



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 the Document

This document provides a structured framework for Section 8 Companies to present quantitative and qualitative evidence of their role in facilitating, enabling, and strengthening industry–academia partnerships. This application is specifically designed for not-for-profit Section 8 entities that act as ecosystem builders, intermediaries, incubators, accelerators, or collaboration platforms connecting industry, academia, startups, and society.

Recognizing that Section 8 organizations operate differently from direct industry participants or academic institutions, this format captures their unique contribution in:

- Mobilizing and facilitating partnerships
- Enabling research and innovation ecosystems
- Strengthening academic capabilities
- Supporting startups and entrepreneurship
- Advancing social and national development goals

The questionnaire structure reflects the facilitative and ecosystem-building role of Section 8 companies commercialization for not for profit-driven outcomes.

The questionnaire is designed to assess partnerships across the following segments for the Section 8:

- **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

Strategic National Alignment & Institutional Positioning

Direction: Describe your Section 8 company’s strategic positioning in enabling industry–academia collaboration, leadership development, and contribution to national priority sectors. Highlight measurable outcomes, ecosystem-level initiatives, and evidence wherever possible. Period: FY 2024–2025.

- 1. How does your Section 8 company’s mission and long-term strategy support the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and India’s transition toward Industry 5.0 and innovation-led growth?**

Direction: Explain how your mission and multi-year strategy drive leadership development, enterprise competitiveness, innovation enablement, and national priorities. Include measurable initiatives, programs, or interventions wherever possible.

- 2. How is enabling industry–academia collaboration embedded as a core strategic mandate beyond individual projects?**

Direction: Describe the institutional mechanisms for collaboration facilitation, including dedicated teams, internal processes, partnerships, and performance accountability measures.

- 3. What ecosystem-level platforms, programs, or partnerships have you established to support national priority sectors (e.g., advanced manufacturing, MSMEs, deep tech, clean energy, healthcare, mobility, defence, agri-tech, sustainability)?**

Direction: List structured programs, networks, or partnerships. Specify scale (number of institutions, startups, faculty, or students) and sectoral focus.

- 4. What governance and funding mechanisms ensure leadership accountability, financial sustainability, and continuity of your facilitation role?**

Direction: Describe board-level oversight, leadership responsibilities, dedicated offices, recurring funding streams, and risk mitigation mechanisms that ensure sustainable operations.

- 5. What measurable systemic outcomes demonstrate your effectiveness as an industry–academia intermediary (e.g., innovation enablement, IP generation, commercialization, startup creation, infrastructure strengthening, technology**

adoption)?

Direction: Provide quantitative and qualitative outcomes, including startups supported, IP / solutions developed, labs or centers established, adoption metrics, and institutional or societal impact.

Input / Effort Assessment

Direction: Provide quantitative data for FY 2024–2025 (last one financial years). Report all responses under the collaboration / initiative categories defined below.

Collaboration / Initiative Categories:

1. Joint Research & Innovation Projects
2. Industry-sponsored R&D projects facilitated
3. CSR-funded projects facilitated
4. Faculty consulting assignments enabled
5. Chair Professorships facilitated
6. Centres of Excellence established / co-managed
7. Joint Research Labs established
8. Technology Training / Skilling Programs delivered
9. Continuing Education / Executive Education Programs
10. Startup incubation programs within academic institutions
11. Accelerator programs linked to academia
12. Scholarship programs (UG / PG / PhD) enabled
13. Startups supported
14. Any other (please specify)

6. What is the total number of Industry–Academia Partnership initiatives facilitated by your Section 8 company?

Direction: Provide category-wise totals under the Collaboration / Initiative Categories listed above. Include ongoing, completed, and multi-year initiatives facilitated during FY 2024–2025.

7. What is the total number of faculty engaged through your Section 8 company initiatives?

Direction: Provide category-wise faculty engagement data under the Collaboration / Initiative Categories listed above. Include faculty participation in research projects, mentorship to startups, training and skilling programs, incubation and accelerator support, advisory board roles, and Centre of Excellence / lab participation.

8. What is the total amount of funds mobilized, facilitated, or transferred through your Section 8 company?

Direction: Provide category-wise amounts (in INR) under the Collaboration / Initiative Categories listed above. Clearly indicate whether the funds were Direct Transfer, Facilitated, or Managed. Include research

funding, CSR contributions, incubation support, infrastructure development, scholarships, government or multilateral grants, philanthropic funding, and eligible international collaborations.

9. What infrastructure and ecosystem support has been created by your Section 8 company to enable industry–academia collaboration?

Direction: *Provide quantitative metrics for FY 2024–2025, including:*

- *Number of accelerator cohorts conducted*
- *Physical infrastructure provided (in sq. ft.)*
- *Shared labs or prototyping facilities created*
- *Number of mentors empanelled (Industry + Academia)*
- *Number of corporate partners onboarded*

10. What is the governance and leadership composition supporting your Section 8 company’s facilitation role?

Direction: *Provide quantitative details including:*

- *Total number of Academic Leaders (e.g., Vice-Chancellors, Directors, Professors, Deans, Professor of Practice or senior academic representatives) serving on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board*
- *Total number of Industry Leaders (e.g., CXOs, Founders, Managing Directors, Senior Executives, or Industry Experts) serving on the Board of Directors or Advisory Board*
- *Diversity indicators: Percentage (%) of Women on the Board/Advisory and Percentage (%) of Women in senior management or leadership positions*

Outcome Assessment

Direction: Provide quantitative and qualitative outcomes for FY 2024–2025 that demonstrate the impact of your Section 8 company in facilitating industry–academia partnerships. Focus on measurable outputs related to innovation, knowledge generation, startup ecosystem development, skill enhancement, academic integration, and societal or national priority contributions. Report only outcomes **directly attributable** to initiatives facilitated by your organization.

11. What measurable innovation, knowledge, or non-commercial technology outcomes have resulted from the industry–academia partnerships facilitated by your Section 8 company?

Direction: Include technologies or solutions developed for societal or institutional benefit, technology adoptions enabled, startups supported in developing new technologies, startups formed through academic–industry collaborations, joint research, case studies, white papers, or other knowledge outputs. Highlight verifiable results directly linked to your facilitation role.

12. How have the startups supported or incubated through your Section 8 company’s partnerships performed over the last three financial years?

Direction: Provide total startups incubated or supported, survival rate, total funding raised, jobs created, percentage of women-led or social impact-focused startups, successful exits, and any other verifiable performance indicator attributable to your facilitation.

13. What measurable outcomes in skills development, academic integration, and ecosystem strengthening have been achieved through your Section 8 company's initiatives?

Direction: Include industry-integrated curriculum modules developed or revised, training programs conducted (number, participants, total hours), students trained (with completion/certification rates), internships facilitated (with internship-to-employment conversion rate), startups supported, jobs created, MSMEs supported / technologies transferred / IP licensed, measurable environmental or national priority impact, and other outcomes directly attributable to your initiatives.

Impact

Direction: Provide quantified and verifiable impact data for FY 2024–2025 directly attributable to industry–academia partnerships facilitated by your Section 8 company. Wherever possible, indicate baseline values and measurement methodology. Focus on long-term, systemic, and transformational impact.

14. What measurable economic and enterprise impact has been created through your Section 8–led industry–academia partnerships?

Direction: Include jobs created (direct/indirect), startups sustained (3-year survival rate), revenue generated, investments attracted, MSMEs supported, productivity improvements, IP commercialized/licensed, and economic value created across regions (including rural/aspirational districts, if applicable).

15. What measurable social, inclusion, and human capital impact has resulted from your initiatives?

Direction: Include beneficiaries from underprivileged or rural communities, women beneficiaries or women-led enterprises supported, leadership roles created, students trained and placed, employability outcomes, income enhancement, and other inclusion-focused impact indicators.

16. What measurable environmental or national priority impact has been enabled through your partnerships?

Direction: Include CO₂ reduction, energy/resource efficiency improvements, water conserved, waste reduced/recycled, renewable adoption, circular economy indicators, sectoral transformation, or contributions aligned with national missions or priority sectors.

Flagship Partnership Case Study / Project

Direction: Describe one flagship industry–academia partnership facilitated, structured, or scaled by your Section 8 company during FY 2024–2025. Highlight your facilitation role, partnership model, measurable outcomes, and long-term ecosystem impact.

(Note: If shortlisted, this case study may be published in the CII Compendium and shared in public forums as a best-practice model.)

17. Flagship Partnership Case Study/Project

Nature/Type of Partnership

1. Research & Innovation Project
2. Faculty Consulting (Industry-Facilitated)
3. Chair Professorship (Industry-Supported)
4. CSR–Academia Partnership
5. Technology Training / Skilling Programme
6. Centre of Excellence
7. Industry-Supported Scholarship Initiative
8. Industry-Integrated Continuing Education Programme
9. Industry-Linked Management Development Programme
10. PhD Scholarship (PM Fellowship / Industry-Supported)
11. Joint Research Lab
12. Any other (please specify)

A. Partnership Overview

Name of Your Institution:

Lead Faculty / Project Coordinator:

Partner Organization:

Project Leader:

Contact Emails:

Brief Profile about your institution (max 100 words):

About the Project / Initiative (max 250 words):

(Include the problem addressed and the role of your Section 8 company in enabling the partnership.)

Start Year:

Current Status: Completed / Ongoing / Scaled / Institutionalized

Target Beneficiaries:

B. Financial & Technical Details

Total Project Cost Managed / Facilitated (₹):

Industry Contribution (₹), if applicable:

Other Funding Sources (CSR / Grants / Philanthropy), if applicable:

Financial Benefits Realized (₹), if applicable:

Technology Readiness Level (if applicable):

Patents / IP Generated or Licensed (if any):

C. Partnership Journey

Situation:

Approach / Partnership Model Designed:

Key Actions Undertaken:

Measurable Results:

Impact Created (economic / social / environmental / institutional):

D. Sustainability & Learnings

Partnership Challenges:

Mitigation Measures Adopted:

Long-Term Sustainability Mechanism:

Replicability Potential:

E. Policy / System-Level Recommendation

One system-level reform or institutional mechanism recommended to strengthen and scale industry-academia partnerships in India (brief rationale required).

