Ministry of Education
Government of India
सत्यमेव जयते

MoE's INNOVATION CELL (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)

INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL
(Ministry of Education Initiative)

IIC 8.0 Calendar Activities for Academic Year 2025-26

Semester -1 (September 2025 – February 2026)

Quarter 1 (1st September - 30th November)

Thrust Area: Inspiration, Motivation, and Ideation

S. No	Activity Name / Description	Level*	Mode	Key Outputs / Measurable Parameters	KPIs (with Quantified Metrics)	Weightage in Q1 (25%)
1	Awareness Workshop: "Entrepreneurship & Innovation" as Career Opportunities	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of participants; No. of ideas submitted	≥60% students sensitized; ≥20 ideas/session; ≥25% new participants;	0.03
2	My Story/ Motivational Expert Sessions by Successful innovators & Entrepreneurs	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Attendance; Engagement	≥80% feedback rating; ≥5 sessions/quarter	0.04
3	Boot camp on Problem Solving/Ideation	2 or 3	Offline/ Online	No. of solutions proposed; Diversity of fields	≥10 multi-disciplinary teams formed	0.05
4	Workshop on AI and I4.0 Tools for Innovators and Entrepreneurs	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Attendance; Engagement	≥80% feedback rating; ≥5 sessions/quarter	0.04
5	IPR Basics for Innovators & Entrepreneurs	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of attendees; No. registering for IP clinics	≥30% express IP interest	0.04
6	Session on Achieving Problem –Solution Fit	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of solutions proposed; Diversity of fields	≥10 multi-disciplinary teams formed	0.04
7	Inter/Intra Institutional Hackathon/ Idea Challenge	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of entries; No. shortlisted; Rewards given	≥50 entries; ≥10 ideas to next phase; Ideas deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.05
8	Demo Day/ Idea Showcase	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of showcases; Mentorships linked	≥20 PoCs demonstrated; ≥15 ideas mentored by experts	0.05

Quarter 2 (1st December 2025 - 28th February 2026)

Thrust Area: Validation and Concept Development

S. No	Activity Name / Description	Level	Mode	Key Outputs / Measurable Parameters	KPIs (with Quantified Metrics)	Weightage in Q2 (25%)
1	Workshop on Design Thinking, Critical Thinking & Innovation Design	2 or 3	Offline/ Online	No. of ideas validated with design thinking / TRL 1-4; Teams shortlisted	≥10 ideas validated, ≥5 advanced for prototyping, Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.05
2	Innovation & Entrepreneurship Outreach Program in Schools	1 or 2	Offline	No. of outreach programs; Frequency of Engagements	≥100 external students reached; ≥2 programs	0.04
3	AI & Innovation Sprints: Rapid Prototyping for Digital Transformation	1 or 2	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of AI/digital prototypes; Sprint events organized	≥5 prototypes developed; ≥3 sprint events Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.04
4	Expert Talk on Technology Readiness Level (TRL), MRL,IRL, IP Commercialization, Tech-Transfer	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Event attendance; Post-session plans for tech transfer	≥80% positive feedback; ≥1 tech transfer plan per quarter	0.04
5	Workshop: Effective Sales and Marketing Strategies for Start-ups	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of teams with marketing strategies/BMC	≥10 canvases completed	0.04
6	Field/Exposure Visit to Preincubation Units (e.g., AICTE Idea Lab, Fab Lab, MSME clusters)	2 or 3	Offline	No. of visits; Linkages established	≥2 exposure visits; ≥1 partnership formed	0.05
7	Organize Inter/Intra-Institution Innovation Competition/Hackathon & Reward Best Innovations (YUKTI repository)	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of entries; Winning concepts uploaded to YUKTI	≥25 entries; ≥5 solutions deposited in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.05
8	Innovation Showcase: Demo Day/Exhibition/Poster Presentation of Innovations/Prototypes	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of projects showcased; Mentorship linkages	≥10 Prototypes showcases; ≥6 teams connected to mentors, & Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.05

Semester II (March 2026 – August 2026)

Quarter 3 (1st March - 31st May)

Thrust Area: Prototype, Design, Business Model Development

S. No	Activity Name / Description	Level	Mode	Key Outputs / Measurable Parameters	KPIs (with Quantified Metrics)	Weightage in Q3 (25%)
1	Workshop on Product-Market fit; Prototype/ Process Design and MVP Development	2 or 3	Offline/ Online	No. of functional prototypes developed/tested	≥5 functional prototypes, Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.04
2	Session/Workshop on Business Model Canvas (BMC) & Business Model Fit	2 or 3	Offline/ Online	No. of BMC canvassed and presented	≥7 business models presented, Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.04
3	AI-Powered Solution Expo: Demo Days for AI/I4.0 Prototypes	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of AI solutions/expos organized; Teams showcasing	≥5 AI solutions demonstrated, Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.04
4	Field/Exposure Visit to Incubation Units/Patent Facilitation/Tech Transfer Centres	1 or 2	Offline	No. of visits; Linkages with incubators/IP facilitation	1+ new linkage	0.04
5	Session on Start-up Legal & Ethical Steps	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Student attendance; Teams with legal/ethical orientation	≥80% scoring in knowledge postsession	0.02
6	Workshop on Raising Capital and Finance Management for Start-ups	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of teams with basic fundraising plans	≥5 teams draft fundraising plans	0.02
7	Workshop: Protecting IPR and IP Management for Start-ups	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of IP applications filed	≥3 IP applications per quarter	0.02
8	Organize Inter/Intra Institutional B-Plan Competition, Reward Best Innovations	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of entries; Awards for best innovations	≥15 entries; 2 best teams awarded	0.05
9	Mentoring Event: Demo Day/Poster Presentation of Business Plans & Mentor Linkages	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of teams mentored; Quality of presentations	≥5 teams mentored; successful pitch practice	0.05

Quarter 4 (1st June 2026 - 31st August 2026)

Thrust Area: Start-up Ecosystem & Scale Up

S. No	Activity Name / Description	Level	Mode	Key Outputs / Measurable Parameters	KPIs (with Quantified Metrics)	Weightage in Q4 (25%)
1	Session: Innovation/ Prototype Validation & "Value Proposition Fit & Business fit"	2 or 3	Offline/ Online	Teams ready for startup launch or investor pitches	≥3 teams prepared for pitch, Deposited /updated in YUKTI Innovation Repository	0.04
2	Workshop: Using AI for Fundraising & Investor Pitch Preparation	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Investor decks/pitches created; AI adoption in fundraising	≥2 investor decks ready; ≥1 AI tool demonstrated	0.02
3	Session on Accelerators/ Incubation Opportunities	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Start-ups linked with incubation/ acceleration facilities	≥2 start-ups linkages made	0.02
4	Organize "Lean Start-up & MVP" Boot Camp / Mentoring	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	No. of MVPs developed; Teams progressing towards market	≥3 MVPs built	0.04
5	Session on Angel Investment/VC Funding Opportunities	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Funding opportunities explored; Investor intros	≥2 introductions made	0.04
6	Panel Discussions with Regional/National Startup Ecosystem Enablers	1 or 2	Offline/ Online	Linkages with ecosystem players	≥2 key ecosystem partnerships	0.02
7	Innovation & Entrepreneurship Outreach Program in Schools/ Community	1 or 2	Offline/ Hybrid	Outreach programs; Demographic reach	≥2 programs in new communities	0.02
8	Organize Inter/Intra Institutional Start-up Competition & Reward Best Start-ups	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of start-up entries; Rewards/recognition	≥10 teams; 2 awarded	0.05
9	Mentoring: Demo Day/Exhibition/Poster Presentation of Start-Ups & Linkage with Mentors/Experts	3 or 4	Offline/ Hybrid	No. of start-ups mentored; Quality of presentations	≥3 start-ups matched with mentors	0.05

Key Framework Highlights & Recommendations

Each quarter's activities are assigned suggested weights so the cumulative annual score is 0–1, enabling benchmarking and continuous improvement.

- Levels of Activities, ensure mix of online, offline, hybrid to maximize accessibility and impact.
  - Level 1: Talks, Mentoring, Short Exposure (2–4 hrs)
  - Level 2: Workshops, Seminars, Discussions (5–8 hrs)
  - Level 3: Competitions, Bootcamps, Expos (9–18 hrs)
  - Level 4: Challenges, Tech Fests, Extended Hackathons (>18 hrs)
- Quantified KPIs for each activity to ensure measurable progress
- Ensure cross-linkages (eg. winners from Q1 hackathons get mentoring/demo day slots in Q2/Q3).
- Integrate industry, alumni/entrepreneurs, and ecosystem enablers into all stages.
- IIC Calendar Activity contributes 40% of total Activity Score (total activity score contributes 80% of total star rating).
- Each quarter is having maximum 0.25 weightage for IIC Calendar. Weights by level for example: Level 1/2 = 1 point (offline), 0.75 (online); Level 3/4 = 1.67 (offline), 1.25 (online) to reward depth/engagement.

Quarter	Minimum Activities	Max. Weight per Quarter
Q1	≥5	0.25
Q2	≥5	0.25
Q3	≥5	0.25
Q4	≥5	0.25
Total	≥20	1.0

**For each activity, outputs and KPIs must be documented in the IIC portal and reviewed quarterly by HEI leadership for ongoing course correction and improvement.*

***Any additional activity organized beyond the minimal activities, it will be converted into points and receives additional weightages under various incentive parameters for performance matrix, which counts for remaining 20% score towards total star rating calculation.*

Weightage of different activities

Level Description

Level	Event types	Duration
Level 1	• Expert Talk • Mentoring Session • Exposure Visit	2 to 4 contact hours Less than half a day
Level 2	• Seminar • Workshop • Conference • Exposure Visit • Panel Discussion • Roundtable Discussion • Networking Event	5 to 8 contact hours One Full day
Level 3	• Boot Camp • Workshop • Exhibition/ Startup Showcase • Demo Day • Competition • Hackathons • Conference	9 to 18 contact hours More than one day
Level 4	• Challenge • Tech/E- Fest • Hackathon • Competition • Workshop • Boot Camp • Exhibition/ Startup Showcase	Greater than 18 contact hours More than 2 days

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AICTE
All India Council for Technical Education

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IIC 8.0- Important Day Celebration Activities for Academic Year 2025-26

S. No	Date	Activity Title	Month	Quarter
1	15th October	Institution's Innovation Day (Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary)	October	Q1
2	9th November	National Entrepreneurship Day	November	
3	11th November	National Education Day	November	
4	2nd December	National Pollution Control Day	December	Q2
5	14th December	National Energy Conservation Day (India)	December	
6	12th January	National Youth Day	January	
7	16th January	National Startup Day	January	
8	28th February	National Science Day	February	
9	8th March	International Women's Day	March	Q3
10	21st April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	April	
11	26th April	World Intellectual Property Day	April	
12	11th May	National Technology Day	May	
13	5th June	World Environment Day	June	Q4
14	29th July	6th Anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020	July	
15	15th August	Independence Day- Celebrating Aazadi Ka Amritkal	August	
16	21st August	World Entrepreneurs Day	August	

Guideline and Prescribed Key Activities for Establishment and Functioning of R&D Cell & Idea-Café in IIC Institutions for AY 2025-26

Establishment of R&D Cells in HEIs:

To promote technology and market research driven innovations, HEIs are encouraged to setup dedicated facility named as "R&D Cell" to connect all R&D facilities in the institute/university and to facilitate multidisciplinary & translational researches. Each R&D Cell is required to mark certain portion of space as "**Idea-Café"** a dedicated place for young minds to brainstorm, demonstrate, pitch their ideas on a regular basis and display their creative problem-solving capabilities. The Idea-Café will be research-club wing led by the students, which will drive R&D Cell activities under the leadership of R&D Cell Faculty coordinator and guidance from Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) members of the institute. R&D Cells can be established in both technical and non-technical institutions, from the AY 2024-25, AICTE has made it mandatory for its approved institutions to have R&D Cells.

R&D Cell in institutions are encouraged to undertake research driven innovation promotion activities It is to promote and support research and the development of commercialization skills among students and faculty members in campuses. A prescribed list of activities is suggested under relevant sub-themes of research domain to regularly organize at least 5 to 6 different types of activities (each ranging from half-day to a full-day duration) per semester, resulting in a total of 10 to 12 activities per academic year. Consistent organization of such activities will significantly enhance research awareness, skill development, and engagement, thereby improving both the quality and quantity of R&D outputs. Furthermore, these efforts will help build a robust innovation ecosystem driven by intellectual property (IP), and maximize the impact of research within the institution.

Sub-Theme	Prescribed Activities	Level/Duration
R&D Awareness and Capacity Building	**Activity 1: Faculty & Student R&D Orientation Program** Organize workshops or seminars on introducing R&D processes, research ethics, funding sources, and global best practices.	Half/Full day
	Activity 2: Annual Research Conclave/Symposium Conduct an event to showcase the ongoing and completed research projects across departments and facilitate knowledge exchange.	Half/Full day
	Activity 3: Training on Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) Organize training on TRL & MRL for Researchers and Inventors & ISO Certification Procedures.	Half/Full day
	Activity 4: Training on Technology Commercialisation, Licensing and Transfer Practices & Strategy Organize Training for Researchers and Inventors	Half/Full day

Cross Disciplinary Thematic Research and Output Enhancement	**Activity 5: Thematic Research based Hackathon/Ideathon in Campus** Organize cross-disciplinary hackathons focusing on nationally and industrially relevant problems.	Half/Full day
	Activity 6: Sponsored/Seed Grant Proposal Writing Workshops – Art of Technical Paper Writing Guidance and support sessions for preparing and submitting research proposals to various funding agencies.	Half/Full day
Intellectual Property (IP) Generation and Commercialization	**Activity 7: IP Awareness and Patent Filing Workshops** Training sessions on patents, copyrights, trademarks, and research publication ethics, including step-by-step IP filing processes.	Half/Full day
	Activity 8: Innovation to Commercialization Boot camps Series of boot camps guiding researchers through the journey from lab to market, nurturing entrepreneurial mindsets.	Half/Full day
Promotion of Deep-Tech based Research & Innovation	**Activity 9: Deep-Tech Innovation Challenge** Invite proposals for emerging technology solutions (AI, robotics, clean tech, IoT, biotech, etc.), offer seed grants and incubation support.	Half/Full day
	Activity 10: Prototype Development & Validation Clinic Regular clinics for technical assistance in converting ideas into working prototypes and facilitating technical validation with experts.	Half/Full day
Strengthening the Industry-Academia for R&D Collaboration	**Activity 11: Industry R&D Roundtables/Meetups** Meetings with industry partners to discuss research collaboration, consultancy, and internship opportunities.	Half/Full day
	Activity 12: Problem Statement Database & Collaborative Research Projects - AI & e-Tools for Researchers Build and update a database of real-world industry problems and facilitate collaborative research projects involving students and faculty.	Half/Full day
	Activity 13: Research Paper Writing and Journal Publication Support Workshops – Reasons for Rejections on Research Papers Expert-led training on scientific writing, selecting journals, peer-review, and avoiding predatory publications.	Half/Full day

Research Publication and Dissemination	**Activity 14: Publish of Annual R&D Newsletter or Research Digest** Publish a digital/print newsletter highlighting key research achievements, collaborations, IP filings, and success stories.	Published Newsletter
Synergizing & Synchronization of R&D Facilities at Intra & Inter Institutional	**Activity 15: Departmental R&D Facility Mapping and Resource Sharing Policy** Survey and document R&D infrastructure, equipment, and expertise across departments and promote shared usage for interdisciplinary research.	Policy Document
	Activity 16: Making Centralized Research Equipment Portal and Access to Facilties Develop an online portal listing available instruments/facilities and booking procedures to maximize usage.	Online Portal with Equipment List and Service Chart
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Recognition of Research	**Activity 17: Regular R&D Review Meetings and Progress Tracking** Monthly/quarterly review meetings to monitor ongoing projects and resolve bottlenecks.	Review Meetings
	Activity 18: Celebrate an Annual Research Awards and Recognition Ceremony Institute awards for outstanding research papers, patents, impactful projects, and collaborative efforts.	Half/Full day

**If the institution has established a Climate Cell, the activities should be focused on climate and environment-related research sub-themes as prescribed below.*

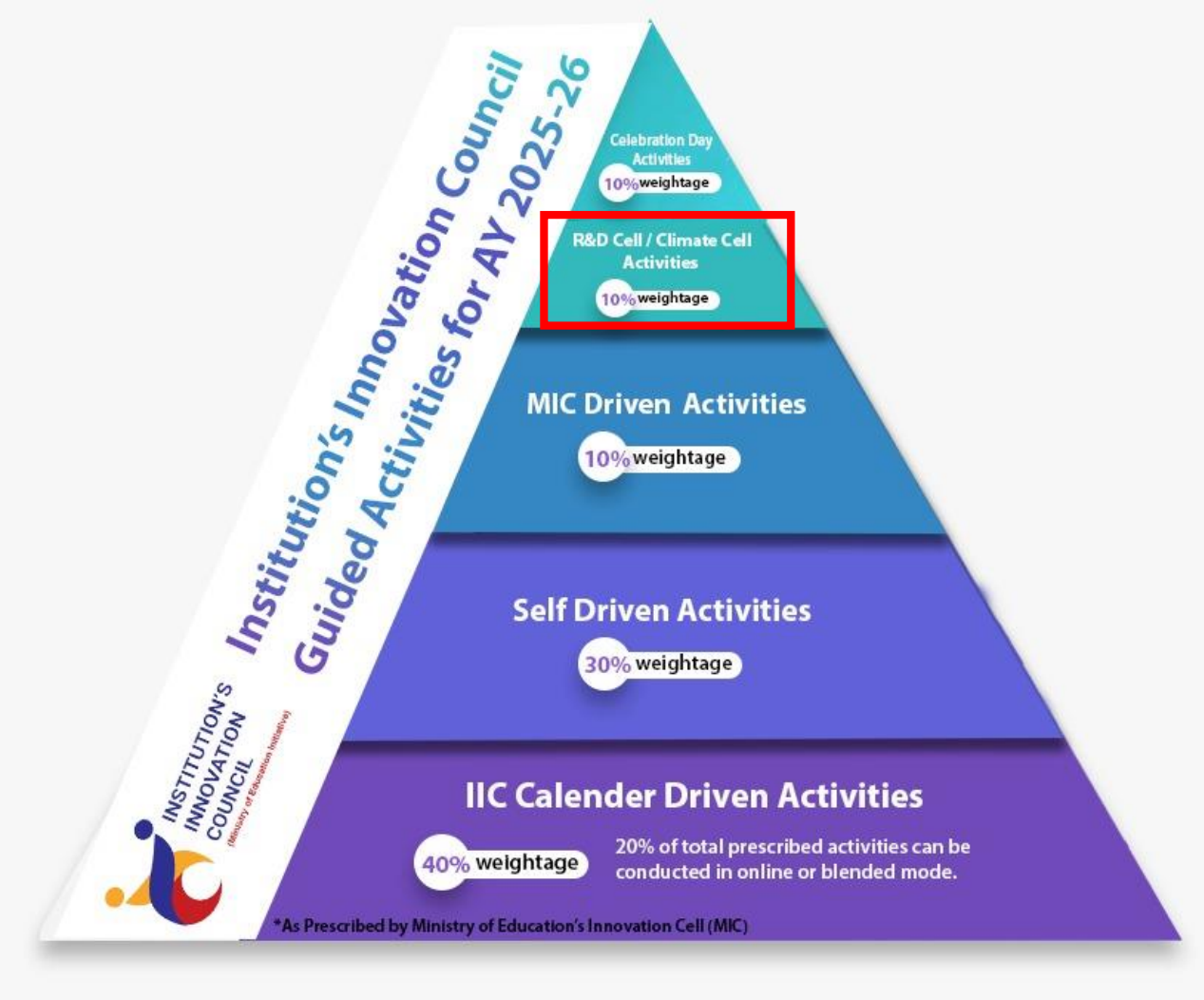
***R&D Cell Activity Reporting through the IIC portal has weightage allocation of up to 10% in the IIC Annual Star Rating.*

Implementation Guideline:

In support of the establishment and effective operation of the R&D Cell/Climate Cell, institute shall make following arrangements & resource allocations with facility provisions:

- Committee Formation: Establish a 5–7-member committee comprising external experts from R&D, industry, start-ups, as well as Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) members of my institute to design, guide, and regularly monitor the progress of R&D activities.
- Dedicated Space Allocation: Allocate a dedicated space, or utilize an existing centrally-located R&D facility within the campus, equipped with basic amenities and accessible for conducting R&D activities, brainstorming sessions, workshops, and other related programs by the R&D Cell and IIC team. Displaying R&D Cell signage and Idea-Café section in the facility to brainstorming, pitching and demonstration of ideas.

- Faculty and Student Engagement: Engage a minimum of two faculty members with relevant experience and expertise, along with student groups, to actively promote, implement, and support R&D-driven innovation, technology development, and commercialization.
- Access to Facilities: Ensure easy access for faculty and students from all departments to various R&D facilities and services within innovation centres. Prepare and prominently display an R&D Facility Service Chart to facilitate service availability and utilization.
- Interdisciplinary & Translational Research: Promote interdisciplinary and translational research by actively engaging students and faculty from diverse departments, disciplines, and industry partners.
- Performance Monitoring: Adopt qualitative and quantitative measures for benchmarking, set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and establish mechanisms for regular progress monitoring and evaluation to ensure result-oriented outcomes.
- Mobilizing Funding and Resources: Mobilize and allocate adequate budget and resources to undertake planned R&D activities and support the overall R&D mission of the institute.



For any guidance and technical support, please contact concern IIC Zonal Incharges & Indovation Center Teams https://iic.mic.gov.in/about-us/contact_us