Guideline and Prescribed Key Activities for Establishment and Functioning of R&D Cell & Idea-Café in IIC Institutions for AY 2026-27

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.*

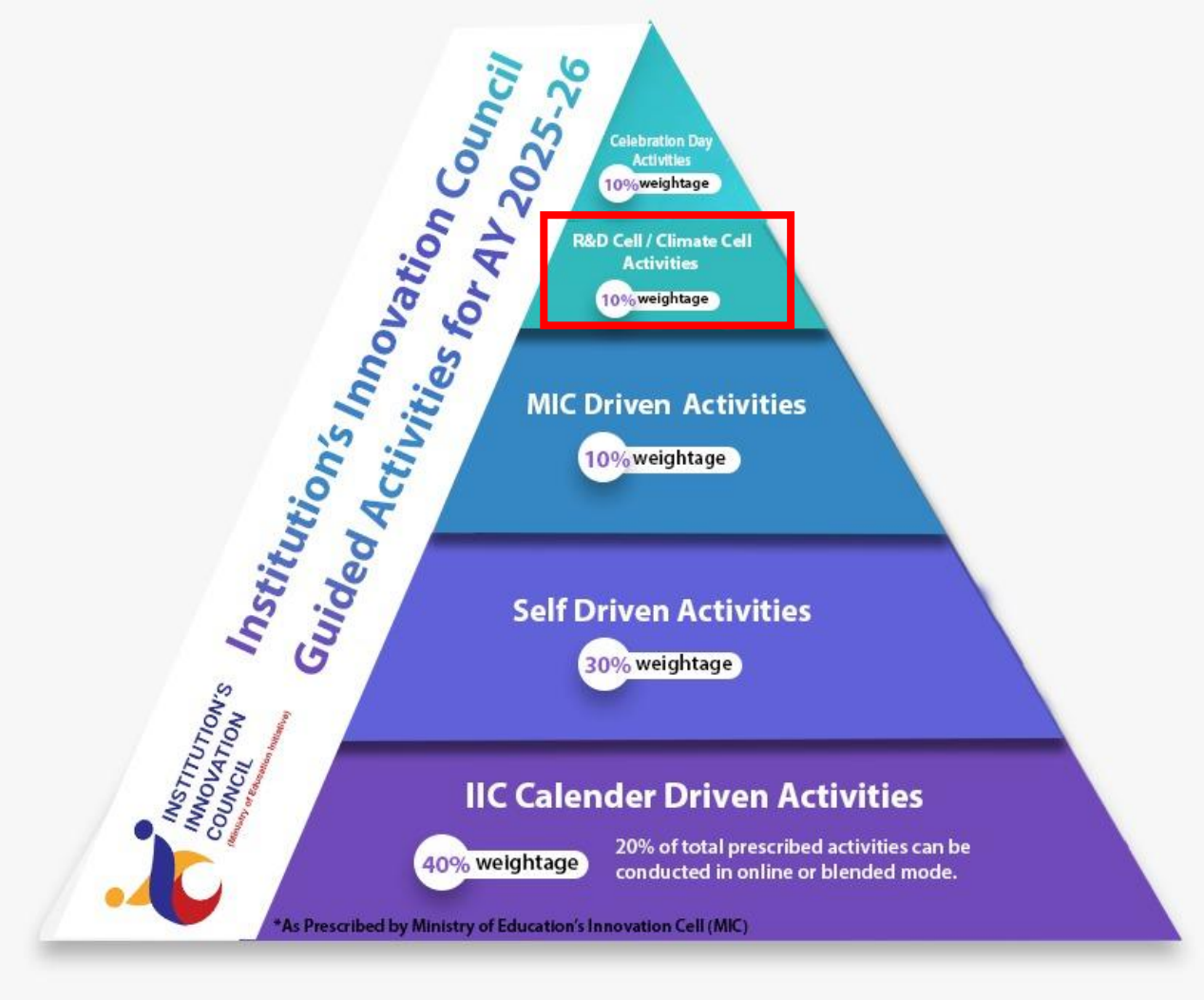
***R&D Cell Activity Reporting through the IIC portal has weightage allocation of up to 10% in the IIC Annual Star Rating.*

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