



CII Global Summit on Industry Academia Partnership Report

1. Summit Overview

Industry-academia partnerships are central to the Government of India's vision for technological self-reliance, economic growth, and global competitiveness. By combining academic research depth with industrial scale, speed, and market access, such collaborations can drive transformational innovation. Yet, persistent challenges such as institutional silos, information asymmetry, and misaligned priorities often limit full potential.

The **CII Global Summit on Industry-Academia Partnership**, held on **5 December 2025 in New Delhi**, served as a catalytic platform to address these gaps by fostering trust, enabling dialogue, and facilitating meaningful connections among academic researchers, innovators, accelerators, policymakers, and industry leaders. The Summit promoted collaboration and co-creation, translating ideas into actionable, market-ready solutions.

Bringing together public and private stakeholders, the Summit enabled focused deliberations on deep-tech development, advanced manufacturing, technology commercialization, R&D financing, and innovation infrastructure. By breaking silos, reducing information asymmetry, and showcasing technology R&D portfolio capabilities, the platform strengthened cross-sector partnerships and reinforced India's trajectory toward self-reliance, global technology leadership, and sustainable economic growth.

2. Key Speakers and Participants:

The Summit brought together a diverse and influential set of stakeholders representing all pillars of India's innovation ecosystem:

- **Government & Policymakers:** Hon'ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, and other senior officials from ministries, and funding agencies shaping India's R&D, innovation, and policy frameworks.
- **Industry & MSMEs:** Managing Directors, CXOs, Research Heads, and Industry-Academia Partnership leaders from leading organizations driving technology adoption and commercialization. Key names included KONE Elevator, HUL, Reliance Industries, Forbes Marshall, Accenture, Aditya Birla Group, AMTZ, TCS, Becton Dickinson, Fortis Healthcare, EY-Parthenon, SAP, Wipro Infrastructure Engineering, Bosch Global Software Technologies, IBM, CAREERS 360.



- **Academic Institutions:** Vice Chancellors, Directors, Deans, and Heads of Accelerator and Research Parks from premier institutions such as IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IISc Bangalore, BITS Pilani, University of Hyderabad, Chandigarh University, Shiv Nadar, MAHE Manipal along with faculty and researchers who have successfully incubated startups or contributed to high-impact research.
- **New Age Universities:** Masters Union, IITD-Queensland, IITB-Monash
- **Centers of Excellence & Research Parks:** Founding members, CXOs, and Innovation Managers from national Centers of Excellence and research parks advancing collaborative R&D and technology transfer.
- **Research Institutions & Labs:** Heads and senior researchers from leading institutions such as CSIR labs contributing to cutting-edge scientific and technological innovation.
- **Investors & Funding Partners:** Venture Capitalists, Private Equity investors, and international R&D agencies supporting commercialization and scaling of deep-tech ventures such as Chiratae Ventures.
- **Foundations, CSR Leaders & Family Businesses:** Key stakeholders driving innovation through strategic partnerships, social impact initiatives, and industry collaborations.

3. Summit at a Glance

- **Participants: 483**
- **Number of Speakers: 36**
- **Exhibitors: 23**
- **B2B and B2A (Business to Academia) Meetings: 74**
- **Social Media Campaign:** 485,635 post impressions & 4600 visitors
- **Key Coverage by Media Houses**

The Summit received **extensive media coverage**, highlighting its role in advancing India's innovation ecosystem and fostering industry-academia collaboration. Key coverage included:



- 1) **Hon'ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh, X Handle:** "A walk-through the exhibition put up at the venue of "Global Summit on Industry–Academia Partnership 2025" [Click Here](#)

- 2) **The Tribune:** "Leaders point to critical gap and emerging opportunity in innovation chain at CII Global Summit" [Read here](#)

- 3) **Daily Excelsior:** "Industry–Academia partnership no longer by choice, sole option for growth – Dr. Jitendra Singh" [Read here](#)

- 4) **The Tribune:** "India's private sector poised for bigger role in space & nuclear industries – Minister Jitender Singh" [Read here](#)

- 5) **Indian Chemical News:** "Industry–Academia partnership key to advancing R&D agenda – Dr. Jitendra Singh" [Read here](#)

- 6) **Republic World:** "India's private sector expands in space & nuclear industries; calls for stronger industry–academia collaboration" [Read here](#)

- 7) **Asian News International:** "CII Forum is trying to bring together Industry, Government and Academia" [Click Here](#)

- 8) **ANI:** "Leaders point to critical gap and emerging opportunity in innovation chain at CII Global Summit on Industry Academia Partnership" [Read Here](#)

- 9) **DD News on Air:** "Ajay Sood highlights importance of Industry" [Read Here](#)

4. Special Ministerial Plenary

The 2025 Summit had the gracious presence of **Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's Office; Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions; Atomic Energy; and Space, Government of India.**

In his address, Dr. Singh emphasized the Government of India's **commitment to fostering a robust innovation ecosystem**, strengthening industry–academia collaboration, and accelerating technology-led growth across sectors. He highlighted the importance of **deep-**



tech research, translational innovation, and strategic partnerships in driving India's transition from a service-led economy to a knowledge- and research-driven nation.



Release of the CII Industry-Academia Partnership Compendium

Dr. Singh's address set the tone for the Summit, providing **strategic direction and inspiration** for participants across industry, academia, and startups to co-create India's next decade of innovation-led growth.

5. Inaugural



*Summit Inaugural: Release of the CII Industry Academia Partnership report “**Building India’s Innovation Backbone: Industry-Academia Collaboration for Research-Led Growth**” (December 2025)*

The inaugural CII Global Summit on Industry-Academia Partnership clearly articulated that India's next phase of economic growth will be determined by its ability to convert scientific knowledge into commercially scalable technologies through structured collaboration between industry, academia, startups, and government. Despite India's strong fundamentals—over 1.6 lakh startups, a large research and higher education base, and a growing domestic market R&D-led business creation remains constrained by low national R&D spending (around 0.6–0.7% of GDP), weak translation of academic research beyond proof-of-concept, and limited industry engagement outside in-house R&D. Addressing this gap, the Government of India has moved decisively to reposition itself as a **catalyst rather than a crutch**, a point explicitly emphasized by **Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, CEO of**



ANRF, who outlined two transformational instruments now in operation. The first is the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)** with a planned grant corpus of **₹50,000 crore**, designed to fund mission-driven, outcome-oriented research aligned with national priorities, while mandating industry and startup participation in large programs, making collaboration a prerequisite rather than an option. The second is the **₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund**, which provides patient capital through low-interest loans and equity exclusively for private sector-led deep-tech R&D, with the explicit intent of crowding in **₹3-10 lakh crore** of additional private investment over time. Dr. Kalyanaraman also highlighted that participation in these mechanisms will require industry to build stronger internal research capabilities, hire PhDs and advanced degree holders, and collaborate deeply with academia to remain competitive. Complementing this perspective, **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India**, stressed that the government has already committed significant resources through mission-mode programs-spanning green hydrogen, quantum technologies, AI, semiconductors, cyber-physical systems, and other critical domains, but that future expansion of such investments will depend on clear, actionable proposals from industry and academia. Prof. Sood explicitly called for concrete, implementable inputs from industry, particularly on tax incentives, capitalization of R&D expenditure, and mechanisms that can withstand governance and trust concerns arising from past policy experiences. He further emphasized that absolute R&D investments have increased substantially even if GDP ratios appear stagnant, and that the current policy focus is firmly on **outcome-oriented research that connects publications, IP generation, and wealth creation**. Together, the messages from PSA and ANRF leadership make it clear that India's innovation ecosystem is being deliberately re-architected to push technologies beyond low technology readiness levels, institutionalize translational pathways, and embed industry participation at every stage. From a business standpoint, this creates a time-bound window for companies and academic institutions to align their strategies with national missions, leverage catalytic public capital, and secure durable competitive advantage. The practical business opportunities emerging from this new framework are summarized below.

Key Takeaways

- **Catalytic Public Capital:** Access ANRF grants and RDI patient capital to significantly de-risk deep-tech and long-gestation R&D.
- **Mandatory Collaboration Advantage:** Industry partners gain priority access as ANRF programs explicitly favor proposals with strong industry participation.



- **Early-Stage Technology Ownership:** Shape and co-own IP emerging from academia before technologies reach market maturity.
- **Accelerated TRL Progression:** Leverage government-backed mechanisms to move innovations from TRL 3–4 to TRL 7+ efficiently.
- **Talent Pipeline Creation:** Build in-house research strength by hiring PhDs and postdocs aligned with national R&D funding priorities.
- **Multiplier Effect on R&D Spend:** One rupee of government funding catalyzes multiple rupees of private investment, improving ROI.
- **New Revenue Models:** Unlock licensing, spin-offs, deep-tech startups, and export-oriented products.
- **Strategic Influence on National Missions:** Participate early in mission-mode programs to shape standards, ecosystems, and supply chains.
- **Improved Productivity and Competitiveness:** Apply research outputs directly to manufacturing, processes, and product innovation.
- **Long-Term Strategic Positioning:** Align corporate and academic strategy with India's evolving innovation policy architecture.

6. Session Summaries

Session 1: From Conversation to Collaboration – A CXO's Guide to Forging Successful Industry–Academia Partnerships in India



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This session brought together senior CXOs who have successfully converted intent into impactful industry-academia partnerships. Speakers highlighted that while India's innovation landscape is expanding rapidly, collaboration often remains stuck at the discussion stage due to misaligned expectations, slow execution models, and limited trust.

The panel emphasized the need for **clear alignment between business priorities and academic research**, supported by flexible partnership models, transparent governance, and shared accountability. CXOs shared practical frameworks for designing agile collaboration structures, co-investing in problem statements, and enabling long-term engagement through joint labs, shared IP models, and talent exchange programs.

A key message that emerged was that **trust, speed, and measurable value creation** are foundational to bridging the gap between conversations and actual collaboration.

Session 2: From Campus to Commercialization – Academic Heads Roundtable



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Academic leaders from premier institutions discussed how India's universities are increasingly producing high-quality research with strong commercialization potential. However, the journey from scientific discovery to market-ready innovation continues to face structural barriers.

The discussion highlighted the critical need to strengthen **translational research capacity**, build robust technology transfer systems, streamline IP management processes, and nurture a campus culture that supports entrepreneurship. Leaders shared successful models for industry engagement, incubation, and commercialization—including dedicated research parks, innovation hubs, and collaborative R&D programs.

The session underscored that India's academic institutions can become **powerful engines of economic and technological growth** by institutionalizing structured pathways from lab to market and fostering deeper, outcome-oriented partnerships with industry.



Session 3: Frontiers in BioFuture & MedTech Innovation – From Discovery to Deployment



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This session explored the rapidly evolving intersection of biology, engineering, and data science that is shaping the future of healthcare. Speakers from industry, research, and emerging ventures highlighted advancements in genomics, synthetic biology, biomaterials, wearable diagnostics, and digital health systems.

The dialogue emphasized the importance of accelerating the **end-to-end innovation pipeline**—from discovery to validation, regulatory readiness, and scaled deployment. Panelists discussed enabling ecosystems such as translational research infrastructure, regulatory sandboxes, deep-tech incubation, and mission-driven funding.



A strong narrative emerged around India's potential to become a global leader in BioFuture and MedTech by fostering **collaborative innovation, rapid clinical translation, and accessible healthcare technologies** that can scale domestically and internationally.

Session 4: The Valley of Death Challenge – Stories of Successful Translation & Scale



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This session spotlighted innovators and institutions that have successfully crossed the “valley of death”—the critical stage where promising research often fails to progress due to funding, infrastructure, or market barriers.

Speakers shared real-world journeys from proof of concept to commercial adoption, illustrating how perseverance, early-stage risk capital, strong mentorship, and timely industry partnerships can unlock scale. The discussion also underscored the need for



national translational facilities, milestone-driven funding, and coordinated institutional support to reduce friction in the innovation lifecycle.

The collective insights reaffirmed that India can significantly improve its deep-tech success rate by strengthening **bridging mechanisms** that support innovators during the fragile transition from lab validation to market deployment.

Session 5: Smart Manufacturing & Technologies – Advancing Industry 4.0 Through Research and Industry Synergy



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Leaders from manufacturing, technology, and academia convened to discuss how India can accelerate its Industry 4.0 transformation. The session highlighted advancements in AI-



enabled manufacturing, robotics, IoT systems, additive manufacturing, automation platforms, and digital twins.

Speakers emphasized that achieving global competitiveness requires **synergistic co-creation** between industry and research institutions. Successful examples of collaborative R&D, joint testbeds, and skill development programs were shared, illustrating the value of applied research aligned with real-world manufacturing challenges.

The session concluded with a strong call for building **scalable, sustainable smart manufacturing ecosystems** that integrate advanced technologies with talent development, process innovation, and industry-ready research outcomes.

Session 6: Universities of the Future – Co-Creating with Industry



Session 6: Universities of the Future: Co-Creating with Industry

This forward-looking discussion explored how universities must evolve to remain relevant in an era of rapid technological disruption. Academic leaders, industry representatives, and



investors emphasized that future universities will need to function as **innovation partners**, not just education providers.

The panel discussed emerging models such as agile, industry-linked curricula; co-created research programs; shared infrastructure; and integrated innovation districts. The conversation highlighted that universities must adopt flexible governance, entrepreneurial mindsets, and stronger industry immersion opportunities for students and researchers.

The session reinforced the idea that **India's universities of the future will be defined by their ability to co-create solutions with industry**, contribute directly to national R&D priorities, and nurture talent aligned with deep-tech and advanced manufacturing needs.

7. Second Edition of CII Industry Academia Partnership Awards 2025



Award Ceremony 2025



The summit culminated with the **2nd Edition of the CII Industry Academia Partnership Awards 2025**, celebrating exemplary collaborations between industry and academia that have advanced research excellence, innovation, and skill development across India. The awards ceremony featured a welcome address by **Mr. Vipin Sondhi**, Chairman, CII IAP Awards, followed by addresses from **Shri Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh**, Deputy Secretary, DPIIT, and **Shri Vishvajit Sahay**, Controller General of Defence Accounts, reflecting strong government support for collaborative innovation.

This year, the esteemed jury recognized **60 outstanding participants** across **10 award categories**, including **Gold, Diamond, Platinum, Impact, and Graduate Jury Awards**, showcasing successful models of co-creation and translational research aligned with the vision of **Viksit Bharat 2047**. Each award comprised a **trophy and a certificate**, symbolizing excellence and sustained commitment to strengthening India's industry-academia innovation ecosystem.

7. Innovation & Technology Showcase



Exhibition 2025

The exhibition featured breakthrough solutions across robotics, industrial automation, electronics, materials, energy storage, aerospace systems, med-tech, biotech, and advanced sensors. Demonstrations highlighted India's growing ability to produce globally competitive prototypes and systems.



Dr. Shivkumar Kalyanraman, CEO, Anusandhan National Research Foundation, interacting with the exhibitors

List of Exhibitors:

Academia & Universities	Research Institutes & R&D Accelerators	Industry & Startups
Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence – Deemed to be University	FSID @ IISc	BD Technology Campus India, Bengaluru
Manipal Academy of Higher Education	TiHAN – IIT Hyderabad	Bharat Forge Ltd
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani	BRIC – Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine	Tata Chemicals



Academia & Universities	Research Institutes & R&D Accelerators	Industry & Startups
IIT Madras		Forbes Marshall
University of Hyderabad		Ken42 – KAI
IIT Roorkee		Luna – Optimile
IIT Kharagpur		
IIT Kharagpur – AI4ICPS I-Hub Foundation		
Technopark @ IIT Kanpur		
Masters' Union		
UQ–IITD Research Academy		
IITB–Monash Research Academy		
Vivekananda Global University		
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Educational Institutions		



9. Speakers & Sponsors

CHIEF GUEST



Dr Jitendra Singh

Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology;
Earth Sciences; Prime Minister's office;
Personnel, Public Grievance and Pensions;
Atomic Energy; Space
Government of India

Academia & Universities	Research Institutes & R&D Accelerators
Prof Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India	Shri Vishvajit Sahay, IDAS, Controller General of Defence Accounts.
Dr Shivkumar Kalyanaraman, Chief Executive Officer Anusandhan National Research Foundation	Prof T. G. Sitharam, Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education New Delhi
Prof V. Ramgopal Rao, Group Vice-Chancellor	Mr Bhuvnesh Pratap Singh, Deputy Secretary DPIIT



Academia & Universities	Research Institutes & R&D Accelerators
Birla Institute of Technology & Science	
Mr Aniket Gandhi, Head R&D, Innovation, Strategy & Operation Hindustan Unilever	Prof Rangan Banerjee, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
Mr Vipin Sondhi, Chairman – CII Industry Academia Partnership Awards 2025 Independent Director & Chairman NBQP Former MD & CEO Ashok Leyland & JCB India	Mr Datta Kuvalakar, Director & Chief Operating Officer, Forbes Marshall
Mr Dilip Singh Gaur, Chairman - ABSTC, Director - Novel Jewels, Birla Carbon India, Birla Smart Connect	Prof Shireesh B. Kedare, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Ms Swati Ganeti, Managing Director, Masters' Union	Mr Sanjeev Sachdeva, Unit Head - Advisory and Business Process Services. Life Sciences, TCS
Prof Balan Gurumoorthy, Director, FSID & Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, IISc	Prof Raviraja N.S., Vice-Chancellor, Chandigarh University
Dr P Rajalakshmi, Department of EE & AI, Director, TiHAN-IITH	Mr Srinivas Peddi, Sr. Director and Site Leader, Becton Dickinson Technology Campus India
Dr Ritu Garg, Chief Growth & Innovation Officer, Fortis Healthcare	Dr Manesh Thomas, Chief Executive Officer Manipal - Government of Karnataka Bioincubator K-tech Innovation Hub & BIRAC-BioNEST
Ms Shipra Chowdhary, Senior Director Government Affairs, SAP India	Mr Saharsh Sharma, Vice President, Investments, Chiratae Ventures



Academia & Universities	Research Institutes & R&D Accelerators
Mr Sundararaman G, Chief Scientist & Head – Wipro Research, Wipro Infrastructure Engineering	Mr Avnish Sabharwal, MD, Accenture
Mr Sangeeth Sudhakar Nambiar, Director - Innovation & Research Partnerships Bosch Global Software Technologies Private Ltd	Mr Mohan Krishnamoorthy, Director - Industry Research & Interactive Learning Solutions (IRIS), BITS PILANI
Mr Maheshwer Peri, Founder & Chairman, CAREERS 360	Ms Reema Mittal, COO, TechnoPark IIT Kanpur
Sqn Ldr Shipra Sharma (Retd.), Corporate Social Responsibility Leader IBM India & South Asia	Mr Rohit Bansal, Group Leader, Reliance Industries Ltd
Mr Saurabh Shresth, Director Biology Personal Care S&T and Site Director Bangalore Lab, Unilever R&D	Dr Avantika Tomar, Partner and L&D Head EY-Parthenon
Dr Jitendra Sharma, CEO, AMTZ	Prof A. Seshadri Sekhar, Director, IIT Pallakad
Prof Kaushalkumar A. Desai, Faculty, IIT Jodhpur	



Sponsors



10. Impact

The CII Global Summit on Industry–Academia Partnership (5 December 2025, New Delhi) served as a catalytic platform to break silos, reduce information asymmetry, and build trust across industry, academia, government, and the innovation ecosystem. By enabling meaningful dialogue and action-oriented collaboration, the Summit aligned research strengths with industry needs, accelerated deep-tech commercialization, and strengthened public–private partnerships. It reinforced India's innovation infrastructure, advanced national R&D priorities, and positioned industry–academia collaboration as a cornerstone of self-reliance, global technology leadership, and sustainable economic growth.