CII Industry Academia Partnership Award Application 2026

About the Award

The **CII Industry–Academia Partnership Award 2026** recognizes outstanding collaborations between academic institutions and industry that demonstrate measurable impact in research, innovation, skilling, commercialization, and national development.

The award aims to:

- Encourage structured and sustainable industry–academia engagement
- Recognize institutions creating measurable economic and societal impact
- Promote innovation-driven partnerships
- Showcase replicable collaboration models
- Strengthen India's research, talent, and industry ecosystem

Purpose of This Document

This document provides a structured framework for institutions to submit quantitative and qualitative evidence of their industry–academia partnerships.

The application is divided into **two separate categories**:

1. **Technical / Science / Engineering Institutions, Pharma, Design, Architecture, Polytechnique, Colleges, Research Laboratories, and Centres of Excellence**, and
2. **MBA / Management Institutions**.

As in the previous year, the questionnaires for these two categories vary to reflect the distinct nature, scope, and engagement models of the respective institutions. This differentiation ensures a fair, relevant, and context-specific assessment aligned with each category's industry interface and academic focus.

The questionnaire is designed to assess partnerships across the following segments for the Academic Institutions:

- **Strategic National Alignment & Institutional Positioning**
- **Input / Effort** – Scale and depth of engagement
- **Outcome** – Tangible outputs and deliverables
- **Impact** – Long-term institutional, economic, and societal contribution
- **Successful and Impactful Case Study of an Industry–Academia Partnership**

Evaluation & Scoring Framework

All submissions will be evaluated based on a structured scoring framework designed to ensure transparency, comparability, and emphasis on measurable outcomes. The evaluation framework balances strategic alignment, collaboration inputs, measurable outcomes, and broader ecosystem impact.

The scoring mechanism prioritizes **evidence-based performance indicators**, ensuring that institutions demonstrating strong industry–academia collaboration outcomes are recognized.

Evaluation Segment	Description	Maximum Score
National & Organizational Positioning	Alignment with national priorities, institutional strategy, governance mechanisms, and commitment toward industry–academia collaboration.	5
Input / Effort	Scale and depth of collaboration initiatives including partnerships, faculty engagement, funding mobilization, infrastructure creation, and ecosystem facilitation.	30
Outcome	Measurable outputs resulting from collaborations such as projects executed, patents, technologies developed, startups supported, research publications, programs delivered, and partnerships completed.	50

Impact	Demonstrated economic, societal, institutional, environmental, and talent development impact resulting from industry–academia collaboration initiatives.	10
Case Study	One flagship partnership showcasing the collaboration journey, measurable outcomes, and long-term impact.	5
Total Score		**100**

Technical / Science / Engineering Institutions, Research Laboratories, Colleges, Pharma, Design, and Centres of Excellence etc.

Strategic National Alignment & Institutional Positioning

1. How is your Academic Institution aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and India's transition toward Industry 5.0?

Direction: Highlight strategic priorities, digital transformation, sustainability, innovation depth, and national competitiveness contributions.

2. How is industry–academia collaboration integrated into your academic vision, innovation strategy, and long-term learning roadmap?

Direction: *Explain how academic partnerships support R&D, product development, market expansion, or capability building.*

3. Where is industry–academia collaboration positioned within your academic structure?

Direction: Identify accountable senior leaders, business units involved, and board-level oversight (if any).

4. What formal internal governance and review mechanisms are in place to monitor and accelerate such partnerships?

Direction: *Include steering committees, review frameworks, KPIs, dashboards, periodic assessments, or structured office that facilitate such partnerships, dedicated office, team size, org. budget commitment*

5. Indicate the journey of operational model that facilitates such collaborations.

Direction: *Clarify whether funding is recurring/programmatic or project-based.*

6. Which national priority sectors does your institution contribute to through industry collaboration, and what is the scale of engagement?

Direction: *Indicate sector focus (e.g., manufacturing, clean energy, digital, biotech, etc.) and level of activity(R&D projects, consulting, scholarships, CSR, refer next section for more such avenues).*

7. What major strategic investments have been undertaken to strengthen technological depth and innovation capability?

Direction: *Include Centres of Excellence, joint labs, R&D facilities, digital infrastructure, or long-term innovation programs.*

8. How is industry integrated into your student talent pipeline strategy and career planning and mentoring?

Direction: *Include internships, apprenticeships, curriculum co-design, executive development, or structured recruitment pathways.*

9. What are the three key performance metrics used to evaluate industry–academia collaboration?

Direction: *Explain how these metrics influence leadership decisions, investment priorities, and long-term partnership strategy*

Input / Effort Assessment

Direction: Provide quantitative data for the period FY 2024–2025(last one financial years). All responses in this section must be reported category-wise under the collaboration types defined below.

1. Research and Development Project
2.Consulting by Faculty
3. Chair professorship
4. CSR
5. Technology Training Programme by Faculty for skilling
6. Centre of Excellence
7. Student (non Phd) Scholarship
8. Continuing Education Programmes
9. Management Development Programmes
10.PhD scholarship under PM fellowship
11. Joint Research Labs for Academia
12. If any other, then please specify

10. Provide the total number of active industry partnership agreements executed under each of the above categories.

11. **Provide the total number of faculty members engaged with industry under each of the above categories.**

12. **Provide the total funding (₹) received from industry under each of the above categories. Also indicate:**
    - **Total cumulative industry funding (₹).**
    - **Percentage contribution of industry funding to overall institutional research or academic revenue.**

13. **Provide the total number of patents filed (joint or exclusive) arising from industry–academia collaborations.**

Outcome Assessment

Direction: Provide quantitative data for the period FY 2024–2025(last one financial years).

14. **Provide the total number of patents granted through industry–academia partnerships under the following categories:**
    1. Jointly owned with industry
    2. Exclusively owned by the institution (arising from industry collaboration)
    3. Exclusively owned by industry (arising from institutional collaboration)

15. **Provide the total number of technologies transferred, licensed, or products commercialized through industry–academia partnerships.**
    (Indicate if revenue was generated, where applicable.)

16. **Provide the total number of joint research publications co-authored with industry partners.**

17. **Provide the number of faculty members from your institution serving in formal roles on industry Boards of Directors or in structured advisory positions.**

18. **Provide the number of industry leaders serving on your institution's governing board, academic council, or as Professors of Practice / Adjunct Faculty.**

19. **Provide the number of startups incubated at your institution that have received external industry funding (equity, grants, or strategic investment).**

Impact Assessment

Direction: Provide impact evidence for the period FY 2024–2025.
Quantify impact wherever possible and supplement with brief evidence-based

explanations. Avoid repeating raw data already submitted unless contextualizing its impact.

20. **Demonstrate the overall impact of your industry–academia partnerships at institutional and national/societal levels across the following dimensions:**

A. Talent, Skilling & Employment Impact

i. Total number of students and faculty upskilled in industry-relevant and emerging technologies through structured industry collaboration

ii. Total number of internships, apprenticeships, and structured industry immersion opportunities created

iii. Employment outcomes, quality of placements, and measurable career progression attributable to industry collaboration

iv. Number of entrepreneurial ventures and startups emerging as a direct outcome of industry collaboration

B. Innovation & Technology Impact

i. Intellectual property translated into real-world application or industry adoption

ii. Technologies developed, validated, scaled, or transferred to industry

iii. Products, processes, or solutions successfully commercialized

iv. Measurable contribution to strategic or priority sectors of the economy (e.g., advanced manufacturing, clean energy, healthcare, digital technologies, defense, agriculture, etc.)

C. Institutional Strengthening

i. Enhancement in research capability and expansion of the sponsored project portfolio attributable to industry partnerships

ii. Infrastructure, laboratories, or Centres of Excellence established or upgraded through industry collaboration

iii. Faculty capability enhancement through industry exposure and applied research

iv. Curriculum transformation aligned with industry standards and emerging skill demands

D. Societal & National Impact

i. Job creation and contribution to local or regional economic development

ii. Environmental sustainability, resource efficiency, or green innovation outcomes

iii. Support for underprivileged or marginalized communities through education and skilling initiatives

iv. Social outreach, awareness, or inclusive development initiatives enabled by industry collaboration

Successful and Impactful Industry–Academia Partnership Case Study

Direction: Describe one flagship industry–academia partnership undertaken during or active in FY 2024–2025 that demonstrates strategic alignment, measurable outcomes, and sustained impact.

This case study should clearly articulate the partnership journey from problem identification to measurable impact.

(Note: If shortlisted, this case study may be published in the CII Compendium and shared in public forums to promote best practices in industry–academia collaboration.)

21. Flagship Partnership Case Study/Project

Nature/Type of partnership:

R & D Projects/ Lab Infrastructure/CoEs

A. Institutional & Partnership Overview
Academic Institution Name:
Lead Faculty / Project Coordinator:
Industry Partner Organization Name:
Industry Project Leader:
Contact Emails (Academic & Industry Leads):
Brief Profile of the Academic Institution (max 100 words):
About the Project / Product (max 250 words):
Start Year of Partnership:
Current Status: Completed / Ongoing / Scaled / Institutionalized
Target Audience / Major Beneficiaries:

B. Financial & Technical Details
Total Project Cost (₹):
Industry Contribution (₹), if applicable:
Financial Benefits Realized (₹), if applicable:
Technology Readiness Level (TRL), if applicable:
Patents / IP Generated (if any):

C. Partnership Journey
Situation:
Task and Approach / Technology Used:
Actions Undertaken:
Results / Outcomes:
Impact:

D. Reflection, Sustainability & Ecosystem Insights
Industry–Academia Partnership Challenges Faced During the Collaboration:
Mitigation Strategies Adopted:
Key Learnings and Replicability Potential:

E. One system-level reform, policy intervention, or institutional mechanism you would recommend to further deepen and scale industry–academia partnerships in India (brief rationale and expected impact required):

MBA / Management Institutions

Strategic National Alignment & Institutional Positioning

Direction: Describe your institution's strategic positioning in industry engagement, leadership development, and national priority contributions. Focus on measurable outcomes, exemplary initiatives, and evidence wherever possible. Period: FY 2024–2025.

1. **How does your institution contribute to the vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047* through leadership capacity building, enterprise competitiveness, entrepreneurship, and innovation-driven growth?**

   Direction: *Highlight concrete initiatives, programs, or interventions in the last three years. Include measurable impact on students, executives, startups, or industry adoption.*

2. **How is industry engagement embedded within your institutional strategy, academic philosophy, and board-level governance priorities?**

   Direction: Explain how industry engagement informs curriculum, pedagogy, decision-making, and performance accountability at senior leadership and board levels.

3. **Where does industry collaboration sit within your organizational structure? Which office/centre drives it, who holds accountability, and how is performance monitored?**

   Direction: Describe reporting lines, leadership roles, dedicated offices, and review mechanisms that ensure sustained engagement.

4. **Which national priority sectors does your institution actively support through management education, consulting, applied research, executive education, and entrepreneurship initiatives?**

   Direction: List sectors (e.g., MSMEs, digital & deep tech, healthcare, sustainability) and highlight the scale of engagement number of programs, participants, or projects.

5. **What strategic initiatives have been undertaken to strengthen innovation management, entrepreneurship ecosystems, digital transformation, ESG leadership, and industry capability development?**

   Direction: Provide examples of programs, labs, industry collaborations, or executive initiatives with measurable outcomes or organizational impact.

6. **How are industry leaders integrated into curriculum design, teaching, mentoring, live projects, case development, and internships?**

   Direction: Highlight faculty involvement, visiting/professors of practice, mentorship programs, and student engagement in industry projects.

7. **What governance and review mechanisms ensure structured, measurable, and sustained industry collaboration?**

   Direction: Describe the formal review processes, evaluation committees, advisory councils, or feedback loops that monitor and improve engagement.

8. **What is the funding and revenue model for industry-linked initiatives (consulting, executive education, corporate partnerships, CSR-supported programs, internal funding)? How sustainable and diversified is it?**

   Direction: Include funding sources, recurring vs. one-off funding, and contribution to institutional revenue or program sustainability.

9. **What measurable outcomes have emerged from industry engagement (e.g., consulting impact, enterprise transformation, executive education reach, startup creation, policy contributions)?**

   Direction: Highlight outputs and outcomes over FY 2024–2025include both qualitative impact and quantitative metrics wherever possible.

10. **What are the top three internal KPIs used to evaluate industry integration and institutional impact, and how are they linked to strategic decision-making?**

    Direction: Specify key performance indicators, current performance, and how these KPIs guide leadership decisions, resource allocation, and institutional strategy.

Input / Effort Assessment

Direction : Provide quantitative data for the period FY 2024–2025(last one financial years). All responses must be reported category-wise under the collaboration types defined below.
Collaboration / Partnership Categories:

1. **Research and Development Project**
2. **Consulting by Faculty**
3. **Chair Professorship**
4. **CSR**
5. **Technology Training Programme by Faculty for Skilling**
6. **Centre of Excellence**
7. **Student (non-PhD) Scholarship**
8. **Continuing Education Programmes**
9. **Management Development Programmes**
10. **PhD Scholarship under PM Fellowship**
11. **Joint Research Labs**
12. **If any other, then please specify**

11. **Total number of active industry–academia partnership agreements executed.**

Direction: *Provide the total number of agreements executed under the categories mentioned above during FY 2022–2025. Include ongoing, completed, or multi-year agreements where applicable.*

12. Total number of faculty members engaged with industry.

Direction: Indicate the total number of faculty engaged with industry under the categories mentioned above during FY 2024–2025(consulting, teaching, mentorship, projects, etc.).

13. Total funding (₹) received from industry.

Direction: *Specify the total funding received under the categories mentioned above during FY 2024–2025. Additionally:*

- *Provide total cumulative industry funding (₹) for the institution.*
- *Indicate the contribution of industry funding to overall institutional research or academic revenue.*

Outcome Assessment

Direction: Provide quantitative data for FY 2024–2025. Focus on outcomes that demonstrate the institution's impact on industry, leadership development, entrepreneurship, and societal contributions. All responses should be reported under the collaboration categories mentioned in the Input / Effort Assessment section where applicable.

14. Total number of industry projects, consulting assignments, or transformation initiatives completed.

Direction: Indicate the total number of projects executed with industry partners, including consulting, transformation projects, or organizational impact initiatives. Highlight measurable outcomes where possible.

15. Total number of joint research, case studies, or executive education programs developed with industry.

Direction: Specify programs, case studies, or applied research projects co-created with industry partners during FY 2024–2025.

16. Number of faculty members engaged in advisory, mentorship, or consulting roles with industry.

Direction: Include faculty serving on corporate advisory boards, as mentors to startups, in consulting roles, or as industry-aligned professors of practice.

17. Number of industry leaders actively engaged in institutional governance or academic delivery.

Direction: Specify the number of industry professionals serving on governing boards, academic councils, as adjunct faculty, or in mentorship roles.

18. Total number of students, executives, or entrepreneurs who have benefited from structured industry engagement.

Direction: Include participants in executive programs, internships, live projects, industry immersion, or entrepreneurship initiatives. Highlight measurable outcomes such as placements, startup creation, or skill enhancement.

19. Number of startups/incubated ventures supported through industry collaboration.

Direction: Indicate the total number of startups or entrepreneurial ventures supported, mentored, or funded by industry partners during FY 2024–2025.

Impact Assessment

Direction: Provide impact evidence for FY 2024–2025. Quantify outcomes wherever possible and supplement them with brief, evidence-based explanations. Focus on measurable institutional, industry, and societal contributions. Avoid repeating raw data already submitted unless contextualizing its impact.

20. Demonstrate the overall impact of your industry–academia partnerships at institutional and national/societal levels across the following dimensions:

A. Talent, Skilling & Leadership Impact

i. Total number of students, executives, and faculty upskilled in industry-relevant and emerging management domains through structured collaborations
ii. Total number of internships, apprenticeships, live projects, and industry immersion opportunities created
iii. Employment outcomes, quality of placements, and measurable career progression attributable to industry engagement
iv. Number of entrepreneurial ventures and startups emerging as a direct outcome of industry collaboration

B. Innovation & Industry Impact

i. Industry-relevant research, consulting, or case studies generated
ii. Projects, processes, or organizational transformation initiatives co-created with industry
iii. Products, services, or solutions implemented in industry or marketized through collaboration
iv. Measurable contribution to strategic sectors of the economy (e.g., MSMEs, digital & deep tech, clean energy, healthcare, infrastructure, mobility, agriculture, sustainability)

C. Institutional Strengthening

i. Enhancement in faculty capability, leadership development programs, or sponsored projects attributable to industry collaboration
ii. Establishment or upgrading of executive education programs, innovation labs, incubators, or Centres of Excellence
iii. Curriculum modernization aligned with industry needs, executive skill demands, and emerging management practices
iv. Strengthening of institutional reputation, networks, or governance due to industry partnerships

D. Societal & National Impact

i. Job creation, entrepreneurship enablement, and contribution to local/regional economic development
ii. Initiatives promoting sustainability, ESG leadership, or resource efficiency
iii. Support for underprivileged or marginalized communities through education, skilling, or social impact programs
iv. Awareness campaigns, social outreach, or inclusive development initiatives enabled through industry collaboration

Successful and Impactful Industry–Academia / Industry–Management Case Study

Direction: Describe one flagship industry–academia/industry–management partnership undertaken or active during FY 2024–2025 that demonstrates strategic alignment, measurable outcomes, and sustained impact. Highlight the partnership journey from problem identification to impact, including financial, institutional, and societal contributions.

(Note: If shortlisted, this case study may be published in the CII Compendium and shared in public forums to promote best practices)

21. Flagship Partnership Case Study / Project

Nature/Type of partnership:

1. Research and Development Project
2. Consulting by Faculty
3. Chair Professorship
4. CSR
5. Technology Training Programme by Faculty for Skilling
6. Centre of Excellence
7. Student (non-PhD) Scholarship
8. Continuing Education Programmes
9. Management Development Programmes
10. PhD Scholarship under PM Fellowship
11. Joint Research Labs
12. If any other, then please specify

A. Institutional & Partnership Overview

- Academic Institution Name:
- Lead Faculty / Project Coordinator:
- Industry Partner Organization Name:
- Industry Project Leader:
- Contact Emails (Academic & Industry Leads):
- Brief Profile of the Academic Institution (max 100 words):
- About the Project / Product (max 250 words):
- Start Year of Partnership:
- Current Status: Completed / Ongoing / Scaled / Institutionalized
- Target Audience / Major Beneficiaries:

B. Financial & Management Details

- Total Project Cost (₹):
- Industry Contribution (₹), if applicable:
- Financial Benefits Realized (₹), if applicable:
- IP / Management Innovations Developed (e.g., frameworks, processes, services, or solutions implemented in industry):

C. Partnership Journey

- Situation / Context: Briefly describe the problem, opportunity, or industry challenge addressed.
- Task and Approach / Methodology Used: Specify the strategy, methods, or management frameworks applied.

- Actions Undertaken: Outline key interventions, programs, or initiatives executed.
- Results / Outcomes: Provide measurable outputs (students trained, executives impacted, projects delivered, startups incubated, consulting outputs).
- Impact: Describe institutional, industry, and societal impact supported by quantitative or qualitative evidence.

D. Reflection, Sustainability & Ecosystem Insights

- Industry–Academia Partnership Challenges Faced:
- Mitigation Strategies Adopted:
- Key Learnings and Replicability Potential:

E. Policy / System-Level Recommendation

One system-level reform, policy intervention, or institutional mechanism you would recommend to further deepen and scale industry–academia partnerships in India (brief rationale and expected impact required):