



Confederation of Indian Industry

CII GLOBAL SUMMIT ON INDUSTRIAL R&D AND COMPETITIVENESS

Powering India's R&D for Global Impact

Strengthening India's industrial research, innovation and technology ecosystem through collaboration, knowledge exchange and industry-led R&D.

7TH OCTOBER 2026

BENGALURU
KARNATAKA, INDIA



Industry-led R&D
& Innovation



Collaborate.
Co-create.
Commercialize.



Global Partnerships
& Knowledge
Exchange



Future-ready
Technologies for
Global Impact



Strengthening
Competitiveness.
Sustainable Growth.

Global Summit on Industrial R&D and Competitiveness

Powering India's R&D for Global Impact

7th October 2026 | Bengaluru

CONCEPT NOTE

October 2026

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1. Background

The global economy is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by rapid advances in science, technology, and innovation. At the heart of this transformation lies **Research & Development (R&D)**—a critical engine powering productivity, industrial competitiveness, and long-term economic growth.

Nations that have consistently invested in R&D have emerged as global leaders across sectors such as advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, clean energy, biotechnology, and digital technologies. Global R&D expenditure has crossed **USD 2 trillion**, with leading economies investing between **2–4% of GDP**, reflecting a strong commitment to research-led growth.

India stands at a pivotal moment in its development journey. With its vision of *Viksit Bharat @2047* and the ongoing *Amritkaal*, the country is positioning itself as a global hub for manufacturing, technology, and research. India's strengths—including a large scientific talent base, a vibrant startup ecosystem, expanding Global Capability Centres (GCCs), and a growing digital economy—offer a strong foundation for scaling R&D.

However, India's gross expenditure on R&D (GERD) remains below 1% of GDP, with a relatively lower share of private sector participation compared to global benchmarks. Addressing this gap requires a coordinated push involving **industry, government, academia, and global partners**, along with strengthened policy frameworks, financing mechanisms, and research ecosystems.

In this context, the Confederation of Indian Industry is organizing the **CII Global R&D Summit**—a premier platform to catalyse dialogue, partnerships, and action towards strengthening India's industrial R&D ecosystem and positioning the country as a global R&D leader.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of the Summit are:

- To provide a strategic platform for dialogue on **enhancing R&D investments and strengthening research ecosystems in India**.

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- To foster **industry–academia–government collaboration** for accelerating industrial R&D and commercialization.
- To explore **global best practices and collaboration models** for scaling R&D impact.
- To identify **priority sunrise sectors** for focused R&D investments and global leadership.
- To deliberate on **skilling and talent development strategies** for building a future-ready R&D workforce.
- To showcase and recognise **excellence in industrial R&D** through national awards and best practices.

3. Theme

“Powering India’s Research Future: Scaling R&D for Global Competitiveness”

The theme reflects the critical role of R&D as a cornerstone of India’s ambition to become a **globally competitive, R&D -driven economy**. As global value chains evolve and technological capabilities define economic leadership, R&D is no longer optional—it is a strategic imperative. For India, strengthening R&D will be central to:



Advancing
industrial
competitiveness
and
manufacturing
leadership



Driving deep-
tech research and
sunrise sectors



Enabling self-
reliance in
critical
technologies



Enhancing
global
integration and
leadership in
R&D ecosystems



Creating high-
quality jobs and
future-ready
talent pipelines



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The Summit aims to position India as a **global R&D powerhouse** by aligning policy, investment, talent, and partnerships.

4. Session Themes

The Summit will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and insight sessions structured around the following thematic tracks:

1. Enhancing India's R&D Investment: Driving Industrial and Economic Growth



SCALING PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE R&D
INVESTMENTS
ALIGNED WITH
NATIONAL
PRIORITIES



ROLE OF INDUSTRY
IN DRIVING R&D
EXPENDITURE AND
OUTCOMES



RDI FUNDS,
MISSION-DRIVEN
PROGRAMMES, AND
FINANCING
MECHANISMS



STRENGTHENING
RESEARCH
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND FUNDING
EFFICIENCY

2. Global Models in R&D: Driving Collaborative R&D for Global Impact

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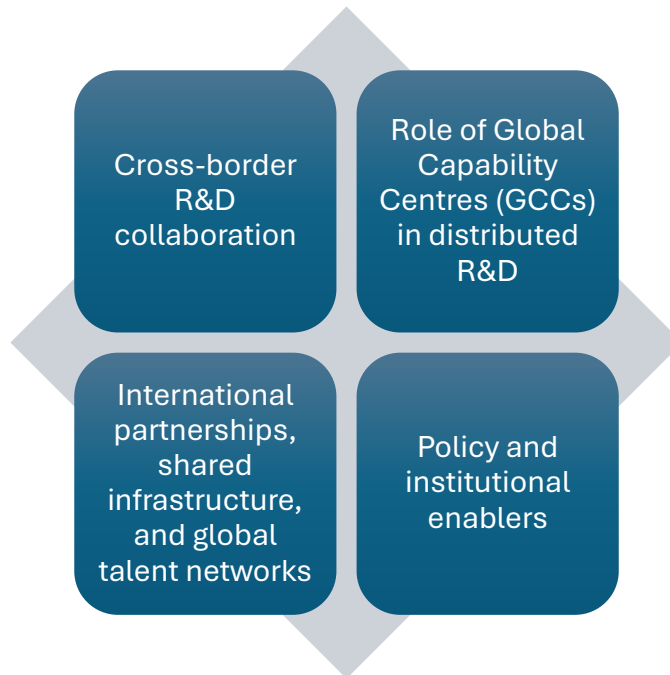
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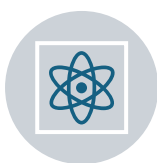
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3. Sunrise R&D Sectors: Powering India's Next Wave of Global Leadership



Strategic sectors:
semiconductors, green
hydrogen, advanced
materials, biotech, space,
mobility



Building deep R&D
capabilities and value
chains



Accelerating research-to-
commercialization
pathways



Positioning India in global
technology leadership

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4. Skilling for R&D Excellence: Building India's Future-Ready Research Workforce



EMERGING SKILL
REQUIREMENTS IN
ADVANCED AND
INTERDISCIPLINARY
R&D



INDUSTRY-
ACADEMIA
COLLABORATION
FOR TALENT
DEVELOPMENT



CURRICULUM
TRANSFORMATION
AND HANDS-ON
RESEARCH
EXPOSURE



LIFELONG
LEARNING,
RESKILLING, AND
GLOBAL TALENT
MOBILITY

5. R&D Insights



Short, high-impact
perspectives



Emerging trends,



Research
Roadmap



Policy directions in
R&D

6. Felicitation Ceremony: CII Awards for Excellence in Industrial R&D

- Recognition of outstanding R&D achievements across industries
- Showcasing best practices in industrial research and commercialization
- Release of compendium on R&D practices

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5. Target Audience



Startups and deep-
tech innovators



Venture capitalists
and investors



International
organisations and
R&D agencies



Skill development
and training
institutions



Students,
researchers, and
scholars



Policymakers and
regulatory bodies



Industry leaders,
CEOs, CTOs, and
Heads of R&D



Global Capability
Centres (GCCs)
and multinational
corporations



Academic and
research
institutions

6. Key Highlights

- High-level **inaugural session** with national and global leaders
- Strategic discussions on **R&D investments** and policy frameworks
- Insights into **global collaboration models** and GCC-led research
- Focus on **sunrise sectors** shaping the future of industry
- Dedicated dialogue on **R&D talent and skilling**
- **CII Awards for Excellence in Industrial R&D**
- Release of **compendium** on best R&D practices

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- Extensive **networking and partnership opportunities**

7. Why Participate

- Gain insights into **India's evolving R&D landscape**
- Engage with **global thought leaders and industry experts**
- Explore opportunities for **collaboration, investment, and partnerships**
- Understand emerging **technology trends and strategic sectors**
- Showcase capabilities and connect with key stakeholders
- Contribute to shaping **India's R&D agenda**

8. Expected Outcomes

- Development of a **strategic roadmap for scaling industrial R&D in India**
- Policy recommendations to enhance **R&D investments**
- Strengthened **industry-academia-global collaborations**
- Identification of **priority sectors for focused R&D interventions**
- Enhanced focus on **talent development and skilling ecosystems**
- Dissemination of **best practices through award-winning R&D models**