



**SARVAJANIK
UNIVERSITY**

INCLUSIVE | INTEGRATED | INNOVATIVE



**INSTITUTION'S
INNOVATION
COUNCIL**
(Ministry of HRD Initiative)



Sarvajani Education Society

Sarvajani College of Engineering & Technology

Dr. R. K. Desai Marg, Opp.Mission Hospital, Athwalines, Surat-395001

Report for a Session on

Orientation Session on IIC8.0 Calendar

Activity 2025-26

Speakers

Dr. Deepan Sahu and Prof. T G

Sitharam

Date: 22nd October 2025

Venue: IT Lab-1

In association with

Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), SCET

Introduction

The Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) was established to foster a culture of innovation, research, and entrepreneurship in higher education institutions across India. The IIC 8.0 calendar marks the eighth annual cycle of prescribed activities aligned with MIC and AICTE's vision for innovation-driven growth. The session broadcast provided institutions with an official orientation on the new calendar framework, activity structures, and mandatory requirements for R&D cell initiatives. This orientation was part of the IIC 8.0 rollout, designed to ensure consistent implementation of the year's activities and to communicate strategic priorities for both institutions and faculty members. The session aimed to equip participants with clarity on reporting, participation, and achieving measurable outcomes in innovation.

Key Highlights of the Session

Opening Remarks:

The session commenced with a formal introduction, wherein the host invited the esteemed Advisor, Dr. Sidalinga Swami, to deliver the opening remarks and formally initiate the proceedings. In his address, he highlighted that the gathering had been convened in online mode to provide clarity and direction regarding the activities planned for execution over the forthcoming one-year period under the IIC 8.0 calendar. He emphasized that the newly announced calendar would introduce a transformative dimension to the functioning of Institution Innovation Councils (IICs), expanding their scope beyond traditionally perceived activities such as the Smart India Hackathon. He further clarified that institutions can now anticipate a broader spectrum of innovation-driven initiatives. A significant focus of his remarks was on the mandatory establishment of the Research and Development (R&D) Cell, as directed by AICTE, which has become an essential requirement for approval of UG and PG institutions. He also underscored the introduction of the Climate Cell, announced on Engineers' Day, which will function as an integral component of the R&D Cell framework. Stressing the urgency of addressing climate change, he noted that the initiative aims to foster collaborative activities with industries and government bodies to strengthen research, innovation, and sustainability efforts. Concluding his remarks, he expressed confidence that the integration of R&D and Climate Cells under the IIC framework would significantly enhance academic excellence, industry interaction, and institutional innovation ecosystems across the country.



IIC 8.0 Prescribed Activity

The speaker provided a detailed overview of the IIC 8.0 Activity Calendar, which will be implemented from 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2026, following the completion of IIC 7.0 in August 2025. He explained that the revised calendar incorporates several new features, including a balanced hybrid approach that allows institutions to conduct activities in online, offline, or blended modes based on convenience. The activities have been designed to be non-technical and fundamental in nature, making them suitable for technical institutions, non-technical institutions, universities, and smaller colleges alike. A clarified level-based point system (Level 1 to Level 4) has been introduced to ensure that the intensity, duration, and effort involved in each activity determine the weightage awarded, thereby promoting fairness and transparency. Additionally, KPI-based, output-oriented indicators have been embedded to ensure measurable institutional impact. The annual plan is structured into four quarters, each requiring institutions to conduct prescribed activities with a minimum expectation of 20 activities per year and a total potential weightage of 40% allocated to IIC 8.0 prescribed activities. A major highlight is the mandatory inclusion of R&D Cell activities, carrying 10% weightage, applicable even to non-technical institutions as part of the annual approval process. Institutions are required to establish a dedicated R&D Cell, register through the IIC portal, nominate a coordinator, form a committee, allocate space including an “Idea Café” for student innovation, and conduct 10–12 prescribed R&D activities annually from a structured list of 18 thematic activities. These activities span awareness building, interdisciplinary research, intellectual property generation, industry-academia collaboration, deep-tech promotion, research dissemination, and performance monitoring. The integrated portal system enables institutions to manage facilities, list equipment, showcase projects, declare collaboration opportunities, and report outputs for recognition and support. Furthermore, institutions may establish a Climate Cell either independently or alongside the R&D Cell, reinforcing the emphasis on sustainability and research-driven innovation. Overall, the IIC

8.0 framework aims to create a structured, research-oriented innovation ecosystem with measurable outcomes, institutional accountability, and enhanced industry engagement.

Orientation Session on IIC 8.0 Calendar Activity 2025-26 by Hon'ble Chairman, AICTE

IIC 8.0 Prescribed Activities (2025-26)

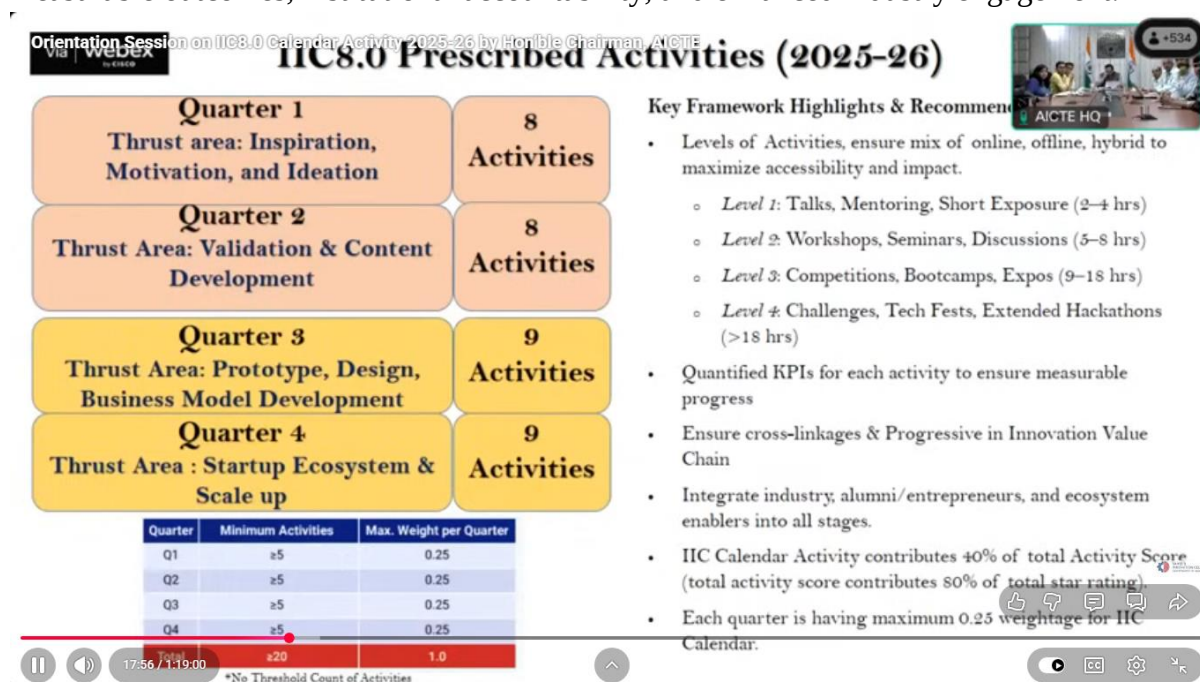
Quarter 1 Thrust area: Inspiration, Motivation, and Ideation	8 Activities
Quarter 2 Thrust Area: Validation & Content Development	8 Activities
Quarter 3 Thrust Area: Prototype, Design, Business Model Development	9 Activities
Quarter 4 Thrust Area : Startup Ecosystem & Scale up	9 Activities

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

*No Threshold Count of Activities

Key Framework Highlights & Recommendations

- 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 & Progressive in Innovation Value Chain
- 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.



Address by Chairman AICTE

The Honorable Chairman, Prof. T. G. Sitharam, addressed the gathering and expressed his immense pleasure in interacting with more than 500 mentor institutions and over 3,000 IIC institutions participating in the session. Emphasizing that research, development, and innovation form the core of India's vision of becoming a developed nation, he highlighted that the strengthening of higher education institutions through structured R&D ecosystems is a national priority. He noted that while the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC) has successfully completed seven years of virtual engagement, the introduction of R&D Cells and Climate Cells under IIC 8.0 marks a significant shift toward establishing dedicated physical spaces for research and sustainability initiatives within institutions. He stressed that innovation must be research-driven and not treated as a one-time event, but as a cultivated mindset that nurtures problem solvers and creative thinkers. Encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty, students, industry partners, MSMEs, and national research laboratories, he urged institutions to allocate at least 5% of their revenue toward research and innovation activities. He further underlined the importance of integrating undergraduate research culture, industry internships, intellectual property generation, and startup development within the academic framework. Highlighting the urgency of climate action, he advocated for sustainable engineering practices, green campuses, net-zero initiatives, and SDG-oriented student projects aimed at solving real-world problems. Concluding his address, he reaffirmed AICTE's commitment to handholding institutions through structured support mechanisms, regional interactions, and future funding schemes, while urging all institutions to actively implement IIC 8.0 activities with dedication and strategic planning.



Ending Remarks

Dr. Dinesh Singh delivered the closing remarks of the session, expressing sincere gratitude to the Honorable Chairman, the Advisor, senior officials of AICTE and the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), as well as the Directors, Principals, and distinguished representatives from participating institutions. He acknowledged and appreciated the active participation of mentor institutions and IIC members who joined the session to understand the implementation of IIC 8.0 and associated R&D initiatives. Extending his thanks to all attendees for dedicating their valuable time, he emphasized the importance of collective commitment in successfully executing the newly introduced frameworks and activities. He concluded the session by wishing everyone success in their institutional innovation efforts and a productive academic year ahead.

Conclusion

The session on IIC 8.0 roadmap by Dr. Deepan Sahu and Prof, T.G. Sitharam, provided a detailed roadmap for fostering an innovation-driven ecosystem in higher education. The primary focus is on developing a research driven innovation ecosystem that leads to inculcating research habits for students and faculties.. The event served as an inspiration for students and educators alike, underscoring the critical role of innovation in shaping the future of the nation.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to the Provost, Principal, faculty members, and all the participants and students for making this event a truly memorable and meaningful. As we look forward to the coming years, we aspire to continue this tradition of spreading knowledge on various domains of the nation with enthusiasm and dedication.
