



Confederation of Indian Industry

CII AWARDS FOR
EXCELLENCE IN INDUSTRIAL R&D

Defining India's Industrial R&D Leadership

2026



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VISION

To strengthen India's industrial R&D capabilities and accelerate the nation's journey towards technological self-reliance and global leadership.

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN



India stands at a pivotal moment in its journey towards becoming a global innovation powerhouse. As industries navigate rapid technological change and increasing global competition, strengthening our R&D capabilities is no longer optional - it is imperative.

The *CII Awards for Excellence in Industrial R&D* have been instituted to recognize and celebrate organizations that are driving this transformation through cutting-edge innovation, impactful research, and successful commercialization. These awards aim to showcase best practices, encourage industry-academia collaboration, and inspire enterprises across sectors to invest in future-ready technologies.

In today's dynamic landscape, the ability to translate ideas into scalable, market-ready solutions will define leadership. It is encouraging to see Indian industry increasingly embracing R&D as a strategic priority, contributing not only to business growth but also to national priorities such as self-reliance, sustainability, and global competitiveness.

I invite organizations across sectors to participate in this prestigious initiative and benchmark their R&D excellence. Together, let us build a vibrant research and development ecosystem that positions India at the forefront of industrial and technological advancement.

Warm Regards,
B Thiagarajan

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The **CII Awards for Excellence in Industrial R&D** recognize organizations that have demonstrated outstanding commitment to research and development as a strategic driver of growth, innovation, and global competitiveness.

As India progresses through *Amritkaal*, industrial R&D plays a pivotal role in strengthening technological self-reliance and translating research into impactful products, processes, and technologies. Instituted by CII as part of its National Mission on Technology, Innovation, and Research, the awards highlight best-in-class R&D practices that deliver measurable business and societal impact.

The Awards seek to:



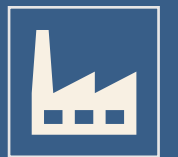
Benchmark
industrial R&D
excellence



Encourage
strategic R&D
investment

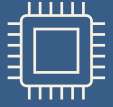


Recognize
indigenous tech
and IP



Showcase
impactful R&D
Models

AWARD CATEGORIES



Digital, AI



Financial Technologies



Life Sciences & Healthcare



Engineering, Mfg. & Industrial Tech



Materials, Chemicals, Textiles



Energy, Sustainability & Climate



Emerging & Frontier Technologies



Agri-Tech



Mobility



Infrastructure System



Special Awards



Outstanding R&D Leadership Award

AWARD CATEGORIES

1. **Digital, AI** (AI/ML, Big Data, Cloud Computing, Cybersecurity, Digital Platforms)
2. **Financial Technologies** (, FinTech, Digital Payments, Blockchain, Digital Infrastructure, Telecom etc.)
3. **Life Sciences & Healthcare** (Pharmaceuticals, Biotechnology, Medical Devices, Diagnostics, Digital health, Clinical research, Healthcare Systems, Genomics, Bioengineering etc.)
4. **Engineering, Manufacturing & Industrial Tech** (Capital Goods & Heavy Engineering, Industrial Machinery, Robotics and Automation, Process Engineering, HVAC, Aerospace etc.)
5. **Materials, Chemicals, and Textiles** (Specialty Chemicals, Petrochemicals, Advanced Materials Cement & Construction materials etc.)
6. **Energy, Sustainability & Climate** (Power Generation, Renewable Energy, Oil & Gas & Refineries, Energy Storage & Batteries, Green Hydrogen, Energy Efficiency & Carbon Capture, Climate Tech, Circular Economy Solutions)
7. **Emerging & Frontier Tech** (Quantum Technologies, Next-Gen Computing, Deep Tech, SpaceTech, DefenseTech, Advanced Computing, Semiconductors, Electronics etc)
8. **AgriTech** (Agriculture & AgriTech, seeds, crop science, precision farming, bio-based products etc)
9. **Mobility** (Automotive & EVs, Transportation Systems, Railways,
10. **Infrastructure systems** (Logistics, Construction Technologies, Smart Infrastructure etc)
11. **Special Awards**
12. **Outstanding R&D Leadership Award**

FRAMEWORK PILLARS



R&D STRATEGY &
GOVERNANCE



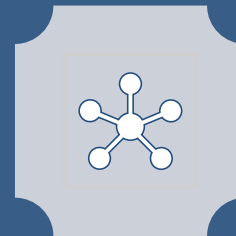
INVESTMENT &
CAPITAL
EFFICIENCY



TECHNOLOGY
DEPTH & IP
CREATION



COMMERCIAL &
INDUSTRIAL IMPACT



COLLABORATION &
ECOSYSTEM
INTEGRATION



TALENT &
CAPABILITY
DEVELOPMENT

APPLICATION EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated on



R&D vision,
strategy



Investment
in R&D



Innovation
pipeline and
execution



Talent and
capacity
Building



IP creation
and
management



Societal
Impact



Future R&D
Roadmap



Commercial
and Business
Impact

WHO CAN APPLY

Eligibility

1. Indian companies with in-house R&D centres
2. Global Corporate Hubs having R&D centers in India
3. Public sector enterprises with established R&D units

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Minimum 1 year of sustained R&D activity
2. Demonstrable outcomes such as products, processes, patents, or technologies
3. Compliance with applicable statutory and ethical standards

GRAND JURY



Prof V Ramgopal Rao,
Vice Chancellor,
Birla Institute of
Technology & Science



Mr. Sacha Wunsch-
Vincent, Head, Dept for
Economics and Data
Analytics WIPO



Dr Shekhar Mande,
Former Director
General, CSIR



Dr Thomas Gfeller,
CEO Switzerland
Innovation Park



Prof Ranjan Bose,
Professor, IIT Delhi,
Former Director IIIT
Delhi



Dr Brajesh Pandey,
Executive Director,
Indian National
Science Academy



Prof Anurag Kumar,
INSA Distinguished
Professor, Director,
IISc



Dr Renu Swarup,
Former Secretary to
Government of India



Prof G Padmanaban,
Padma Shri, Padma
Bhushan, Vigyan
Ratna, IISc



Mr Takashi SUZUKI,
Chief Director General,
JETRO



Dr Taslimarif Saiyed,
Director and CEO, (C-
CAMP)



Ms Anandi Iyer,
Director, Fraunhofer
Office India



Prof Subhasis
Chaudhari, Professor,
IIT Bombay



Prof Andy Sellars,
Director of Strategy,
CORNERSTONE, UK,
Co-Chair - UKTIN

AWARD PROCESS

Registration & Login Creation

- Applicants create a login ID and receive credentials via registered email.

Online Application Submission

- Applicants complete and submit the online application form.

Screening & Shortlisting

- Applications are screened and shortlisted entries are taken forward for next stage.

Final Jury Assessment

- Shortlisted organizations and institutions are evaluated by the jury.

Awards Ceremony

- Winners are felicitated with a trophy and certificate.

TIMELINES



Launch of Applications: 8th April 2026



Last Date for Submission: 30 June 2026



Evaluation & Jury Review: July–August 2026



Awards Ceremony: September 2026

BENEFITS OF AWARDS



National
Recognition for
R&D Leadership



Structured R&D
Capability
Benchmarking



Expert Evaluation
& Strategic
Feedback



Enhanced
Visibility Across
the Ecosystem



Actionable
Insights for
Continuous
Improvement



Strengthened
Brand & Talent
Positioning



Recognition
Across Multiple
Levels of
Excellence

IS YOUR ORGANIZATION R&D-READY?

Your organization is well aligned with **CII Awards for Excellence in Industrial R&D** if you:

- **Invest strategically and consistently** in industrial R&D across manufacturing or services
- Have an **institutionalized R&D function** with defined leadership, governance structures, and performance metrics
- Systematically develop **new or significantly improved products, processes, or technologies** through structured research programs
- Translate research outcomes into **measurable business performance, IP creation, or societal impact**
- Foster **industry–academia or technology partnerships** that strengthen innovation pipelines
- Build and sustain **world-class scientific and engineering talent**, supported by long-term capability development

If these reflect your organization's R&D journey, the Awards offer a credible platform to benchmark, validate, and showcase your excellence.



APPLICATION FEE

Category	Application Fee
Large Enterprises	INR 70,000 + applicable taxes
MSME	INR 40,000 + applicable taxes



CONTACT US

For more information about the awards, please contact

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ABOUT CII

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9,700 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 365,000 enterprises from 318 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For 130 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with the Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness, and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialised services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Through its dedicated Centres of Excellence and Industry competitiveness initiatives, promotion of innovation and technology adoption, and partnerships for sustainability, CII plays a transformative part in shaping the future of the nation. Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes across diverse domains, including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

For 2025-26, CII has identified "Accelerating Competitiveness: Globalisation, Inclusivity, Sustainability, Trust" as its theme, prioritising five key pillars. During the year, CII will align its initiatives to drive strategic action aimed at enhancing India's competitiveness by promoting global engagement, inclusive growth, sustainable practices, and a foundation of trust.

With 70 offices, including 12 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 9 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with about 250 counterpart organisations in almost 100 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

Confederation of Indian Industry

The Mantosh Sondhi Centre 23, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110 003 (India)

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