भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building Institutions, Building India:

IIT Bombay Alumnus Shashi Shekhar Vempati Conferred the Padma Shri

Mumbai, June 23, 2026: For generations, IIT Bombay alumni have helped shape the world through scientific discovery, technological innovation, entrepreneurship and business leadership. Yet some choose a different path, one where the challenge goes beyond building a company or a product to strengthening institutions that serve millions. IIT Bombay's esteemed alumnus, Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati (B.Tech., Chemical Engineering, 1995), who was conferred the Padma Shri Award by the President of India, exemplifies that tradition.

Over the last three decades, Shri Vempati has worked at the intersection of technology, media, governance and citizen engagement. His work has been guided by a simple but enduring belief: that technology achieves its highest purpose when it expands public access, participation and opportunity.

As the youngest CEO of Prasar Bharati, Shri Vempati led one of the most ambitious modernisation efforts in the history of India's public broadcasting system. Under his leadership, Doordarshan and All India Radio embraced digital transformation, expanded their global footprint, modernised content delivery and reimagined how public media could engage with citizens in a rapidly changing world. The significance of these reforms became especially visible during the COVID-19 pandemic, when public broadcasting emerged as a vital national resource that delivered trusted information, educational programming and cultural connection to millions of Indians across the country.

“India rightly celebrates those who build great companies, technologies and industries," said Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director, IIT Bombay. "But nation-building also depends on leaders like Shashi who strengthen institutions that outlast individuals and serve generations of citizens. His recognition with the Padma Shri is a proud moment not only for IIT Bombay, but for everyone who believes that technology can be a force for public good”.

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Shri Vempati's journey of public service continues. Recently appointed Chairperson of the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), he has taken on another leadership role at the intersection of media, culture, technology and public life.

After receiving the Padma Shri, Shri Vempati reflected on the journey so far and said, “I am deeply humbled by this recognition. My years at IIT Bombay taught me to approach difficult problems with curiosity, discipline and a sense of purpose. Those lessons have remained with me throughout my career and continue to guide my belief that public institutions can be transformed through innovation, commitment and collective effort. Whatever I have been able to contribute has been possible because of the institutions, colleagues and mentors who shaped my journey”.

For the IIT Bombay community, his recognition serves as a reminder that the Institute's contribution to India is measured not only through the technologies its alumni invent or the enterprises they create, but also through the institutions they strengthen and the lives they touch. In honouring Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati, the nation has recognised a career devoted not merely to innovation, but to nation-building itself.

About IIT Bombay:

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, set up in 1958 as the second IIT, is recognised worldwide as a leader in the field of science and engineering education and research. The Institute was granted the status of ‘Institution of Eminence’ by the Ministry of Education (the then Ministry of Human Resources Development) on July 9, 2018. IIT Bombay is reputed for the quality of its faculty, cutting-edge research, industry relations and the outstanding caliber of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Institute has 40 Academics Divisions, 31 Research Centres and 9 Section 8 Companies. Over the last six decades, more than 75,000 engineers and scientists have graduated from the Institute. It is served by 770 faculty, including 121 women faculty (plus 241 part-time faculty), considered not only amongst the best within the country but also highly recognised in the world for achievements in the field of education and research. On

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June 18, 2026, IIT Bombay was ranked 2nd in India and 134th in the world in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2027.

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