



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

प्रकाशन और जनसंपर्क कार्यालय
Publications and Public Relations Office

पवई, मुंबई - 400076, महाराष्ट्र, भारत
Powai, Mumbai - 400076, Maharashtra, India
दूरभाष: (+91-22) 25767026-27 | वेबसाइट: www.iitb.ac.in
Ph: 022-25767026-27 | web: <http://www.iitb.ac.in>

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From Evidence to Action:

PAVITRA Powers a New Platform to Develop Solutions for Clean Air

Mumbai, June 25, 2026: Leading voices from national and state-level regulators, industry representatives, policymakers, think tanks and researchers from across India gathered in Mumbai on June 23-24 to enable the widespread adoption of PAVITRA (Air Pollution Management and Intervention Tool for India), a new decision-support platform to 'Advance Clean Air Solutions for India'.

The two-day engagement and training workshop hosted by IIT Bombay, in collaboration with the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Washington, was attended by 30 regulatory officials, among other attendees.

Launching the PAVITRA overview video and delivering the plenary address, Shri Siddhesh Ramdas Kadam (Chairman of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB)), noted that "PAVITRA is a step towards building preventive effort as opposed to reactive actions".

Introducing PAVITRA on behalf of the team, Prof. Chandra Venkataraman, Professor at IIT Bombay, described the platform as a policy-support tool that can identify coordinated, multi-sectoral interventions in different jurisdictions to achieve the goal of clean air in India. While air pollution remains a significant concern, she emphasised that it is also a solvable problem when supported by scientific evidence and informed policy action.

In his keynote address, Shri Tarun Kumar Pithode (Member Secretary of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)) discussed CAQM's ongoing efforts to improve air quality. He reiterated that PAVITRA can be useful for implementers and enforcement agencies in meeting air quality targets, particularly in places like Delhi.

Media Contact:

Mrs Falguni Banerjee Naha, Public Relations Officer, IIT Bombay Ph. No. 022-25767025/4027 | Email: pro@iitb.ac.in



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A live demonstration of the PAVITRA Dashboard was conducted by Krishnendu Barman (Analyst, CSTEP), showcasing how the tool allows users to visualise changes in pollutant concentrations in response to changes in emissions. Professors Srinidhi Balasubramanian and Chandra Venkataraman then provided a scientific primer and unpacked the key components of the PAVITRA platform.

There were multiple stakeholder panels on day 1. The regulator panel highlighted the value of PAVITRA's highly detailed database of multi-pollutant emissions. They also noted that implementing solutions is often more complex than identifying them and urged researchers and regulators to work as co-facilitators toward clean air actions. A following panel with key industry representatives highlighted the need to move beyond compliance and recognised that tools such as PAVITRA can be used to identify actionable interventions to meet sustainability goals. A final panel with think tanks, community action groups and journalists acknowledged accessibility of information via the PAVITRA dashboard to close the gap between scientific data, ground evidence and narratives that shape public discourse around air pollution in India.

The public health dimensions of air pollution were a recurring theme throughout the day. In her invited talk, Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan (Dean (Research) and Director at Sri Ramachandra Institute for Higher Education and Research), highlighted that air pollution remains one of India's leading health risks, second only to malnutrition. Echoing earlier discussions, she suggested that future iterations of tools such as PAVITRA could evolve into "equity-fostering tools" by incorporating more detailed assessments of health impacts from air pollution.

Day 1 concluded with a brainstorming session where the participants reflected on sources of air pollution, key gaps towards identifying mitigation priorities and explored how PAVITRA might further decision-making.

Day 2 started with illustrations of PAVITRA for multi-sectoral, multi-scale identification of PM2.5 exposures in India. Participants were then engaged in a day-long, hands-on training of PAVITRA

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with a focus on model execution, preparation of key inputs and interpreting and visualising outcomes.

IITB'S PAVITRA Team: Professors Chandra Venkataraman and Srinidhi Balasubramanian

Contact: pavitra.iitb@gmail.com

Want to learn more about PAVITRA:

- Website: www.pavitra.org
- Information Video : <https://youtu.be/-g6ZjzMr1yU?si=rq8RJUHE-j0f7jVc>
- PAVITRA dashboard: <https://pavitra.cstep.in>

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 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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