



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 industry organizations to present quantitative and qualitative evidence of their engagement in industry–academia partnerships.

This application form is specifically designed for the **industry category**, capturing the perspective, contribution, and impact generated by industry partners through collaboration with academic institutions.

As in the previous year, separate application formats have been developed for Academia and Industry to reflect the distinct roles, engagement models, and value contributions of each stakeholder. This differentiation ensures a fair, relevant, and context-specific evaluation aligned with the nature of industry participation in collaborative initiatives.

The questionnaire is designed to assess partnerships across five key dimensions from the Industry perspective:

- **Strategic National Alignment & Organizational Positioning** – Vision, mandate, and strategic intent of the partnership, including alignment with national priorities and long-term institutional/organizational integration.

- **Input / Effort** – Scale, depth, and structured mechanisms of engagement, including financial commitment, governance model, academic integration, and industry participation.
- **Outcome** – Quantifiable outputs and measurable deliverables resulting from the partnership (research outputs, talent outcomes, innovation milestones, commercialization, etc.).
- **Impact** – Sustained institutional transformation and long-term economic, industry, and societal contribution enabled by the partnership.
- **Successful and Impactful Case Study** – A representative, evidence-backed example demonstrating problem-solving, innovation, measurable results, and scalability.

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

Industry

1. Large - Service/Manufacturing

2. MSME - Service/Manufacturing

Strategic National Alignment & Organizational Positioning

Direction: Provide responses for FY 2024–2025. Demonstrate how industry–academia collaboration is embedded within your organization’s long-term strategy, governance structure, innovation roadmap, and national development commitments. Wherever possible, indicate measurable indicators or formal mechanisms.

1. How is your organization 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 corporate vision, innovation strategy, and long-term business 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 organizational 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 organization contribute to through academic 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 academia integrated into your talent pipeline strategy and workforce planning?

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 cumulative data for FY 2024–2025. Report only formal, documented engagements supported by signed agreements, official records, or audited financial transfers. Data should be verifiable and category-wise.

For Questions, use the following Categories of Engagement wherein it is Industry Sponsored/Funded:

- 1. Research & Development Projects**
- 2. Faculty Consulting**
- 3. Chair Professorships**
- 4. CSR–Academia Initiatives**
- 5. Technology Training / Skilling Programmes**
- 6. Centres of Excellence**

7. Student (Non-PhD) Scholarships
8. Continuing Education Programmes
9. Industry Sponsored Master Program
10. Management Development Programmes
11. PhD Scholarships (PM Fellowship / Industry-Supported)
12. Joint Research Laboratories
13. Any Other ()

10. Total Number of Industry–Academia Partnership Agreements Signed

Direction: Provide the number of formal agreements executed with academic institutions under Categories 1–12 during FY 2024–2025. Count only signed and active agreements within the reporting period.

11. Total Number of Faculty Engaged

Direction: Provide the number of faculty members from Indian academic institutions formally engaged in industry-sponsored activities under Categories 1–12. Include only structured engagements supported by formal documentation.

12. Total Funding Transferred to Academic Institutions

Direction: Provide the cumulative financial support (₹) transferred to academic institutions under Categories 1–12 during FY 2024–2025. Indicate actual disbursement amounts (not sanctioned or committed amounts).

13. Number of Patents Filed Through Industry–Academia Partnerships

Classify under the following:

1. Jointly Filed
2. Filed Exclusively by Industry
3. Filed Exclusively by Academic Partner
4. Any Other (please specify)

Direction: Provide the total number of patent applications filed between FY 2024–2025 arising from industry–academia collaborations.

Outcome Assessment

Direction: Provide cumulative and verifiable outputs achieved through your industry–academia partnerships during FY 2024–2025. Report only measurable outcomes that directly resulted from formal collaborative engagements.

14. Number of Patents Granted Through Industry–Academia Partnerships

Classify under the following:

1. Jointly Owned
2. Exclusively Owned by Industry
3. Exclusively Owned by Academic Partner
4. Any Other (please specify)

Direction: Include only patents formally granted between FY 2024–2025 arising from collaborative projects. (Box – Please share the details of the Patents)

15. Total Number of Technologies Transferred or Products Commercialized.

Direction: Provide the number of technologies licensed, transferred, deployed, or commercialized as a direct result of industry–academia partnerships during FY 2024–2025. (Box – Please share the details of the Technology/Products)

16. Total Number of Joint Publications Produced

Direction: Provide the total number of peer-reviewed publications, technical papers, white papers, or conference outputs jointly authored by industry and academic partners. (Box – Please share the details of the papers)

17. Total Number of Faculty Serving on Your Organization’s Board or Advisory Roles

Direction: Include academic faculty formally serving on your Board of Directors, technical advisory boards, or structured advisory committees during FY 2024–2025. (Box – Please share the details of the faculty)

18. Number of Industry Executive Leaders Serving Academic Institutions

Direction: Provide the number of senior leaders from your organization serving academic institutions as board members, adjunct faculty, guest faculty, mentors, or advisory members. (Box – Please share the details of the Leaders)

19. Number of Startups Supported Through Academic Ecosystems

Direction: Provide the number of startups funded, incubated, mentored, or otherwise supported by your organization that are hosted within academic institutions. (Box – Please share the details of the Startup)

Impact Assessment

Direction: Provide impact evidence for the period FY 2024–2025 from your organization’s perspective. Quantify impact wherever possible and supplement with brief, evidence-based explanations. Focus on how industry–academia collaboration has strengthened your organization’s competitiveness, innovation capability, talent pipeline, and contribution to national development. Avoid repeating raw data already submitted unless contextualizing its impact.

20. Demonstrate the Overall Impact of Your Industry–Academia Partnerships Across the Following Dimensions:

A. Talent, Skilling & Workforce Impact

- i. Total number of students and faculty upskilled in technologies relevant to your industry through structured collaboration
- ii. Total number of internships, apprenticeships, live projects, and structured industry immersion opportunities created by your organization
- iii. Employment outcomes attributable to your academic partnerships (e.g., campus hiring conversion rates, quality of talent acquired, retention, career progression)
- iv. Number of entrepreneurial ventures or startups supported that align with your organization’s business or innovation priorities

B. Innovation, Technology & Business Impact

- i. Intellectual property generated through collaboration that has been deployed, licensed, or integrated into your products/services
- ii. Technologies developed or validated through academic partnerships that strengthened your competitive advantage
- iii. New products, processes, digital systems, or operational improvements commercialized or implemented
- iv. Measurable contribution to priority sectors of the economy aligned with your business strategy (e.g., advanced manufacturing, clean energy, healthcare, digital technologies, defence, agriculture, etc.)

C. Organizational Capability & Strategic Strengthening

- i. Enhancement of your organization's R&D depth and sponsored research portfolio through academic engagement
- ii. Establishment or strengthening of joint laboratories, Centres of Excellence, or long-term research platforms
- iii. Capability enhancement of your technical teams through co-creation, faculty interaction, or applied research exposure
- iv. Integration of academic collaboration into your long-term innovation roadmap and strategic planning processes

D. National & Societal Contribution

- i. Direct and indirect job creation attributable to collaborative innovation and expansion
- ii. Environmental sustainability, energy efficiency, circular economy, or decarbonization outcomes achieved
- iii. Contribution to regional development, MSME strengthening, or supply-chain inclusion
- iv. Inclusive development initiatives enabled through academic collaboration (rural outreach, diversity, skilling of underrepresented groups, etc.)

Successful & Impactful Industry–Academia Partnership Case Study

Please describe one flagship industry–academia partnership that exemplifies strategic alignment, measurable outcomes, and sustained impact.

Direction: Describe one flagship industry–academia partnership undertaken or active during FY 2024–2025 that demonstrates strategic alignment, measurable outcomes, business value creation, and sustained impact. Highlight the journey from problem identification to measurable results and long-term institutionalization.

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

21. Project Title

Type of partnership

R & D Projects/ Lab Infrastructure/CoEs

A. Organizational & Partnership Overview

- **Organization Name:**
- **Brief Profile of Your Organization (Max 100 words):**
- **Project Title:**
- **Start Year of Partnership:**
- **Current Status:** Completed / Ongoing / Scaled / Institutionalized
- **Target Beneficiaries / Major Users:**
- **Industry Project Leader (Name & Designation):**
- **Email:**
- **Academic Partner Institution:**
- **Faculty Lead (Name & Designation):**
- **Email:**

B. Financial & Commercial Details

- **Total Project Cost (₹):**
- **Industry Contribution (₹):**
- **Financial or Commercial Benefits Realized (₹), if applicable:**
- **Technology Readiness Level (TRL), if applicable:**
- **Patent / IP Status:**
- **First Right to Commercialization:** Industry / Academia / Joint

C. Partnership Journey

- **Situation:** Describe the business challenge, technology gap, market opportunity, or strategic need that led to the collaboration.
- **Task & Approach:** Outline the objectives, research model, technical methodology, governance structure, and collaboration framework adopted.
- **Actions Undertaken:** Summarize key milestones, co-creation mechanisms, review processes, and implementation stages.
- **Results / Outcomes:** Provide measurable outputs such as technologies developed, patents, prototypes, pilots, commercial launches, productivity gains, cost savings, or operational improvements.
- **Impact:** Explain the long-term business, innovation, workforce, and national impact resulting from the partnership. Support with quantitative or evidence-based insights.

D. Reflection, Sustainability & Scalability

- **Key Challenges Faced During Collaboration:**
- **Mitigation Strategies Adopted:**
- **Long-Term Sustainability Model:**
- **Replicability and Scalability Across Business Units, Regions, or Industry:**

E. System-Level Recommendation to Strengthen Industry–Academia Collaboration in India

Direction: From your organization’s perspective, recommend one system-level reform, policy intervention, institutional mechanism, regulatory improvement, funding model, or governance framework that would significantly deepen and scale industry–academia partnerships in India.

Briefly outline:

- The structural gap or constraint observed
- Your recommended reform or mechanism
- The expected impact on innovation, competitiveness, talent development, or national growth
- How this intervention would enable long-term scalability and sustainability

(Recommended length: 200–300 words)