture Industry Network
- Technology Capability Showcase by India's leading universities and research institutions
- Faculty Entrepreneurship Forum & CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards
- Strategic networking across industry, academia, investors and government
- Release of CII policy recommendations, white papers and knowledge resources

5. Why Participate

For Industry

- Discover commercialization-ready technologies and research capabilities aligned with business priorities.
- Identify opportunities for co-development, licensing, sponsored R&D and strategic partnerships.
- Access emerging university startups before they reach mainstream markets.
- Influence policy discussions shaping India's innovation ecosystem.

For Investors

- Discover high-potential university ventures curated by CII.
- Build early access to India's next generation of research-led startups.
- Evaluate opportunities for investment, mentoring and strategic partnerships.

For Academia

- Showcase research, technologies and startups before India's leading companies and investors.
- Build partnerships for commercialization, sponsored research and global collaboration.
- Strengthen institutional visibility as an innovation-led university.

6. Core Themes

The Summit will focus on six strategic themes that strengthen India's innovation ecosystem and accelerate market-relevant R&D.

i. Policy Advocacy

Advancing practical reforms that encourage greater industry investment in R&D, strengthen technology transfer and improve the ease of industry-academia collaboration.

ii. Industry-Inspired University Innovation

Aligning university research and innovation with industry priorities to accelerate technology development, adoption and competitiveness.

iii. University Startups

Creating greater visibility and market access for high-potential university ventures through structured engagement with industry and investors.

iv. R&D Commercialization

Accelerating the transition of research into products, technologies, licensing opportunities, venture creation and industry adoption.

v. Faculty Entrepreneurship

Enabling researchers to become founders, innovators and technology leaders while strengthening the entrepreneurial culture within universities.

7. Sectoral Focus

The Summit will showcase technologies, startups and research capabilities across sectors that are strategically important for India's industrial competitiveness and innovation-led growth.

- BioScience
- HealthTech
- DeepTech
- Mobility
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Green Energy

8. UVIN – University Venture Industry Network

The **University Venture Industry Network (UVIN)** is CII's flagship platform to connect university innovation with industry demand and venture capital.

It will provide a structured mechanism for discovering commercialization-ready technologies and high-potential university startups—creating pathways for industry adoption, licensing, investment and strategic partnerships.

UVIN Innovation Pathway

Research → Technology → Startup / IP → Capital → Industry → Scale

As part of the inaugural edition, CII will recognize the inaugural cohort of:

- **Commercialization-Ready University Technologies**
- **High-Potential University Startups**
- **Faculty Entrepreneurs**

Unlike traditional startup showcases, UVIN is designed as a discovery platform connecting universities, industry and investors beyond the Summit.

9. Who Should Participate

Industry

CXOs, CTOs, Chief Innovation Officers, R&D Heads, Business Unit Leaders, Corporate Venture Capital, Strategy and Industry–Academia Partnership Leaders.

Academia

Vice Chancellors, Directors, Deans, Research Leaders, Incubator Heads, Faculty Entrepreneurs and Technology Transfer Offices.

Venture Capital & Investment Community

Venture Capital Funds, Corporate Venture Capital, Angel Networks, Family Offices, Institutional Investors and Deep-Tech Investors.

Innovation Ecosystem Enablers

Ministries, Policymakers, Funding Agencies, Research Institutions, National Laboratories and Technology Missions.

International Ecosystem

Global Universities, International Industry Associations, Multinational Corporations, Innovation Agencies, Research Funding Organizations, Venture Capital Funds, Technology Transfer Organizations, Incubators & Accelerators, Government Innovation Agencies and Strategic Global Partners.

10. Format & Engagement Model

The Summit combines strategic dialogue with practical mechanisms that accelerate partnerships, investment and research commercialization.

The programme includes:

- Leadership and keynote sessions
- Strategic plenary discussions
- Industry Leadership Forum
- Academic Leaders Roundtable
- University Venture Forum (UVIN)
- Faculty Entrepreneurship Forum

- Technology Capability Showcase
- CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards
- Curated B2B, B2A and Investor Connect meetings

11. Proposed Agenda | Friday, 27 November 2026

Time	Duration	Session
08:00 – 09:30	90 min	• Online registration verification • Inauguration of Technology & University Startup Exhibition
10:00 – 11:00	60 min	Inaugural Session & Welcome Address — Catalyzing India's Innovation Economy: Breaking the Silos, Accelerating Ease of Partnership
11:00 – 11:45	45 min	Industry Leadership Session — Innovation Beyond Corporate R&D: Why India's Next Competitive Advantage Will Be Built with Universities
11:45 – 12:30	45 min	Academic Leaders Roundtable — Beyond Rankings: Building Entrepreneurial Universities for India's Innovation Economy
12:30 – 13:15	45 min	University Venture Forum (UVIN) - Investing Before the Market Sees It: Why Venture Capital Must Look Inside Universities
13:15 – 14:00	45 min	Faculty Entrepreneurship Forum — Professor to Founder: Creating India's Next Generation of Deep-Tech Entrepreneurs
14:00 – 14:45	45 min	Networking Lunch
14:45 – 16:15	90 min	CII Industry–Academia Partnership Awards 2026 • Release of the National Compendium
16:15 – 17:15	60 min	Business Meetings & Networking High Tea

12. Strategic Partnership Opportunity

The Summit offers significantly more than event visibility. It provides access to a curated ecosystem of senior industry leaders, academic heads, investors and policymakers,

alongside opportunities for thought leadership, business and innovation access, brand leadership, policy dialogue and strategic networking.

For any query, reach out to:

1. Ms Singh: Khushbu.singh@cii.in | +91-9999-908-809
2. Ms Thakur: Priyanka.thakur@cii.in | +91-9882-693-009
3. Ms Kumari: Preeti.kumari@cii.in | +91-7032-773-446

Visit website for more information: <https://cii-industryacademia.in/>

Follow us for more updates on: [LinkedIn](#)

13. Conclusion

India's innovation ambition will be determined by how effectively research is translated into technologies, ventures and market impact. The Summit will connect industry, universities, investors and government to accelerate commercialization, competitiveness & economic growth.